



# The Old School Henstead

## Newsletter

Spring Term 2017 Issue 8 10 March 2017



### Calendar for next week

Monday 13 March  
Thursday 16 March

British Science Week  
9.15 Visit to the Lego Innovation Suite (Year Two)

### Dates for your diary

Saturday 25 March  
Thursday 30 March  
Friday 31 March  
Monday 3-Friday 7 April

Trinity College Music Examinations  
8.45 Easter Service at St Mary's Henstead (parents welcome)  
Big Day Out  
Holiday Club (details and booking forms will be sent out soon)

### Message from the Headmaster



Adventurous really does sum up the pace and range of activities undertaken this term, both in and out of the classroom. It is a tribute to the stamina of the children that they manage to fit it all in! I am pleased to support the way in which *Classlist* will enable our community to stay abreast of all that is going on, support the teaching and learning of The Old School (and it may help in locating mislaid games socks also.) This week has seen the refurbishment of some palatial hedgehog houses, scientific filters that augur well for Science Week to come and the final lap in the building of our new sports pavilion.

*Mr McKinney*

## Senior School Success.



We are delighted to report that all our Year Six pupils have succeeded in securing places at their first choice of senior school, following various entrance examinations and interviews. In fact many pupils received more than one offer, including scholarships.

We congratulate them on their success and dedicated hard work.

# Nursery News.

## Vets and Pets

To continue our topic of vets and caring for animals we had a special guest visitor, Miss Butcher's dog Olive.

Everyone gathered on the carpet to meet Olive. She was so excited that she licked some of the children on the nose! We asked Miss Butcher's Mummy Mrs Butcher some questions about Olive. We found out that Olive is a cross breed, that means she is half Jack Russell and half Pug which made her a Jug! Everyone found that funny!

After we discussed how Olive is cared for and shared what we have learnt. Then we showed Olive the garden. The children had a whale of a time chasing after Olive while she explored and sniffed everything and some of them walked her around the garden as well. It was so lovely to meet Olive and everyone was very gentle and kind to her.



## Nursery Star of the Week

Nursery Star of the Week goes to Oliver, who has settled fantastically into his new Nursery and is making good progress. Well done Oliver.

*Miss O'Mara & Miss Butcher*

# Romans & Saxons Day.



The Year 2 students had a fantastic time at the Time and Tide Museum's Romans and Saxons Day.

They were thrown back in time to the turbulent year of 367 AD. We were met by Ale, a slave of a wealthy Roman family in Britannia, who was trying to persuade us to join him and the Anglo Saxons in order to become a free man and destroy the Romans.



Our next encounter was with Ale's patrician mistress, Lady Livia, who showed us an array of Roman artefacts that she used in her beautiful villa home and the instruments she used to keep herself looking pretty and elegant for Roman society.

After lunch we were met by the hospitable Anglo Saxon leader, Siggard, who told us the terrifying legendary tale of Beowulf and how his army of 5,000 men would destroy the 300 Roman soldiers stationed here in East Anglia. Would the Year 2 students like to join him and achieve certain victory?

As our action packed day drew to an end, we were summoned by the brave and patriotic centurion who trained the Year 2 students into fierce, disciplined, fighting soldiers. The highlight of this session was the *tostedo* (tortoise) defensive formation where the students were attacked by Anglo Saxons wielding and hurling wet sponges to try to break up their defensive hold.

At the end of the day, the Year 2 students had to decide their own fate: defend as a Roman; join the invasion or flee back to Rome with Lady Livia. What would you choose?

*Mrs Loader*





# Reception Roundup.

With the lovely weather we have been using the outside environment to enhance our learning, in particular numeracy. We have been using cubes for measuring, the water tray for capacity exploration, weighing to understand heavy and light and we even managed a bit of al fresco dining and gardening.

During literacy we have been exploring digraph sounds and have been testing our knowledge through sound Bingo. In our reading we have been practising what tricky words look like and how to remember them.

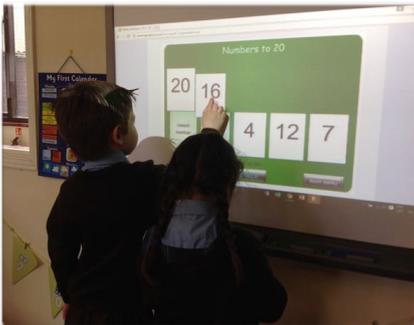
In games the children have been working on their ball skills and how to work as a team.

We have been inspired by spring and have been making some top secret art work for VIPs!

After our successful assembly and French breakfast we have been playing "où est Georges?" a meeting and greeting game. We also continue to perfect our numbers and colours in French.

Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who came to support their children in their assembly and provided them with their wonderful outfits. Très bien!

*Mrs Scriven and Mrs Dakin*



# Cooking up a storm.



Yesterday the Junior Cookery Club made brownies, following the recipe themselves and weighing out the ingredients, with delicious results.

The Club members are making excellent progress.

*Ms Thomson*



## Pedagogical Ponderings

### A Shared Purpose?

I've recently been having conversations with my classes about the whole purpose of learning. Why is it that we should learn what we do? Do teachers just put something together five minutes before a lesson, or is there method to the madness, so to speak?

Having recently read Tony Little's *Intelligent Person's Guide to Education*, I have gained a new appreciation for how schools function in the modern age, and what purpose schools stand for. Certainly we are a long way from perfection, but today's schools are far more child-friendly than they used to be. One of the areas I have tried to develop in my own practice this year is to share a purpose for learning with the pupils I am teaching. Often, I now find myself asking the pupils at the end of the lesson, "Why do you think that I just taught you that?" It's an important question that I have learned I need to feel comfortable asking, despite the fact I'm working on changing the standard response of, "...because later on in life..."

Sharing a purpose for learning, I have discovered, is crucial. A purpose that is shared helps the pupils to see the point of learning. It also helps to give a context to the learning. And, in some ways, more importantly, it helps them make connections to previous learning. "Oh, I see now why you taught us that!"

It's a thrilling sensation, as a teacher, when it clicks with your pupils. There's nothing quite like it.

*Mr Jensen*

# Roman Mosaics.



## JUST A MO'

As part of their study of Ancient Rome, Year 2 has been creating individual mosaics in the Art Room. Carefully cutting and shaping plaster tiles, the pupils have been working on an intricate design - a dolphin in the waves fit for any 'balneum' floor. Vale parentes! *Mr Butcher*

# Willow Weaving.



This week Year Three began willow weaving in Art, beginning the construction of elephant sculptures.

We are watching the creation of these creatures and look forward to seeing the finished animals in due course.



# Helping Hands.



## Helping Hands for Fundraising Rally

We are delighted to support the ambitious plans of Mr Baxter and Mr Hillier to drive a Renault van through Europe to raise funds for *The East Anglia's Children's Hospices*.

The rules of entry stipulate that participating vehicles are purchased at under £200 (a bargain, sir, one careful owner) and once arrived at the start line in Reims, will travel over the Alps via the Great St Bernard Pass (film aficionados of *The Italian Job* will remember, watch out for earth moving machinery) on to Monaco and entering Nice in triumph. Far from being the self-preservation society, it is a most worthy cause and the school has sponsored the paint job, ably overseen by Mr Butcher, with a handprint from every child in the school. The photographs show Year Three together with Daisy from Year Four kicking off the hand prints.

Details of their fundraising page will be available soon.



# Mascot Awards.

This week's mascot winners, for best demonstrating the school's value Adventure, are:

- Reception: Edward - showing enthusiasm and adventure in gymnastics and games lessons.
- Year 1 Jack - being adventurous learning mental maths.
- Year 2 William - starting his fantastic adventure in Year 2 with a positive attitude.
- Year 3 Olivia - for adventurous using her voice in lessons.
- Year 4 Thomas R - being adventurous and trying new sports.
- Year 5 Rachael - showing an adventurous spirit multiplying whole numbers by fractions.
- Year 6 Savile - for adventurously learning to use a compass to draw shapes.



## Shots Around School



## Classlist



**Classlist** is a private parent social network for the school, enabling the PTFA to communicate directly to parents. A bulletin was emailed to parents this week with full details of how to register and the terms and conditions of use.

## UNIFORM SHOP

Opening Times  
 Tuesday 8.15-9.15  
 Thursdays 3.15-4.15

## Red Nose Day



Red Nose Day falls on Friday 24 March 2017. Watch this space for details of how we plan to fundraise on the day.

## PTFA News Extra

**Family Bingo** Friday 24 March 6:30pm

**Summer Fayre** Saturday 24 June 12:00-3:00pm

**Summer Party** Saturday 8 July. Save the date!