



The Old School Henstead

Newsletter

Spring Term 2019 Issue 5 | March 2019



Calendar for next week

Tuesday 5 March

9.00 Year 4 visits Ancient Egyptian Exhibition, Norwich Castle

1.30 Nursery, Reception & Year 1 Swimming

2.15 Years 2 & 3 Swimming

2.30 Years 5 & 6 Gymnastics

Thursday 7 March

World Book Day (pupils may dress up as a character from a book - see page 8)

Friday 8 March

8.45 Year 2 Assembly

Years 2 & 4 Open Classrooms

9.15 Year 3 Science Trip (**new date**)

Dates for your diary

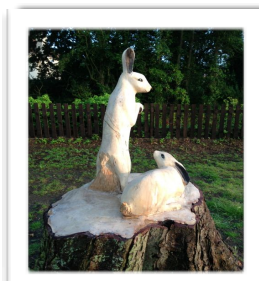
Thursday 28 March

8.50 Easter Service at St Mary's Henstead

Friday 29 March

Big Day Out Cambridge

Message from the Headmaster



Adventure is our focus for this second half of term and I am delighted to see our senior girls have already been doing their stuff at the county tournament this week. We are already looking at what makes a great adventure as we analyse and prepare for the Big Day Out. Scott, Shackleton or Amundsen? What about Tom Crean?

Mr McKinney

Scholarship Success.



We extend huge congratulations to all pupils in Year 6, who once again have succeeded in securing places at their first choice of senior school.

Furthermore, almost half the year group have been awarded scholarships - academic, all round and sports scholarships at top independent schools.

There is still more than one term remaining, which will be packed with a range of academic and adventurous activities and challenges to prepare them all well for life at senior school.

What a drama.



INTER-HOUSE DRAMA COMPETITION

It is no exaggeration to say that this was the highest standard of House performance that we have seen at The Old School Henstead - so said all those present, staff and pupils alike. No easy task for the judging panel either (the members of which have no attachment to a particular House!) We assessed the performances on the basis of entertainment, participation and teamwork, presentation and interpretation of our theme, *the Good Samaritan*.

Deben led off with grandparental wisdom dispensed to the younger generation, soon moving to awareness of the plight of the homeless. Those who passed by included musical nuns en route to a Miss Sindall choir practice (the habit joke never fails to deliver) and the non-Gregorian chant of some Canaries fans, who withheld assistance from the wounded tractor boy. In the end Old School kindness won through, with Hamish the first aid puppy making an unexpected appearance. It was a lively and colourful opening.

Orwell had chosen a traditional Biblical tableau and had done some serious rummaging in the costume loft - the victim on the road was assaulted by a very considerable stage prop rock, used with gusto to dramatic effect, as were some authentic looking buzzing insects. Colin the camel and his herder were very much in danger of stealing the show, before empathy took centre stage, modernising oil and wine with safety

gloves, plasters and medical disposal bags. Great fun!

Yare adopted a thoroughly contemporary theme, convincingly costumed and led by some forceful newsreaders, who morphed into an Ab Fab style tribute later in the piece. Younger ne'er-dowells agressed the unwary "give us yer snack," but youth redeemed itself and the message of #helpsomeone was well chosen.

Waveney tackled some of the most pressing societal issues of our day and it was to the credit of all concerned that they maintained focus in a stark and challenging piece. Refugees arrival by flimsy boat (yes, there was a boat in the hall), immigration, ambulance chasing, the media and unemployment all gave the audience pause for thought.

It is a competition. Deben got the nod. It was nigh on impossible to separate the runners up. So we didn't.

Mr McKinney, Miss Sindall & Mrs Suffolk

Castles in the Air.

Whilst closing the drawbridge on our Castles topic, it only seemed fitting to actually visit a real castle or two. Our first castle was a castle with no curtain walls and the second castle had curtain wall but no Keep. The first destination was to Orford to visit a castle with a near perfect 'Keep' which was once the heart of an important royal castle. Orford Castle was built by Henry II between 1166 and 1172 for a total cost of £1413. The Keep measures 27 metres high which is just a little longer than the pool we swim in at Bungay! The walls of the uniquely shaped Keep are 3 metres deep and conceal a maze of well-preserved rooms and passages. Year 1 explored from the bottom to the very top of the Keep holding tightly to the railings on the splendid stone spiral staircase. At the basement we saw the castle well, food storage facilities and a small prison room. On the next level we entered the lower hall where guests were entertained with access to a kitchen, some bedrooms and toilets (known as 'garderobes'). On the way to the next level we discovered the Chapel and a small bedroom and toilet for the Chaplain. Moving up to the Upper Hall, we witnessed an area where business, courtly and justice affairs were handled. Continuing up to the battlements we could see the excellent positional views the guards could see to protect and alert the castle if necessary.

At Framlingham Castle we were greeted by the impressive Howard family coat-of-arms above the gatehouse. As we entered the solid wooden door, we looked up to check that there were no boiling liquids being poured through the murder holes as was the case in the past for unwanted visitors to the castle. We trekked up a narrow spiral staircase to the battlements to explore the 'wall walk'. On our way circumnavigating the curtain walls we counted 13 towers, several arrow slots, and used the crenellated walls to feign shooting arrows and then hiding behind them for protection and defence. We could see the Mere which was a great water source and fishing resource and also the forest where game would have been hunted for food and sport.

By the end of the day, we were all castled out!

Mrs Loader





Palaeontology and Performance.



The day dawned with a bright blue sky, auguring well for the Year 3 assembly. The children arrived at school eager to perform and share what they had learned about the life of the great English palaeontologist Mary Anning.

Costumes were donned amidst excited chatter in the classroom and, once in the hall, positions were taken on the stage, ready to begin. The boys and girls did themselves proud, speaking in loud, clear voices and demonstrating excellent timing and characterisation. The performance was pacy and the audience enjoyed the fascinating story of how a poor young woman from Lyme Regis discovered some extremely important fossils, and is now rightly recognised as one of the most successful and respected palaeontologists ever to have lived.



The excellent performance was rounded off with a rousing rendition of the tongue-twister *She Sells Sea Shells*, written about Mary Anning. The Year 3 boys and girls recited it first, followed by the rest of the school and visitors, mostly successfully!

We were also treated to some wonderful musical recitals by several Year 3 and 5 pupils, and a very convincing LAMDA performance by two Year 5 pupils. What a treat for the eyes and ears.

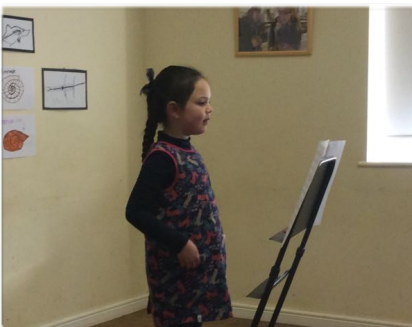


After assembly the children were joined in the Year 3 form room by some parents, who were pitched against them in a race to complete Rockstars times tables. The grown-ups weren't too bad, although the boys and girls were a pretty formidable opposition!

Then, on to the maths lesson, learning about statistics. The children carried out a survey of favourite foods, filled in tally charts and then created bar charts to represent the results. They demonstrated excellent mathematical skills and had some fun along the way.

Well done Year 3. You have made yourselves, your families, your school and your form tutor very proud.

Mrs Sonn





Reception Roundup.



This half term we will be learning about our school value *adventure*. The topic will be *Earth* and exciting trips have been planned to Minsmere, Ringsfield Hall and a Big Day Out to the Cambridge Science Discovery Centre.

French history. We demonstrated all seven areas of our learning: communication and language have been developed through our knowledge of the French language. Our personal, social and emotional development was put to the test as we confronted our first audience. We demonstrated literacy and mathematics and an understanding of the world around us through the cross-curricular approach to learning. Expressive arts and design were praised by our parents as they watched us wave our French flags, create the Eiffel tower and act out our French characters. Physical development was then put to the test as we served our families a French breakfast.

Bravo Reception!

Mrs Scriven



As we welcome the second half of the Reception year we are looking forward to our transition into year one. We are filled with pride as we reflect on all of achievements and progress so far. Preparations for our class assembly and cross country are challenging our resilience.

We enjoyed entertaining our parents during our first class assembly on Friday and serving a French breakfast.

For our class assembly we decided to take the children on an adventure through



Nursery News.



It has been another wonderfully busy and exciting week in Nursery with many challenging activities based knights, dragons and princesses.

This week in particular we would like to share the fantastic progress the Nursery children are making during swimming lessons. Since starting in January the children have grown in confidence and ability. The very first swim sessions started in the shallower end of the pool, allowing the children to become comfortable in the water. I am delighted to say the boys and girls have moved to the deeper end of the pool and are using the woggle floats to move and swim in the water. The children also accomplished a challenging task of holding on to the pool side whilst moving from one end of the pool to the other without touching the floor or letting go.



After lots of hard work in the pool the children have some time to explore the water with a range of equipment, including weighted toys, floats and watering cans.

Well done!

Mrs Vorster and Miss Butcher



Nursery Star of the Week ★

Congratulations to Tom, who has been participating superbly in all the activities this week, joining in with others in collaborative play and being a great team player. Well done Tom.

SPORTS ROUND UP

Football



FA COUNTY FUTSAL FINAL

The Henstead girls football team headed off to Ipswich, for a fast paced game on a glorious sunny afternoon. The U11 girls school FA Futsal finals. The girls had all braided their hair for the occasion to demonstrate their true team spirit.

The competition kicked off with a draw, followed by a one nil victory against Glemsford - Isabelle's crosses handed us the game. Well done to Rebecca on her 20 yard stunning strike! A penalty shoot out then decided who would play the final match, with Ebony and Kate holding their nerve to score twice. Imogen's impressive goal-keeping skills insured many penalties were saved, however our opponent just shaded it.

The game was not over. The final match tested our defending skills and we demonstrated true confidence and adventure. Daisy, Kate and Ayla's energetic approach to the game kept things moving

at a fast pace. Two saves from our goalie and a scoreless tie meant that we were faced with yet another penalty shoot out.

As the afternoon came to a close, much delight was had from the girls as Emily and Charlotte's strikes from the spot put us in third place. The girls proudly collected their bronze medals and we sang our way back to Henstead. A top efforts girls!

Mr Hunter



Mascot Awards.



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

Reception: Violette for adventurously developing her French vocabulary.

Year 1: Raef for an adventurous attitude when learning to swim backstroke.

Year 2: Ted for adventuring into expressive reading.

Year 3: Lolah for analysing her writing, seeking to edit and proofread successfully.

Year 4: Charlotte for adventurously taking the winning penalty at our football tournament.

Year 5: Brayden for carefully analysing rhyming words when creating a Shakespearean sonnet.

Year 6: Daisy, Emily and Rosie for teaching the Nursery children how to have a sense of adventure.

National Finalists

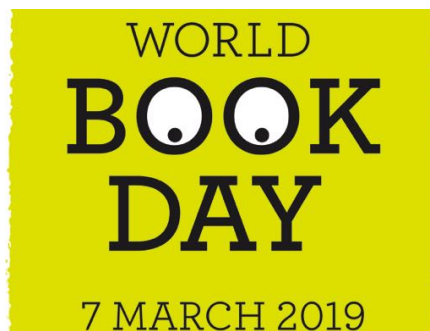


Congratulations to Louis and Francis, who are through to the final of the Independent Schools Association national cross country championships. This event will be held at Rugby School on 30 March. We wish the boys every success and look forward to hearing all about it upon their return.

Big Day Out

Preparations are well underway for the school's Big Day Out in Cambridge on Friday 29 March, the last day of term, when pupils will visit a number of famous science and exploration institutes affiliated to the University of Cambridge. It will be an exciting day of learning and exploration. Details will be sent out to parents soon.

World Book Day



As part of our celebrations for World Book Day next Thursday 7 March, pupils may come into school dressed as a character from a book. (Please no football kits.)

We look forward to a range of book and reading activities on that day.



Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge

Heart of the Matter



Year 5 pupils shared their knowledge about hearts - using the models they created - to a group of Lower School children.

UNIFORM SHOP

Opening Times
Term Time

Mondays 8.15-9.15
Thursdays 3.15-4.15



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