



The Old School Henstead

Newsletter

Autumn Term 2015 Issue 12 11 December 2015



Calendar for next week

Monday 14 December

2.00 School Nativity at St Mary's Henstead, followed by mince pies and refreshments at school after the performance.

Tuesday 15 December

School Christmas Lunch

7.00 Carol Service at St Mary's Henstead. We warmly invite you to join us for mince pies and refreshments at school after the service.

Term Ends

Wed-Fri 16-18 December

Holiday Club (individual days bookable via the office)

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 6 January 2016

Spring Term Begins

Message from the Headmaster

Christmas Spirit



The enthusiastic preparations, hope and excitement of this Christmas season are summed up in Nursery's performance of the Christingle this week. The orange, round like the world all around us. The candle, straight and true, giving light in the dark like the love of God with the red ribbon wrapped around the world and foretelling the sacrifice that the Child of Bethlehem would make for us all. The four sticks point in all points of the compass and represent the seasons of the year. In former times the stick would have been adorned with fruit and nuts to symbolise the fruits of the earth, but it will not be a surprise to see that sweets have made an appearance latterly! May we wish every member of The Old School Henstead community a blessed, healthy and peaceful Christmas. *Mr & Mrs McKinney*

Nursery Christingle.



This morning children from our Nursery performed their Christingle repertoire in costume, with songs including *A Nativity Song* (specially written by our own Mrs Suffolk), *Little Donkey*, *When Santa Got Stuck Up The*

Chimney, *Away in a Manger*, *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* and *Jingle Bells*. For many this was their first stage performance in front of an audience. Well done - a fantastic presentation.

RÆDWALD REVISITED.



Our History teachers are never in doubt about the value of bringing the drama of the past to life in any way they can. The immersive experience of dressing up, role play, standing in the place where history happened and handling the real materials of past events is infinitely worth the effort put in to the programme of visits we make from school.

The Year Three trip to Sutton Hoo qualifies eminently in this way and despite being later in the term than usual it has fitted in seamlessly with our Anglo-Saxon studies in the classroom. Despite an unfavourable forecast, we had a rain-free visit to Mound Number One, to contemplate the resting place of the ancestral king and the lucky miscalculation of some Tudor treasure hunters. As a result Louis' stately re-enactment of the dead king in his final resting place left him only a little damp.

Another benefit from our late season visit was having the exhibition hall entirely to ourselves for a tour of the excellent displays and exquisite replica objects. Worksheets were dutifully filled in. From there we exited for lunch and honed our historical skills during an hour of archaeological training with Education and Interpretation Officer, Laura. It was

especially pleasing to be told on arrival that our pupils have a long standing reputation for their knowledge, enthusiasm and good behaviour – to the extent that the legendary Tony, the volunteer who conducts the tour of the burial site, looks forward to our visits. Our thanks as ever to Tony and to Laura and Sally, who opened the exhibition for us.

Mr Butcher, Miss Goddard & Mrs Suffolk



Operation Rescue Santa.



At the beginning of this half term, Year Four received a very important phone call. You see, Father Christmas had been out test running his sleigh one evening, when it plummeted into the Pacific Ocean. As a result, Year Four had been given the special mission to construct a lifeboat to rescue Santa.

Using recycled materials, four boats were constructed, with consideration for the physics of flotation and the forces acting on a sail boat - aerodynamic and hydrodynamic.

On Monday the pupils went to the Southwold Boating Lake for the testing phase of their prototypes. After studying the wind speed and direction, the pupils launched each of the boats and used stopwatches to time how long it took each boat to make it across the 20 metre lake. Thankfully all made it across - some more successfully than others. Well done to Polly, Alex and Matthew. Their boat was the fastest (and the only one to actually survive the event), making it across the lake in 4 minutes and 16 seconds. We hope Father Christmas will be pleased with the result.

After the mission had been completed Year Four was rewarded with a delicious hot chocolate in the café on Southwold Pier before heading back to school. We love physics!

Mrs Jensen & Mr Tiley-Nunn



SPORTS ROUND UP

Hockey



INTER-HOUSE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Both the Lower and the Upper School tournaments were as keenly contested as always. In the Lower School, there were goals galore, especially as the tournament rules allowed long range efforts. Yare came a fighting fourth, with Matthew J the leading goalscorer. Waveney came third, Darcey scoring all of their goals, assisted by team Hardman. Orwell were the runners up and would have challenged for the title, had George been able to stay on his feet more consistently. Deben, the strongest team on paper, lived up to their ante-post billing, with Francis the golden stick - top scorer of the competition.

In the Upper School competition, Deben were also strongly fancied before the off. And so it proved. Waveney gave them a scare in the first round, but Orwell and Yare did not trouble the eventual winners. Special mention must be made of the Waveney Owls, who produced three fantastic performances to finish second. Many thanks to Mrs Jensen for keeping the scores, to the redoubtable games staff for organising a superb afternoon of hockey in the winter sunshine.

A Sneak Preview...

We thought we would share a few of the cast pictures taken prior to a dress rehearsal of the Lower School's Nativity Play - *The Shining Stars* - which will be performed on Monday afternoon at St Mary's Henstead.





Pedagogical Ponderings.

How do you define an excellent teacher? If you were asked the question, "Name a teacher throughout your school career that you felt was excellent", what criteria would you use to make your decision? Chances are that answers would vary from person to person, school to school, and even country to country.

I think that to answer this question it is necessary to look at more than one set of criteria. Namely, "how did this teacher make you feel about learning?" and "how much did you learn from this teacher?"

Good teachers must foster a love of learning in children. At the end of the day, learning is not just for school, it's for life. We continue learning until our dying days, and without the ability to be open to new ideas, new concepts and new discoveries, we would stall. Progress would just stop.

Good teachers also have to impart knowledge to their pupils too. And not just a small amount of knowledge

either! New Zealand's education system is going thorough a phase at the moment of turning teachers into facilitators, which I personally disagree with. Already, some research is showing that students are not benefitting from modern approaches and that, funnily enough, the tried and tested methods passed down through the centuries are apparently working after all.

So how do we do this? It's no good just knowing lots of facts and information. The key ingredient is in delivery. Good teachers impart their knowledge to their pupils in a manner that they find easy to understand, and provide opportunities for pupils to use their new learning.

Take a look around at The Old School Henstead. If you have been able to visit our classrooms during Open Mornings, you'll see this in action. But the most humbling part is that teachers are learners too. As time goes on, as we learn too, our teaching gets better and better. You see? There's always a point to learning.
- Mr Jensen

Inter-House Competition



It was great to see the Houses produce such wonderful musical performances in yesterday's Inter-House Christmas competition. Creativity soared, with accompanying dance routines, themed costumes and props (see picture above showing some of the participants - there were too many to fit into one picture!). The winners will be announced in the end of term Assembly.

Learning Trail



The winners of this week's Learning Trail - on the theme of movie characters - are Daniel, Thomas W and Alex.

Christmas Post



Our School Christmas Post began this week with great excitement and enthusiasm. Our Christmas Elves have been busy collecting the mail from our special post box every day, sorting and delivering it to classrooms with cheerful smiles as they announced their arrival with the sound of Christmas bells. Thank you Elves for your great service!

UNIFORM SHOP

Opening Times
(Term Time)
Tuesdays 8.30-9.30
Thursdays 3.15-4.15



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