



The Old School Henstead

Newsletter

Autumn Term 2018 Issue 9 23 November 2018



Calendar for next week

Tuesday 27 November

9.00 Early Years visit to Fire Station

1.30 Years 2 & 3 Swimming

2.15 Years 4, 5 & 6 Swimming

2.30 Reception, Year 1 & Nursery Pre-School Gymnastics

Thursday 29 November

Reception and Year 1 Trip to Norwich Playhouse - *The Snail & The Whale*

Friday 30 November

8.50 Advent Service at St Mary's Henstead

Saturday 1 December

2-5pm Christmas Fayre

Dates for your diary

Friday 7 December

PTFA Christmas Parties (afternoon)

Wednesday 12 December

9.15 Early Years Nativity

Thursday 13 December

2.00 Lower School Nativity at St Mary's Henstead

Friday 14 December

12.00 School Christmas Lunch (all pupils invited)

7pm Carol Service at St Mary's Henstead

Message from the Headmaster



We are very much looking forward to our Christmas Fayre, which will be held next Saturday 1 December from 2pm to 5pm. There will be lots of festive fun, stalls, prizes, crafts, games, face-painting, food and beverages and a visit from Father Christmas. There will also be a Christmas wrapping service if you bring any gifts for beautiful gift wrapping.

If you are able to help with one of the activities for part or all of the afternoon, kindly view the list of options in the office and pick your favourite slot. Please invite your friends and family.

Mr McKinney

Christmas Party Time.



The children's Christmas parties - generously hosted by our wonderful PTFA - will be held on Friday 7 December during normal school hours. Children may bring in party clothes to change into for the afternoon events. Separate parties will be held for different age groups - Early Years, Lower and Upper School.





The Old School Henstead

Wrap up warm it's the...

CHRISTMAS FAYRE & WINTER MARKET



SATURDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2018
2PM - 5PM



FOOD STALLS

**CRAFT
MARKET**

AUSTRIAN BAR

**CHILDREN'S
CRAFTS**

TOMBOLAS

RAFFLE

**FATHER
CHRISTMAS**

GAMES

Hungry for Knowledge.



The children have been as industrious and keen to learn as ever during this half-term. Our English text, *I Was a Rat*, is a tale loosely based on Cinderella. It is told from the point of view of one of the household rats who has been transformed into a page-boy, but who, for some mysterious reason, hasn't been turned back. The pupils have been working on their alliteration skills in preparation for writing a super sensationally searing newspaper report about this strange young boy who insists he was once a rodent.

We have also been developing our dictionary skills this half-term. The ability to navigate a dictionary is important as it develops understanding of the spellings and meanings of words, their etymology and the different contexts in which those words can be used. This then feeds into the children's reading and writing.

Maths has seen us challenging ourselves when learning about horizontal, vertical and perpendicular lines and acute, obtuse and right angles. The pupils have also been testing their mental maths dexterity as well as calculating the answers to column addition and subtraction questions, which start to get quite tricky once they have to exchange and regroup numbers – aka borrowing and carrying to those of us who attended primary school in the 70s and 80s! The boys and girls, not shy of solving tricky problems themselves, have been challenging me to answer some rather complicated number questions involving more than 10-digit figures!

In Drama we are looking at using body language to show feelings and moods. This can be enormously helpful when acting because as we know, sometimes actions speak much louder than words and can convey thoughts and emotions far more effectively. The children have proved to be excellent at this and we look forward to seeing the fruits of their labours in the Nativity next month.

Languages are an important part of the curriculum and in French, Year 3 has been using the Duolingo App on the school's new iPads once a week, combining grammar-based language learning with game-based vocabulary learning.

And lastly, the children have been honing their online research skills in science and this week they were all awarded AIs for gathering information about an animal which lives in their chosen ecosystem. It is a delight to watch these would-be future scientists excitedly sharing their discoveries with one another as they begin their journeys of exploration in the classroom, and enthusiastically embracing one of our school academic values for this half-term, which is to be a researcher.

Every week I marvel at this group of young people. Their positive attitude, hunger for knowledge, sense of humour and support for one another is a pleasure to witness and everyday brings new delights. Well done and thank you Year Three!

Mrs Sonn

Fantastic Gymnastics.



It's Tuesday. It's half past two . It can only be one thing..... Lower School GYMNASTICS TIME!

It's one of our favourite times of the week when we change into our PE tops ready to exercise every single muscle in our bodies.

Our leg muscles help with our running, hopping, skipping and jumping. Our arm muscles help with our balance and momentum. Our core posture muscles also help with our balance and body positioning for different exercises and activities. Our brains help us coordinate and judge our movements in space. Our hearts energetically pump oxygen to our muscles to help them work and get stronger.



Having a great time and getting healthy, that's what it is all about.

Mrs Loader





Early Years News.



NURSERY

This week has been "baby week" in Nursery.

The children have been interested in taking care of the toy babies. They have been feeding, changing and rocking them. Then we had a treat - Wilf and Eddie brought their baby brothers in for Show and Tell. The children asked good questions about how to take care of babies and were fascinated by what they could and couldn't do.

Mrs Vorster and Miss Butcher



Nursery Star of the Week ★

Congratulations Saffie. You had a great day in Nursery without your sister this week. You showed us how confident you can be on your own with your friends. Tilly is looking forward to a sleepover with you.



Reception Roundup.



As our class continues to grow both in numbers and characters it has been an adventurous week, Imagination has definitely been the children's choice of play this week, policemen riding dinosaurs, Spiderwoman spinning her web around the school and a shark hunting for the missing Reception children. Don't worry - all were found, eventually!

Music is always a daily sound in the EYFS classrooms and not only has it influenced our French lessons, we are using our musical talents and drama interests to support our learning about Christmas. This gives us

an opportunity to appreciate and understand why we celebrate Christmas and with resilience we can come together to perform for our families and demonstrate how The Old School Values are already a strong element. The children particularly enjoyed choosing their own characters.

We are all very proud at how hard the children work in Reception and the continue to amaze us with their ever-developing knowledge of phonics, addition and social skills. Well done Reception. A fantastic week!

Mrs Scriven & Mrs Dakin

Bright Sparks in Science.



Year Two scientists were lighting up the science lab with their Magnesium experiments yesterday, as part of their studies of materials. Magnesium is the eighth most abundant element in the earth's crust. Just 117 more elements in the Periodic Table to study! *Mr Hunt*

Arts & Crafts Club.



In this term's Junior Arts & Crafts Club, the boys and girls have been using natural resources to create a variety of decorative pieces to take home to display and enjoy.

So far there have been many wonderful creations ranging from dream catchers, clay models, conker caterpillars, autumnal jars and hanging willow decorations.

This week we started making mobiles using pieces of wood found around the school and threaded beautiful beads and feathers. I am delighted with the time and effort the children are putting into all of their craft.

We look forward to starting Christmas craft soon.

Miss Butcher



Mascot Awards.



Mascots were awarded this week to the pupils best demonstrating our school values for this half term - **Resilience and Research:**

Reception: Jayden for a confident and resilient week in school

Year 1: Robin for encouraging resilient research

Year 2: Aydin for researching lots of super-secret homework

Year 3: Amelie for excellent research about walruses and marine ecosystems

Year 4: James for resilience in rugby - getting up over and over again after a tackle

Year 5: Kitty for being an excellent model of resilience to her peers

Year 6: Daisy for outstanding mathematical research and application to further her learning

Book Fair



Don't miss the opportunity to visit our last book fair before Christmas, which finishes on Tuesday evening. Your generous support for this has a real impact in the classroom, refreshing and building our libraries year on year from our earned commission.

Opening hours will be 1.00 - 1.25 (children only) 3.30 - 4.30 (parents and children). See you there!

Hosted Buffet Lunch

On Wednesday 12 December lunch will be a buffet style menu, cooked by our usual wonderful chef, but hosted by the School Council. No need for pupils to bring packed lunches, unless preferred.

Choir Robes



A huge thank you to Gabriel's Mum for all her amazing tailoring skills in producing many new choir robes for our expanding choir.

Thank You



We are most grateful to Jude's family for their generous gifts of a snooker table and table football.

PTFA News Extra

Christmas Fayre Saturday 1 December, 2-5pm We welcome donations of cakes, filled jam jars (with sweets) stationery, small toys, raffle prizes.

Sign up at the office if you are free to help at the Christmas Fayre.

UNIFORM SHOP

Opening Times
Term Time

Mondays 8.15-9.15
Thursdays 3.15-4.15



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