



# The Old School Henstead

## Newsletter

Autumn Term 2014 Issue 10 28 November 2014



### Calendar for next week

Monday 1 December  
Tuesday 2 December

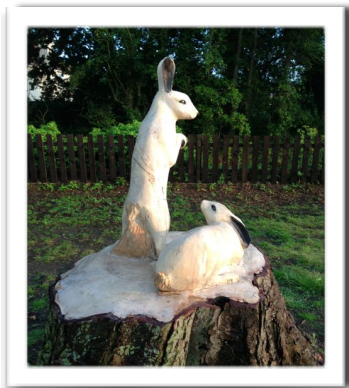
2.00 Year 2 Uni-Hockey v Thorpe House LP (A) **(Addition to calendar)**  
9.00 Librarians Bookshop Visit **(Addition to calendar)**  
4.15 Year 4 Class Concert  
Junior Inter-House Uni-hoc  
8.30 Nursery departs for Bungay Post Office & Castle **(Addition to calendar)**  
2.00 U9 Football v Saint Felix (A)  
2.00 U11 Hockey v Saint Felix (H)

Thursday 4 December  
Friday 5 December

### Dates for your diary

Monday 15 December  
Tuesday 16 December  
Wednesday 17- Friday 19 December

2.00 Junior School Nativity at St Mary's Church, Henstead  
7.00 Carol Service at St Mary's Church, Henstead  
Holiday Club (bookable via the Office)



### Message from the Headmaster

We have had wonderful opportunities to focus on reading this week. The book fair has been more popular than ever - our young readers have encouraged willing (and sometimes unwilling) parents to join them in choosing a book and our stock of reading materials in school has increased also. I was delighted to see the reading buddies at work during the week and am most grateful to Mrs. Read for her work in training our Year 5 and 6 pupils to support younger readers. We have a published author on the staff also - our Year 6 reporters have tracked him down and details of the interview are in these pages. Please read about our bookshelf swap programme too!

*Mr McKinney*



Reception pupils made candles in preparation for Advent. Christmas has officially started!



# Uncovering Anglo Saxon treasures at Sutton Hoo.



Paying respects to an Anglo Saxon King – Year Three's trip to Sutton Hoo.

The Gods were kind and the omens fair on Monday morning as Year Three set off in bright sunshine to visit one of the greatest Anglo Saxon burial sites in Northern Europe. We were greeted by Rebecca, one of the events organisers, who conducted the first session in which our young archaeologists had to record their thoughts and observations and frame some questions surrounding a number of excavated objects. Some lively discussion ensued and Year Three demonstrated an impressive grasp of the Early Saxon period.

Next we were given the exclusive use of the exhibition hall and visitor's centre – a rare opportunity to take over the space and fill in our questionnaires on the displays and facsimile objects. We found out how the ship in 'Mound Number 1' was made, how it was discovered and viewed perfect copies of its unique treasures as well as dressing as Anglo Saxons and entering the highly atmospheric replica of the burial chamber itself.

After lunch the sprightly Jim (72) took us on a tour of the burial mounds and enabled us to appreciate the difficulties of hauling a fifty ton ship to its final resting place and what a statement the mounds would have made in the Seventh Century, dominating the River Deben and the approaches to the kingdom of East Anglia. Standing on the mound is always a moving occasion, particularly in the lengthening shadows of a winter afternoon.

*Mr Butcher & Mrs Suffolk*





# Preparing for a Victorian Christmas.



Our Year Two Victorian children were out in full force again this week, this time helping the servants of a grand Victorian House in Great Yarmouth prepare for Christmas. The house was beautiful and the walls were covered with different William Morris wallpaper - recognised instantly by the children. The master of the house, Mr Palmer, was out at work and his wife was in Norwich shopping for a new Christmas dress, so there was much work to be done before their return. The children worked hard in the kitchen preparing the ingredients for the cook to make mince pies: snipping sugar from the Sugar Loaf then grinding the lumps in the pestle and mortar; weighing the fruit and grinding nutmeg, cinnamon and cloves and peeling apples with a very nifty peeler! Despite the workload, the children had time to play the apple skin letter game. They threw the long piece of apple peel over their shoulder and whatever letter it formed would be the initial of the person they would marry. (Interesting that the boys were less keen to play this game than the girls!) The children also helped to make Christmas decorations to dress the Palmer's Christmas tree - not a plastic or glass bauble in sight, but lots of hand-made paper decorations, orange slices, cloves, nuts and pine cones. The house servants were so pleased with their work, there was time for them to join Arthur upstairs. He was wrapping the Palmer children's Christmas presents. They were able to play with

some of them - including a china doll, wind-up tin ducks, a Jack-in-the-Box and wooden boat. They also saw the presents for Arthur's own children - all handmade with scraps and leftover materials - a cork boat, a rag doll made from sacks and an old woolly jumper and a home-made Boris-in-the Box! Finally Arthur showed the children how to play Victorian Parlour Games - watch out for Squeak Piggy Squeak, Sculptures and the Laughing Game "Ha,ha,ha, ho,ho,ho,hee,hee,hee" in your own house on Christmas Day!

We had lunch at *The Time and Tide Museum*, and spent the afternoon in the Victorian Street looking at all the different houses and the people who lived and worked in them. There's a gold star on Monday morning if anyone can tell me what sign the three golden balls represents.



Another fabulous day, and a big thanks to all the team at the *Elizabethan House* and *Time and Tide Museums*.

*Miss Kay and Mrs Dakin*



# Crafty work.



Excitedly, Years One and Two headed off to *Henstead Arts and Craft Centre* on Thursday, to create Pete and Polo, our class mascots.

Year One started the afternoon sitting in *The Shed* courtyard, drinking delicious hot chocolate, followed by a choice of Victoria sponge or chocolate cake!

Meanwhile, Year Two was busy creating their own colourful versions of Polo, the polar bear, with the added bonus of painting some Christmas trees.

After eating the scrumptious cake, Year One and Two swapped, with Pete modelling for Year One.

Our mascots will be glazed and returned to their owners next week. We can't wait to see how they turn out.

A huge thanks to Sally, at *Paint and Create* and Ellen at *The Shed*. What a treat for us all!

*Miss Kay, Mrs Mills and Ms Thomson*

## Nursery Star of the Week ★

This week's Nursery Star of the Week Award goes to Chase for being kind and caring to his friends.

*Miss O'Mara and Miss Butcher*





# School Council News.

Thanks to the generous sponsorship received by our Year 3 – 6 pupils for their Mathematics Times Table Challenge, the School Council now has a substantial amount of money to spend - an impressive £593.75 to date and still counting.

The younger members of the School Council are in the process of deciding which piece or indeed pieces of outdoor equipment they would like to buy and how they intend to raise the money to do so. We would welcome input from all members of the school through the Suggestion Box located outside Mr McKinney's study.

I am delighted to announce that Amber has kindly agreed to become Head of the School Council. Her duties will include the responsibility for taking minutes, reporting back to Mr McKinney on a weekly basis and producing newsletter updates.

*Miss Clifton*



## Alex scoops national art prize!



On Wednesday 29th October, Alex attended the SWLA (Society of Wildlife Artists) annual award ceremony in the Mall Galleries in London, where he collected the Winner award for the under 8's in the WildArt 2014 competition, sponsored by the RSPB.

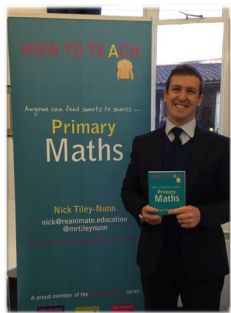
It was a very special occasion, but especially for Alex who enjoyed being reunited with his avocets again as well being surrounded by so many incredibly beautiful and inspiring paintings and art work about wildlife and natural landscapes from all over the world. The exhibition was called "The Natural Eye".

The awards were given by Harriet Mead, President of the SWLA and artist who makes amazing metal sculptures, and the Chairman from the BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) Andy Clements. There were lots of people and so much wonderful art to look at. Mum told us "It was very moving and overwhelming but Alex kept his cool and accepted his award with grace and composure, and a great big smile!"

Congratulations Alex!



You can see the three winning pictures by clicking on the following link: [http://www.rspb.org.uk/discoverandenjoynature/families/children/join\\_in/competitions/wildart/index.aspx](http://www.rspb.org.uk/discoverandenjoynature/families/children/join_in/competitions/wildart/index.aspx)



# Interview with Mr Tiley-Nunn.

reported by Year Six & Miss Clifton

**Q.** Do you have any funny or scary memorable maths moments from when you were a child?

**A.** I didn't actually enjoy maths as a child. In fact it was probably my least favourite subject. Part of that

is because I didn't really have anything funny or memorable from my own maths education. I think the only thing I can remember that was fun was the day we had to measure some really large objects and the only way we could do it was to sellotape long meter rulers together that then became a giant ruler. This inevitably then became a giant light sabre at break time. That's about the only thing I can remember. It's a bit of a shame that I didn't really enjoy maths as a child.

**Q.** In your opinion is 'being good at maths' an innate skill or are we all capable of learning the skill and becoming 'good at maths'?

**A.** Well I think that a lot of people believe that maths is an innate skill. I couldn't disagree more with that. I think it is entirely something that we are all capable of. I do think that there are some people who find maths easier and therefore are maybe more successful in maths as they grow up. I don't think that everyone will go off to become a professor of maths or an advanced mathematician, but I do think that every single person is more than capable of being successful in maths. When we think about what being successful in maths is, it's about being able to use maths in everyday life to make good decisions and to allow us to have a full range of possibilities and opportunities open to us. This is something everyone can achieve providing they have good maths teaching and are willing and open to really trying hard at their own maths education themselves.

**Q.** Are we more likely to improve if we enjoy our maths lessons?

**A.** Well I think maths is one of the subjects where, if you ask your parents, unless they were very good at maths at school, they would say it was one of the subjects that they didn't enjoy very much. There is definitely a correlation, a link between people who enjoy maths and those who are successful at maths. If you enjoy something you are more likely to give it your best and therefore you are likely to be more successful.

I certainly think that if you enjoy it more you are more likely to be successful. If we look at countries around the world where children do very well in maths then these countries are very often countries where children and young people report that they enjoy maths. They don't just learn about maths in their lessons and at school. They want to go and find out about maths outside school. So I think that is really important in terms of how well we do.

**Q.** Why do you think so many children and adults fear maths?

**A.** I think this is a really difficult and complex problem to solve because I don't think there is one single thing that makes people possibly fear maths. I think one of the things that make it different to other subjects when you are learning about it at school is that people tend to see maths as either right or wrong and there's not anything in between. People tend to worry about getting things wrong. Unlike in English where you might find it difficult with your spelling or punctuation you might have some very good ideas and your teacher is likely to say 'Well done you've got some really good ideas there'. But your next step is to work on your spelling and punctuation. In maths, people don't get so much of that because, ultimately, they have either got it right or wrong. So what I think is important in reducing the fear is to enable people to see that actually the steps in their working out and the development are just as important as that finally answer is. We mustn't be afraid to make mistakes in maths, this is really crucial.

**Q.** People say that maths is a subject where your answer is either right or wrong. Would you agree with this statement?

**A.** I think in most cases and especially in primary maths, there is a right or a wrong answer. If you get an answer right or wrong then you have got either one question right or wrong. If you get the method right or work out a way of solving these things that you can apply to more than one problem, then that is ultimately going to be more important. You can then solve a different or a more difficult one. What we tend to do is miss the point that we should be looking at - considering how we got to that answer because how we got there is far more important than what the actual answer is.



## Mascot Winners



This week's mascot awards for the boy or girl in each year most demonstrating the school value of Resilience go to:

R - Sharpy Crocodile - Nicole  
Y1 - Pete Penguin - Harry D  
Y2 - Polo Polar Bear - Harvey  
Y3 - Pecker Penguin - Archie  
Y4 - Oats Horse - Ruby C  
Y5 - Terry Turtle - Amber  
Y6 - Hector Hare - Sonny

## Book swap



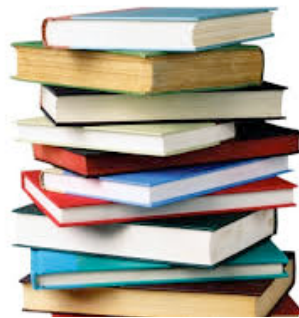
We are launching a book swap so that our learners can widen the scope of their reading. Simply bring a book that you are no longer reading to the Year 4 classroom and place it in the swap box. The librarians will sort the books and place them on one of the two swap shelves in school. If you have brought in a book to swap you can choose another from the shelves. Get reading, get swapping!

## Learning Trail



The winner of this week's Learning Trail - on the theme of famous logos - is Tom R.

## Book Fair



Our traditional pre-Christmas Book Fair got off to an excellent start in the Year Five classroom last Wednesday and received a steady flow of browsers and buyers over the entire week. An enthusiastic response to the event always brings long term benefits, not only to encourage individual adventures in reading, but in boosting the classroom libraries with the books taken from the sales commission – this year in excess of £260.

Grateful thanks to our newly fledged librarians who played a key role in the fair, to the supporting staff and Miss Clifton for donating space in her classroom and, of course, to the parents who funded the purchases!

## Gold Awards



Congratulations to Jack, Daisy, Oscar, Thomas and Jasper on their award of Gold Certificates for 15 outstanding achievements. Well done!



## PTFA

### News Extra

#### NOT TO BE MISSED!

**Christmas Fayre** Saturday  
29 November 12.30-3.00pm.

*Tickets for Santa's Grotto available at the Office.*

*Many stalls to help you with your Christmas shopping, plus lots of activities for the children, light refreshments and snacks.*

## UNIFORM SHOP

**Opening Times**  
Mondays 0830-0930

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