



The Old School Henstead

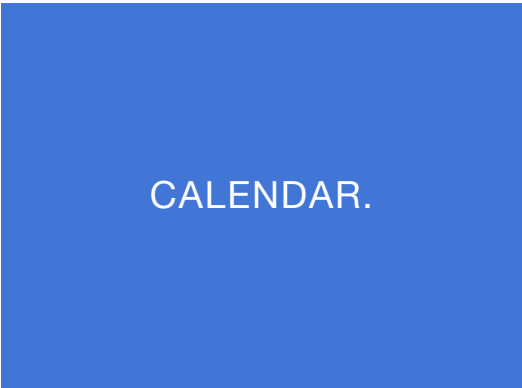
Newsletter 13 March 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

A modern rendition of the proverbs written by the wisest man who ever lived describes knowledge as the acquisition of information, understanding as the discernment and value of important and practical truths. Wisdom is the act of applying those valued truths to any given situation and to life in general. Led by their teachers, the boys and girls have really applied themselves in search of wisdom in this, our science week. Please enjoy the range of activities, experiments and investigations that are reported in this edition. They have done themselves proud.

WJ McKinney MA Hons PgDip MA Ed





[Calendar for Next Week](#) (the full term’s calendar is viewable on the school’s website)

We will operate a normal timetable of lessons within the school, but all external trips and visits (including fixtures, swimming and gymnastics outside the school) have been cancelled.

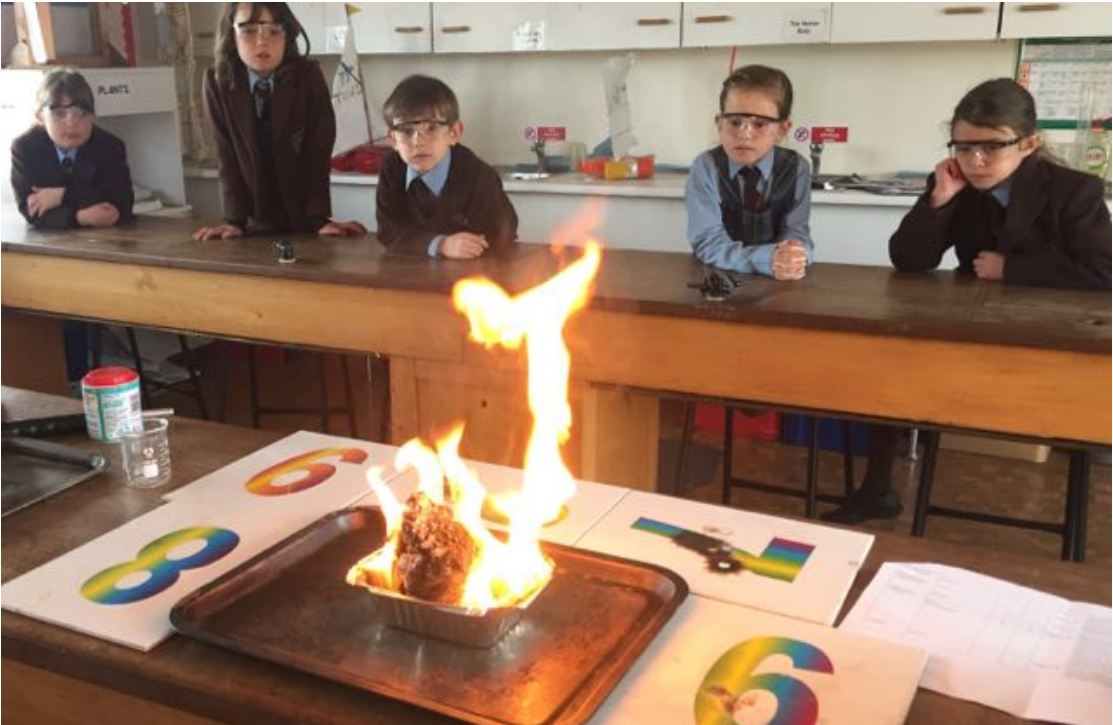
The calendar for future weeks may be revised in line with any Government directives.

Dates for your Diary

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Thursday 26 March | 8.50 Easter Service at St Mary’s Henstead |
| 30 March - 1 April | Easter Holiday Club (save the dates - booking forms out today) |



Science Week Blasts Off





Science Week



This week was British Science Week, the purpose of which was simple - to promote children's natural curiosity in all things scientific. Each teacher had a science-themed activity and during the morning, children were able to choose which activity interested them.

The children's engagement was superb. Their inquisitiveness and willingness to try new things was evident for all to see. From Year Six to Nursery, students were active in their own learning, asking questions, making predictions and observing the wonders of science before their eyes.

Nursery: Lots of exciting experiments happened in Nursery this week, including a bubble experiment, where the children examined the effects of isolating bubbles in cups to measure their varying size.

Reception: A metal melting session where pupils were able to submerge gallium to observe how it reacts with water. Gallium's naturally low melting point meant that it melted on their hands before their very eyes!

Year One: Boat testing - Inspired by cargo boats' holding capacities, specifically their ability to hold cargo behind its sides. Children were tasked with making small boats in a similar design and predicting how many counters it could hold. Record? 81 counters!

Year Two: Sweetie Science - Children observed the effects of mixing skittle sweets in warm water. A colourful (and messy!) experiment introduced the concept of separation of colours in chromatography.

Year Three: Fire balloons tested the effects of adding heat to a balloon to examine the reaction. A very exciting experiment.

Year Four: Elephant Toothpaste - A startling, exothermic reaction which produced lots of thick foam.

Year Five: 'Dunkin Density' - An investigation into the different density of liquids including syrup, oil and water.

Year Six: Fire Snakes - When mixed together and heated up, sugar, bicarbonate of soda and oxygen cause a combustion reaction which produces carbon, a fundamental building block of life. This creates a black snake-like structure which emerges and grows before our very eyes.

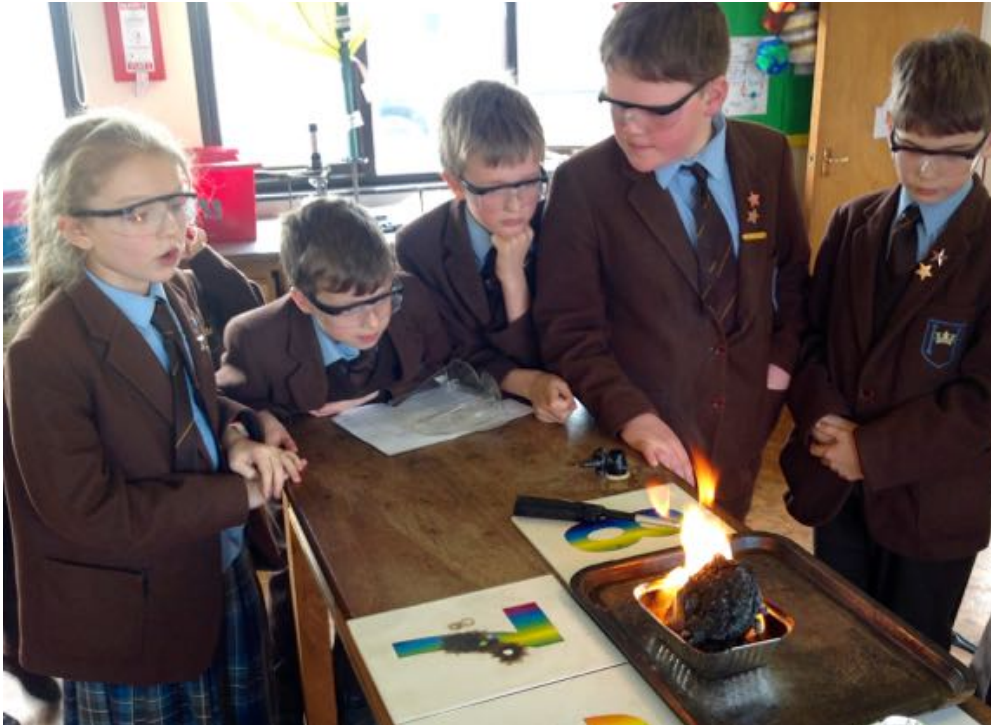
Music room: Sound effects - Examining the different resonances of various musical instruments.

A lovely week to witness. A special thank you to the teachers who organised and designed their own experiments. We hope you enjoyed learning about them! Mr Hunt.





Science Week Photo Gallery





Zoological visit to University of Cambridge



The Year six trip to the University of Cambridge Museum of Zoology was a fascinating experience from start to finish. Our guide showed us around this important centre for the study of animals, which is jam-packed with thousands of specimens collected over the last 200 years. There was everything from tiny insects and octopi preserved in vinegar-filled bottles, to skeletons of leatherback turtles and giant sloths.

The focus of the day was to use observational skills to understand how animals have adapted over millennia to survive in their environments. The boys and girls began by choosing a creature to sketch. Our guide then showed us some discoveries from the great collecting expeditions of the 19th century, including the very beetles brought back from the Galapagos islands to England by Charles Darwin on his famous journey onboard The Beagle.

We then learned about how natural selection works - the process by which some species fare better in the game of life than others - and this was followed by some close observations of different animal skulls, noticing how their brains, teeth and jaws differed depending on the food available to them in their environments.

We finished our day by having a wander around the museum, looking with awe at the wonderful specimens on show, and marveling at the incredible diversity of life on our planet.

What an enjoyable day. Mrs Sonn





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Coastal Science

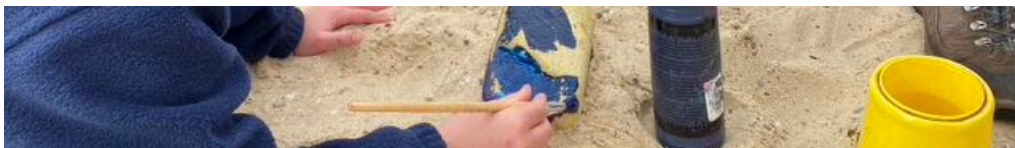


We arrived at the beach on Friday morning ready to be coastal explorers. After placing red flags in the sand to form a boundary for our activities, the children used binoculars to scan the landscape in all directions, looking for natural and human features. They observed groynes, cliffs, the coastline itself, buildings and Gulliver the wind turbine amongst other features.

Next we compared two aerial photos, one taken in 1945 and the other in 2018. The boys and girls noticed that there seemed to be more sand on the beach in the more recent photo. Our Suffolk Wildlife Trust guide asked them what they thought was responsible for all the changes and they correctly suggested the wind and the sea. This led to a lesson in how to use compasses and bubbles to detect which direction the wind was coming from. First job: to locate North on the compasses. Next to find out which direction the wind was coming from, which was from southwest heading northeast. Then on to measuring how fast the wind was blowing to find out whether it could be strong enough to erode the sand. After reeling out 10 metres of tape, some children stood at one end of it and blew bubbles while the others stood at the other end and shouted out stop when the bubbles reached them. They discovered that the bubbles moved 10 metres in 5 seconds which meant that the wind was blowing at 2 metres per second – quite brisk!

We found out that the sea can erode the beach too. Cue a grand sandcastle erosion challenge! In groups, the children built sandcastles and then we poured water on them to test their defences against the sea. Lots of elaborate castles and moats were created and each one withstood erosion by the water!

After lunch, we looked at some fossils, and then the boys and girls thoroughly enjoyed a good old fashioned play in the sand. What a brilliant day out with Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Mr Hunt and Mrs Sonn





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Bubble Science





Reception News



There has been a real buzz of excitement amongst the children during British Science Week. This has given us the perfect opportunity to encourage Reception children to think about everyday discoveries and how they affect their lives by exploring science in the world around them. We have held activities every day this week. We studied our fingerprints through magnifying glasses, made an egg bounce and created a chemical reaction using vinegar, bicarbonate of soda and a rubber glove. Our music, art, maths and literacy lessons were also all inspired by science as we worked alongside children from across the school.

Our first class assembly allowed us to share our learning and demonstrate to the school how confident we are. 'Our Diverse World' was the focus as it brought together the topics of this term: animals and earth. We are passionate about what we do at school, and the children wanted to share their understanding of diversity. We travelled around the world with the help of Paddington, who is a champion for children, in support of Unicef. Paddington's kindness, tolerance and perseverance in the face of adversity or marmalade-related mishaps make him the perfect champion for children. We learnt the song 'World In Danger' by 8-year-old Frankie Morland about climate change and enjoyed showing our mixed media animal pictures and sharing the interesting facts we have learnt about them.



Thank you to all who helped the children with their junk model animals too. Mrs Scriven



Nursery Scientists



Science week has been so much fun in Nursery. We have investigated what happens when vinegar meets bicarbonate of soda; what happens to corn flour when it is mixed with warm water or baby oil; and what happens inside a rain cloud. We also had a variety of challenges which helped us understand a little bit about air compression, how our ears help us balance and how bubbles are made. Our older children were able to visit other classrooms in the school to take part in other science experiments, which made them feel very grown up. The children have had to think about how to answer questions such as "what will happen?", "how does it work?" and "why did that happen?". Well done Nursery for all your science thinking this week.

Nursery Star of the Week



Congratulations Abigail. You have been listening and waiting your turn during nursery carpet times and coming into school smiling!
Mrs Vorster



Folk Band Visit



On Monday we enjoyed a wonderful assembly which featured Miss Bullen and her fellow musicians from the River Hundred Folk Band. The band performed some country dance tunes such as “Josephine” and “Caddam Wood”, some Scottish favourites such as “Loch Lomond”, and a rousing “Sailor’s Hornpipe” which had the whole school on its feet performing actions such as climbing the ladders and pulling up the anchor! We were introduced to the various instruments; penny-whistle, guitar, bass and of course the violin. Emily and Ruby (two of Miss Bullen’s violin pupils) joined in one of the pieces, as well as Mr Spencer. It was an uplifting morning which prompted Mr McKinney to remind us of the importance of music in promoting a feeling of well-being. Thank you so much to Miss Bullen and all the members of the band.



There are currently spaces available to learn the violin at school, and should any pupils be interested please do contact Mr Spencer.



The Old School Henstead

YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN OUR

Easter Bingo

WEDNESDAY
25TH MARCH

6.30 pm

**Chocolate
prizes!**

**Refreshments
available**

Full Book £5

Small Book

£3



PTFA NOTICES.

Donations of Easter egg prizes will be gratefully received! (No nut varieties please.)



AWARDS AND NOTICES.

LAMDA Examinations

We wish everyone success in their LAMDA examinations taking place at school tomorrow.

Easter Holiday Club

Save the dates - Monday 30 March to Wednesday 1 April. Booking forms out now.

Facebook & Twitter

Follow us on Facebook on @theoldschoolhenstead and twitter on @oldschoolHstead

PTFA Appeal for Help

During the Easter holidays the PTFA team plans to spend a day at school transforming the music practice rooms. It will be a quick job with a team of volunteers. If you would like to help, please email ptfa2@theoldschoolhenstead.co.uk so that a suitable date can be arranged. Thank you. for making a difference.

Mascots

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

Reception: Betsie for showing and adventurous approach to our assembly

Year One: Emily for some excellent violin playing

Year Two: Rex for adventurous attitudes in science week

Year Three: Ariane for being adventurous in outdoor education

Year Four: Rafferty for adventurous writing

Year Five: Charlotte for trying new things

Year Six: Isobel for expert analysis during the science trip charts.



@OldSchoolHstead



YouTube

