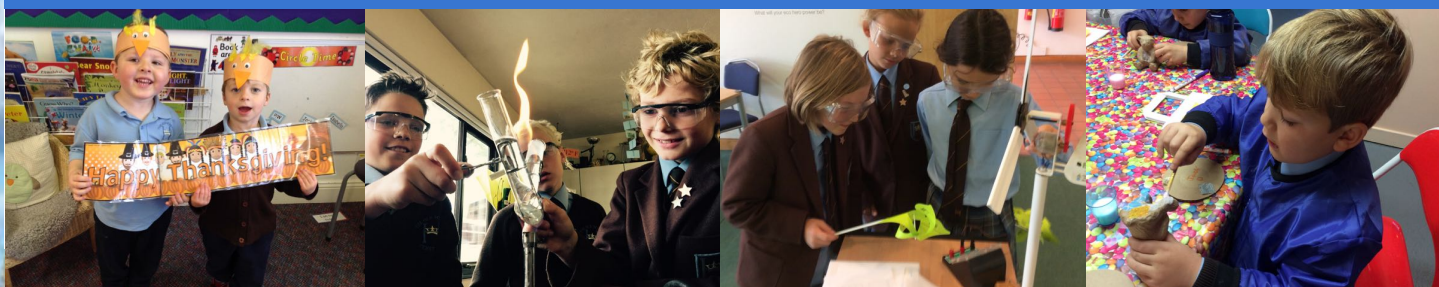




The Old School Henstead

Newsletter

Autumn Term 2016 Issue 8 25 November 2016



Calendar for next week

Saturday 26 November
Tuesday 29 November
Wednesday 30 November

12-3 PTFA Christmas Fayre
Year 2 Victorian Christmas Day at school
8:30-10:00 Nursery New Parents Stay & Play Morning
Book Fair ends
Year 4 Science visit to Southwold

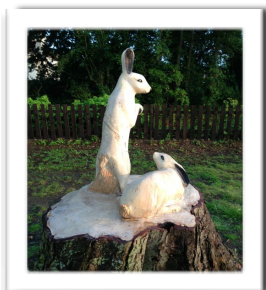
Friday 2 December

Dates for your diary

Friday 9 December
Wednesday 14 December
Thursday 15 December
Friday 16 December

PTFA Christmas Parties
9.15 Nursery Nativity
2.00 School Nativity at St Mary's Henstead
School Christmas Lunch
7pm Carol Service at St Mary's Henstead

Message from the Headmaster



Advent ushers in a time of waiting and with the Christmas Fayre this weekend, parents may now begin to receive enquiries as to how many sleeps, along with draft copies of the letter to Saint Nicholas, resident of the North. The candles of our Advent crown remind us that we wait for the coming of the Infant King, as so many have before, guided by the prophets. We think of Mary, far from her home and in need of shelter and rest, as so many will be this Christmas. We will try to reflect the Light of the World, born in the stable, in our candle artwork competitions and in sponsoring the entries to raise funds for *Christian Aid*. It is our aim that the school should raise enough funds to fill a stable with chicks, chickens, goats, sheep and cattle - animals that will change the lives of those in need. Full details will be sent home next week. *Mr McKinney*

Children in Need.



We are delighted to report that the school raised £602 for *Children in Need* last week.

Thank you all for your generosity and for supporting the pupils in their fundraising endeavours.



Nursery News.



A Colourful Time

Nursery have been exploring colours this week and have taken part in a range of activities. We have popped paint balloons, mixed colours in shaving foam, built colourful patterns out of duplo and been on a colour hunt. What a busy and colourful week Nursery!



Thanksgiving

Nursery celebrated Thanksgiving by making funny turkey hats and eating pumpkin pie for snacks. We learnt a little bit about the Pilgrims and the Indians and did a turkey dance!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Miss O'Mara and Miss Butcher



Nursery Star of the Week



Nursery Star of the Week goes to Isla B, who has become a confident member of the Nursery community and contributes with great enthusiasm. Well done Isla! Have a fantastic week with Sparky and make sure he's a good dragon at your house!

Crucial Crew.



Water Safety, E-Safety, Fire Safety, Electrical Safety, Anti-Social Behaviour, Blind Spots, Bike Safety, First Aid and Loan Sharks

Year Six enjoyed a visit to the Waveney Crucial Crew event. The Crucial Crew is a national scheme aimed specifically at Year Six pupils.

Pupils were taught how to tackle personal dangers they face, providing them with personal safety messages. They were encouraged to take responsible effective action in dangerous situations. Scenarios sensitise them to emergency and/or dangerous situations and develop social awareness, care for the social environment and others. The awareness of the consequences of offending behaviour was also thoroughly explored.

The Crucial Crew event comprised theatre-style sets which allowed the pupils to experience emergency/danger in a controlled environment. The problems they were presented with were reflective of those they are likely to meet in everyday life. When unsure how to respond, they were advised and reassured of the most appropriate course of action.

A valuable and enjoyable morning was had by all.

Quote of the Day – “Were we really in there for two hours? It didn’t feel like that; it was really good.”

Miss Clifton



Pedagogical Ponderings

We approach this time of year again, when our senior pupils are beginning to feel the pressures of examination preparation. Preparing to sit exams is never an easy task, but it is a task that is healthy and useful, no matter your opinion on testing, thanks to the amount of information that gets processed through the mind. Neuroscientists in the last decade have examined the brain in more and more detail with the use of modern scanning technologies. They have begun to see interesting patterns and changes which offer proof that our brains can change to accommodate new areas of learning. This change is due to a process known as ‘neuroplasticity,’ meaning the brain’s ability to reorganise itself by forming new neural connections throughout life.

While our senior pupils acquire and practise the skills required by examination completion, their brains are making new neural connections which help them to develop the ability to use the skill more effectively in years to come. This is all a part of our role as a preparatory school – to prepare our pupils for the challenges that await them in their senior schools and beyond.

To those who are tenaciously working towards their entrance exams, hold in there.

Mr Jensen

Crafty Creatures.

Découpage Animal Magic

Years One and Two had their annual Arts and Crafts afternoon on Wednesday and made their class mascot using a technique called découpage - the art of decorating an object by gluing coloured paper cutouts onto it. The children also combined other decorative elements (mainly jewels), so look out for some multicoloured, sparkling koalas and buffaloes making their way home soon!

Following all this creativity the children went to see Ellen at the The Shed for hot chocolate and cake. It was as yummy as always and the children enjoyed looking at all the old agricultural objects hanging from the ceiling and walls and guessing what they were used for in days gone by.

A really lovely afternoon and huge thanks to both Barbara and Ellen at the Henstead Arts and Crafts Centre.

Ms Thompson and Miss Kay





Musical Notes.

On Tuesday we held a concert for children who have individual vocal and/or instrumental lessons. Once again the children impressed with their sense of occasion and their confidence and we enjoyed many delightful performances.

The concert opened with a small ensemble of young voices - Harry D, Harry S, Emily and George, assisted by Skye sang *Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer* and *Winter Wonderland* with accuracy and tunefulness. Following this we enjoyed solo performances on a variety of instruments.

Pianists

I was impressed to note the progress that Thomas has made since we last heard him. His piece showed good co-ordination of the hands and an understanding of the structure of his piece. Daisy W has obviously also been working very hard as she moved through different hand positions to give us Grieg's *Morning*. Honor needed great concentration to achieve such good rhythmic accuracy in her duet with Mrs Clayton and Sophia concluded this group with a delicately played arrangement of *Annie's Song*.

Drums

Alex Lincoln was also able to demonstrate a developing maturity in his lively playing, Rosie, making her debut, gave us a thoroughly reliable and well co-ordinated rhythmic pattern. Although Darcey was understandably confused by the way the drums had been set up she showed admirable resilience by taking her seat at the end of the concert and playing with great gusto. We look forward to hearing her in the next concert.

Singers

I am always delighted to hear such unforced natural singing from every one of the singers.

Daisy continues to grow in stature as a singer with a lovely performance of *My Favourite Things*, Tilly achieved wonderful breath control in *Once upon a Dream*. Skye, Sophia and Tabatha are all achieving high standards of intonation and sensitivity and each one gave thoughtful performances of their individual songs. *Greensleeves* is not an easy song to sing but Emily's performance was both accurate

and sensitive. Louis made a fine debut as a solo singer with a piece from *Joseph*. George also sang *Do-Re-Mi* tunefully and with confidence as a debutant performer.

Brass

Charles S, making his debut appearance as a trumpeter, was joined by Matthew H and Louis M in a confident performance of *Elegy*. Louis then gave us a rhythmic rendition of a traditional folk tune and Matthew played a suitably festive *Sleigh Ride*.

Guitar

Another debut performance from Francis, whose thoughtful and confident approach ensured a very accurate performance of a folk tune.

Clarinet

Beth has made great strides since September and produced a really lovely tone on her clarinet in *We Three Kings*. I hope this will encourage more children to try this instrument.

Ukelele

It was good to hear the growing confidence apparent in Joe's rhythmic playing of the folk tune *Merrily*.

Flute

A lovely solo performance of *Silent Night* by Olivia S-A demonstrated just how beautiful this instrument can sound.

The concert concluded with another group of singers getting us all in the Christmas spirit with *Saviour's Day* and finally we all joined in with *White Christmas* to round off a superb concert that amply illustrated the children's talent and consistent hard work. Many of these musicians are preparing for Trinity Guildhall examinations and we wish them every success.

Many thanks to Mrs Clayton, Mr Bacon, Mr Beer and Mr Campling for all their professionalism and dedication to their pupils. Thanks also to Mrs Clayton for giving of her time to accompany so many of the performances.

Miss Sindall

CHristmas

fayre

Saturday

NOVEMBER 26th
12-3pm

SANTAS GROTTO, RAFFIE, TEDDY TOMBOLA

CHRISTMAS CAFE,

SPLAT THE SNOWMAN,

GUESS THE REINDEERS NAME,

BOTTLE STALL,

FACE PAINTING,

SWEET JARS

AMAZING WREATHS

AND MUCH MORE...!

House Competitions.

Here is a round up of the scores achieved in the two most recent house competitions:

Quiz

	House	Score
1st	Yare	100
2nd	Waveney	75
3rd	Deben	50
4th	Orwell	25

Art

	House	Score
1st	Waveney	100
2nd	Orwell	75
3rd	Yare	50
4th	Deben	25

easyfundraising



With Black Friday sales upon us, why not help raise funds for our PTFA while you make your online purchases. Simply register with easyfundraising before proceeding to your usual online shops. After a simple registration the first time, you simply continue to go on to your usual sites via:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/oldschoolhenstead/>

That way all your online purchases earn a commission for the school, at no extra cost to you.

PTFA News Extra

Christmas Fayre Saturday (tomorrow) 26 November 12-3pm. Be sure to invite your family and friends. Father Christmas is coming!

Theatrical Trip



Last Friday, some members of The Old School Henstead's Year 6 attended Framlingham College for the Year 7-8 production of *Pandemonium*.

It was a great show – somewhat of a satire on Greek mythology. We heard alternative stories about Midas, Icarus, Pandora and Zeus, and the unlikely events surrounding an Ancient Greek wedding.

Highlights of the show were the costumes, lighting, and of course the dancing skills of Dionysus.

Many thanks to the Framlingham Prep School staff for inviting us along.

Mascot Awards



Owing to tomorrow's Christmas Fayre the mascots are taking a break this week and the awards will return next Friday.

UNIFORM SHOP

**Opening Times
(term time)
Tuesdays 8.15-9.15
Thursdays 3.15-4.15**



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