



The Old School Henstead

Newsletter

Autumn Term 2018 Issue 10 30 November 2018



Calendar for next week

Tuesday 4 December

1.30 Years 2 & 3 Swimming
2.15 Years 4, 5 & 6 Swimming
2.30 Reception, Year 1 & Nursery Pre-School Gymnastics
8.50 Year 4 Assembly

Wednesday 5 December

Thursday 6 December

Friday 7 December

1.00 U9 Unihoc at Sir John Leman (A)
Nursery Visit to Post Office
Christmas Parties (pupils may bring party clothes to change into after lunch).

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 12 December

Thursday 13 December

Friday 14 December

9.15 Early Years Nativity
2.00 Lower School Nativity at St Mary's Henstead
12.00 School Christmas Lunch (all pupils invited)
7pm Carol Service at St Mary's Henstead

Monday-Wednesday 17-19
December

Holiday Club (booking forms out soon)

Message from the Headmaster

"Music is an agreeable harmony for the honour of God and the permissible delights of the soul." Johann Sebastian Bach would certainly have approved of the degree to which music is at the forefront of our end of term. The singing teachers have opened their Christmas catalogues and I am serenaded through the corridors on most days by a range of seasonal melodies both sacred and secular. Today we held our Advent Service at St Mary's, where the choir was in good voice. Of course there has been much curiosity and excitement as we interviewed and witnessed the skills of our prospective new music teachers - Heads of Music all. We look forward to celebrating Miss Sindall's many years of musical service to this school and to the announcement of her successor. Exciting times!

Mr McKinney



Junior Arts & Crafts Club.

Miss Butcher's Junior Arts & Crafts Club show some of this week's creative projects.





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

Maths, English, Science.



This week has been yet another excellent one for Year Two. Focussing on shape in maths, speech in English and materials in science allowed us to demonstrate our school values, research and resilience, extremely well.

With maths, our study of shape transitioned towards observing symmetrical and asymmetrical shapes. Eager for a challenge, the children flew through the activities with excellent precision and efficiency. Later on in the week, they attempted to complete the drawings of symmetrical patterns and shapes. Careful use of mirrors, rulers and their eye-sight allowed them to prevail and collect an A1 each for their efforts.

In English, focussing on speech, the children looked at how dialogue is used in texts. From a reading comprehension point of view, attention was given to how effectively used speech can influence a story. Indeed, equal concentration was directed to

how we read speech when we encounter it in a text - "it's all about the expression" said one of the class during a lesson.

Science has been yet another exciting week for the class. In previous investigations, we have identified different materials. This week, however, we have looked at different materials and their appropriate uses. Deciding which materials have the most appropriate uses for particular objects is certainly of use, especially for our next topic focus, architecture.

All in all, another splendid week. Where excitement could be at risk of bubbling over with Christmas only round the corner, it has been well applied to the learning challenges of the week.

Well done, Year Two.

Mr Hunt



A Whale of a Tale.



The last time I encountered a Julia Donaldson story brought to life on stage was at the Hong Kong Performance Arts Centre; the show was *The Gruffalo*. After the fantastic tale came to a close, our school party was privileged to meet the author. The inimitable Julia Donaldson was an enthusiastic and passionate writer who encouraged us all to enjoy writing and reading in all its forms.

Today's stage was the Norwich Playhouse and was inspired by Julia Donaldson and Axel Sheffler's popular book, *The Snail and the Whale*. The story was adapted by the Tall Stories company which brings great stories to life all around the world including America, Australia, Asia and beyond. Apparently when Julia Donaldson watched the show, she said it was one of her favourite adaptations of her work.

Longing to see the world, a tiny snail hitches a lift on the tail of a humpback whale. Together they go on an amazing adventure - but when the whale

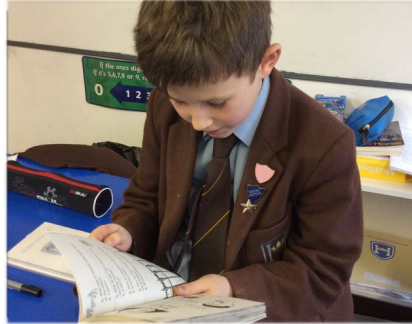
gets beached, how will the snail save him? We followed the tiny snail's exciting journey, as seen through the eyes of an adventurous young girl and her seafaring father. The adapted tale was orchestrated beautifully by a solo viola player on stage throughout who supplied effective musical sound effects and poetic atmosphere. Our theatrical experience was enhanced by squirting water pistols as the saving the whale scene progressed - poignantly adding both a humorous and serious tone. The show was full of hearty laughter and one Year 1 child said that he laughed his head off!

At the end of the show we popped across to the local park to stretch our legs and enjoy a special mini chocolate Yule log. I think the Snail and the Whale would approve of our small scale adventure.

Mrs Loader



Book Fair Success.



With more pokey sticks than you could poke a stick at, the Christmas Book Fair arrived last Wednesday with a degree of excitement - not solely due to a selection of glitter-gel pens and novelty pencil sharpeners.

It is always very encouraging to see that the magic of a physical book as a gateway to a very individual adventure of the imagination still lives on in our age of Kindles and iPads.

The efforts of staff at the Old School to cultivate and promote those adventures bear fruit.

Many thanks to all of you for attending and raising sales to almost £600 which gave us £230 in commission to spend on the classroom libraries.

Thanks too to Honor and Charlie, the school librarians, for their help in choosing and distributing the books.

Mr Butcher



Action Stations!



What a treat! Mrs Scriven organised an exciting trip to the Lowestoft Fire Station. We were met by Firefighters Mike, Ben and Chris. They took us on an interesting tour around the station. We were given the opportunity to try on their helmets, sit inside a Fire Engine, hold a hose, squirt water across the yard, see their powerful metal cutting equipment, turn on the blue flashing light and walk through the Smoke House, which the firefighters use for their training.



The children were an excellent audience. They listened well, asked lots of good questions and told the firefighters all about their Fireman Sam toys back at school and at home. The trip was a lot of fun and full of fascinating information about being part of a fire crew. It isn't just about fighting fires. They also rescue people from car crashes, the top of high places, animals in floods and even people out at sea. Did you know they have a rescue speed boat? If you would like any more information about our local fire service, ask one of the Early Years children!



Mrs Vorster





Reception Roundup.



What a busy week! Resilience has definitely been on the agenda as we fight off the winter bugs and continue to show enthusiasm in all that we do.

We started the week off by meeting our nursing team who administered nasal 'flu immunisations to some of our children. This prompted much discussion in class about how we can keep ourselves healthy and protect each other from germs.

Our understanding of fire was put to good use on Tuesday as we visited Lowestoft South fire station. Definitely some future fire fighters amongst us! Thank you to all the crew that looked after us so well.

Christmas has started to make an appearance as we busy ourselves and get creative, decorating our classrooms. Nativity rehearsals are going well and much excitement is developing as we talk about Christmas parties and the up coming fayre.

To help us understand more about how to put on a performance we went to join a tiny snail on her trip round the world in a magical, musical production from the Olivier Award-nominated company. Seen through the eyes of an adventurous young girl and her seafaring father the show was inspired by the fantastic bestselling picture book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. Just like our performances it was an excellent example of storytelling accompanied by live music and there were lots of laughs for everyone.

Mrs Scriven & Mrs Dakin



Mascot Awards.



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

Reception: Freddie for lots of resilience in reading and writing

Year 1: Raef for resilience in writing

Year 2: Samuel for researching lots of interesting places that relate to your hobby, football

Year 3: Luca for building up more and more resilience

Year 4: George for enormous resilience at the start of each day

Year 5: Penelope for emotional resilience when reading our heart-breaking shared text

Year 6: Louis for resilience and persistence in maths, conquering geometry

Christmas Parties



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.

Hosted Buffet Lunch

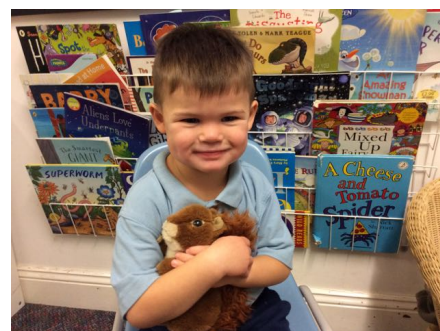
Next Wednesday 12 December lunch will be a buffet style menu, cooked by our usual wonderful chef, but hosted by the School Council. No need for pupils to bring packed lunches, unless preferred.

Holiday Club



Our Christmas Holiday Club will run from Monday 17 to Wednesday 19 December. The programme of activities and booking forms will be sent out soon. Bookings may be made for individual days or all three. Save the dates!

Nursery Star



This week's Nursery Star of the Week is awarded to Max. Tilly has chosen to go home with Max because he has been working so hard during gymnastics.

UNIFORM SHOP

Opening Times
Term Time

Mondays 8.15-9.15
Thursdays 3.15-4.15



@OldSchoolHstead



Excellence in Education
The Independent Association
of Prep Schools



independent
schools
council



INDEPENDENT
SCHOOLS
ASSOCIATION
Accredited Member