



The Old School Henstead

Newsletter

Spring Term 2016 Issue 4 5 February 2016



Calendar for next week

Parent Teacher Meetings This Week

Monday 8 February	8.45 Digital Leaders Assembly 1.30 Cross Country at Langley Prep School
Tuesday 9 February	Safer Internet Day 4.15 Parents' Seminar - thinkUknow? (see Page 6 for details)
Thursday 11 February	8.30 Nursery Stay and Play Morning 8.45 Inter-House Drama Competition 1.15 Year 5 Maths Challenge, Langley Prep School
Friday 12 February	8.45 Year 2 Assembly Years 2 & 5 Open Classrooms 1.15 Year 6 Maths Challenge, Langley Prep School 2.00 U11 Netball v Saint Felix (A) 3.30/4.10 Half Term Begins

Dates for your diary

Monday 22 February	Term Resumes (after Half Term)
Friday 18 March	7.00 Charity Concert in aid of <i>East Anglian Air Ambulance</i> at United Reformed Church, High Street, Southwold

Message from the Headmaster



In the half of term in which we consider the importance of empathy, of seeing something from another's point of view, it is appropriate to be writing this message from another part of the country, having spent these few days learning about how another educational establishment approaches the tasks and challenges which teachers and pupils face every day (as part of an ISI inspection team). It is fascinating to see how these opportunities are met by another learning community, for stepping into someone else's shoes (or, in this case, school) does give a fresh perspective. We must always be ready to share new ideas and best practice whenever they are to be found.

Mr McKinney

Year Three Sets The School a Challenge in This Morning's Assembly

See Page 6





School Council.

Our eager School Council representatives held their inaugural public meeting during last Saturday's Open Morning. With standing room only, parents, relatives and visitors encircled the 'Knights of the Round Table' and the business of the day began. The representatives demonstrated that they have a clear understanding of democracy, the need for respect and procedure. Discussion was intense, thoughtful and productive.

The meeting opened with a review of the proposals submitted to Mr McKinney following the previous weekly School Council meeting.

A number of new proposals were introduced for discussion - from the introduction of Class Supervisors to the purchase of a metal slide for the Mound!

The full minutes were approved and signed by George Taylor (Head of School Council) and Mr McKinney (Headmaster).

Miss Clifton explained that in order for the implementation of any proposals the School Council would have to be very clear about their intentions and these would need to be approved by Mr McKinney.

For several of the suggestions Mr McKinney asked for more research to be done, or requested more details or further investigation about the costs of implementation. One of the older pupils will meet

with Mr McKinney to provide further details about the proposal to introduce Class Supervisors.

The Suggestion Box provided a host of suggestions for the School Council to explore and develop. With time running short it was only possible to scratch the surface and the remainder have been held for discussion at future meetings.

We need to keep in mind that suggestions need to enhance the learning opportunities and personal development of pupils at school.

Finally, the School Council would like to thank all those who attended. We hope you enjoyed the experience and were impressed by the wonderful contribution your children make to the continued development of our wonderful school.

As a school we value our pupils' voice: their fresh approach and reflectiveness has led to the implementation of a number of new ideas within the school. All School Council members, both past and present, should be hugely proud of the contribution that they have made, making The Old School Henstead an even better place to be.

Miss Clifton



Mathematics Curriculum.



This year, alongside the expertise of Mr Tiley-Nunn, the mathematics teachers at The Old School Henstead have been teaching their subject using the school's newly designed and newly implemented numeracy curriculum. Regrettably, I cannot speak from the perspective of teachers who have been teaching mathematics at The Old School Henstead prior to September, but what I can do is make comparisons to the mathematics curriculum that I have taught in the past.

As you will no doubt have noticed in my previous *Pedagogical Ponderings*, I have a very high opinion of how we do things at The Old School Henstead. I truly believe that we have the best of what the world of teaching can offer, and the teaching of mathematics is no less an example. For a start, there is an enormous commitment to the learning of basic facts and times tables. There is absolutely no doubt that having a strong foundation in basic facts and times tables is crucial for success in mathematics. In the Upper School, a minimum of one period per week is dedicated to the learning of times tables, and this, I believe, highlights our dedication to a strong foundation.

The mathematics curriculum at The Old School Henstead is a rigorous and challenging one that covers a variety of different strands. The plans that we use to teach from can be adapted by teachers in order to fully accommodate each student and his/her particular needs. Rigour is necessary.

Challenge is necessary. And from what I am experiencing, rigour and challenge are exactly what our new mathematics curriculum is delivering.

Over the following weeks, as we go through our second round of open classrooms, I invite you to take the chance to look through your child's book. See for yourself the excellent content that they are getting to grips with, and observe how this curriculum is helping to make our pupils confident and able to tackle mathematics successfully.

Mr Jensen

"Life is good for only two things, discovering mathematics and teaching mathematics." – Siméon Poisson (1781-1840)



"No human investigation can be called real science if it cannot be demonstrated mathematically." - Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519)



Nursery News.

Discovering the ocean.

On Monday morning the Nursery children had a special visit from Oscar's Mummy - Mrs Lincoln. As a scientist, Mrs Lincoln started by telling us about the uses of the ocean. We talked about how the ocean provides jobs, medicine for people and most importantly for children - fun!

We then looked below the surface and discussed what and who can go under water. We decided that submarines and robots can go the deepest!

Then we geared up to dive in ourselves - with goggles and a snorkel - and dipped our heads under the surface and explored what we could find. We each took it in turns to pick a picture out of Mrs Lincoln's special box. For each picture Mrs Lincoln gave us a fun and fascinating fact. Our favourite fact has got to be about the Greenland shark. The Greenland shark is the largest deep sea fish and can live for 200 years!

Thank you to Mrs Lincoln for delivering such an informative and fun talk.



Nursery Star of the Week



Nursery Star of the Week goes to Teddie, who has settled into Nursery really well and listens nicely to the teachers. Keep up the good work Teddie and have a great weekend with Dotty!
Miss O'Mara and Miss Butcher



Pedagogical Ponderings.

Finding a spark.

Everyone has strengths - things they are good at. Equally, we all have weaknesses too. Often, we reflect too much on our weaknesses and don't allow ourselves to celebrate our successes as fully as we perhaps should. Children are no different.

In school, our pupils are required to undertake academic pressures which push and extend their own limits. Naturally, as most adults find, children have limitations in certain subjects too. Take for example Jimmy, who may be a very able mathematician, but struggles to keep up with English and MFL. Or take Sandra, who may be excellent on the games field but just cannot keep up with her paper-based subjects.

Does that mean that it is the end of the road? Not at all! Part of the joy of teaching is helping children to find their niche, find the things they are good at and excel at

these, yet continuing to seek improvement and success in all other areas of learning.

It takes a certain mix of personal determination, time management and expert teaching to help, but all children can succeed at school, and indeed should succeed at school. Of course I am biased, but I am a true believer that education should be a focus in all societies. The importance of giving our pupils a confident and successful start cannot be underscored enough.

It is a pleasure to walk around our classrooms and see pupils actively engaged in their lessons, and to hear and see the personal improvements that they are making under the tuition of our teachers. With almost half of the academic year behind us, I look forward with anticipation to seeing the continued success of our Henstead children.

Mr Jensen

Art on a Monumental Scale.



Year Six recently completed work in Art inspired by Claes Oldenburg (born January 28 1929), an American sculptor best known for his public art installations, typically featuring very large replicas of everyday objects.

Art pieces created by Year Six included a giant watch by Theo, giant sunglasses by Charlotte and a giant ice cream cone by George. Isabelle produced a giant banana, for which she was awarded an A1.

Mr Butcher

A New World Record?

This morning Year Three led Assembly. One of our favourite books in class is the *Guinness World Records*. We are amazed at all the incredible achievements that people have accomplished, as well as being stunned by some of the downright weird things people have done in their attempts to be the best in the world.

Year Three is quite a talented bunch, and over the last week the pupils have attempted to break several records themselves; not, it must be said with much success. How many *Smarties* can you eat

blindfolded in a minute? Quite a few you would think; how about with chopsticks? A touch more difficult!

Our Assembly finished with a request to the whole Henstead community. Before the end of this year, we would like the school to become a world record holder. We are asking for your ideas; perhaps a record that already stands, or a brand new one that has never been attempted.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts. Miss Goddard



Mascots Awards



This term we are focussing on the school's value Empathy. This week's mascot winners, for best demonstrating Empathy, are:

Reception Chase

Year 1 Philip

Year 2 Matthew

Year 3 Daisy

Year 4 Freddy

Year 5 Matthew

Year 6 Charlotte

Learning Trail



This week's Learning Trail - a Maths Challenge - was won by Theo Bird.

Twitter



To receive the latest news, pictures and sports results from the school, especially between newsletters, simply follow us on twitter @OldSchoolHstead

You can also share pics of school events with the rest of the school community. If you've not already signed up to Twitter, it's free and you can choose simply to follow (receive) our tweets, without writing any of your own, if you prefer. It's also a good way for grandparents and other family and friends to see what's going on at our school.

UNIFORM SHOP

Opening Times
Tuesdays 8.30-9.30
Thursdays 3.15-4.15

ThinkUknow?



Parents are invited to our **thinkUknow** seminar on Tuesday 9 February at 4.15, when we will share the very latest (and ever evolving) advice to stay one step ahead of the technology, scams and tricks to protect your child from abuse online. As young people may find themselves being encouraged or tempted to share inappropriate material or images or personal information online, we believe it is important to share with you the latest insights, scams and advice to help you keep your children internet safe.

PTFA

News Extra

Curry Evening (adults only event) Friday 12 February from 7pm. Tickets £12 per head, includes Curry Dinner, Samosa Making Competition and a lesson in Beginners' Rumba!



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