



# The Old School Henstead

Newsletter 20 March 2020

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

I have been justly proud of the resilience, support and strength of spirit that has been demonstrated at The Old School Henstead, in one of the more unusual weeks we have experienced. Children, parents and staff have all pulled together in a cohesive and determined way to ensure that the welfare and learning of our boys and girls advances and will continue to move forward. In our service on Friday, our Year Five readers all read passages from John's Gospel, telling us of the triumphant procession into Jerusalem, the crucifixion and the Resurrection on Easter morning. As I read John the Revelator's eye-witness account, it is his reporting of Jesus' words to his disciples before calvary that strikes a chord in our present situation.

"I have said this to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

The challenge is only as strong as our internal response allows it to be. Spoken, peace restored, good cheer, tribulation overcome. Happy Easter!

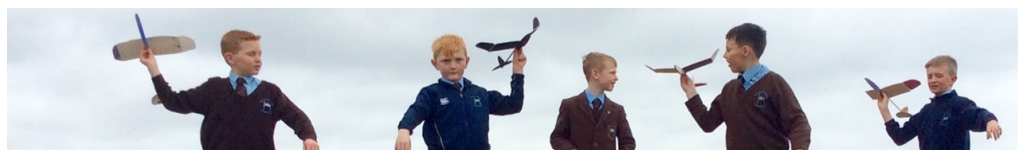
WJ McKinney MA Hons PgDip MA Ed







## Model Glider Maiden Flights



After a term of creating their planes, some members of the Model Glider After School Club conducted the test flights from the Mound. It was exciting to witness the success of their aeronautical engineering projects. Well done. Mrs Sonn





## Cross Country Competition



Mr Hunter, Assistant Big Chief Cross Country (ABCCC) was delighted that the issues impacting on his beloved Norwich FC this season were not in evidence at The Old School Henstead. The Big Chief Cross Country (BCCC) met with the athletes' representatives (actually, it was the weekly Prefects' meeting). There was some tough talking and no biscuits were served. The BCCC pointed out that, in addition to the House points on offer, the competition had a Speech Day prize attached for the winner of the senior race. Kitty and Penelope insisted that cancellation was not an option, as it would impact on reputations - they also deplored the lack of biscuits.

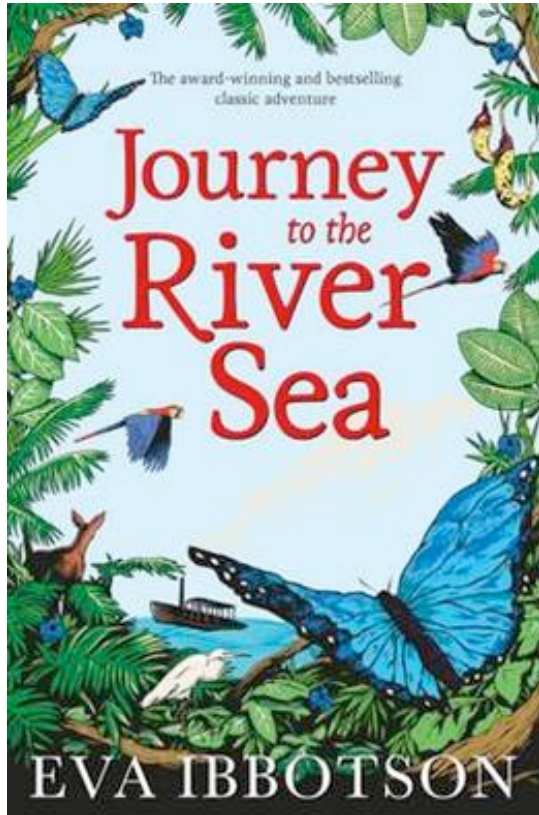
So the starting pistol got an outing, with, as every year, more questions to the starter (the BCCC) regarding ballistics, than those received by Lt.Theo Kojak (check out an episode if time permits, especially his suits.)

The only rain of the day fell as the children walked the course. Our Reception and Year One friends were first to compete, with some hardy Nursery athletes joining in also. Rohan and Emily led them home in fine style. Next up, Years Two and Three were stretched on a longer course with Adam and 'Bella prevailing. The senior race for Years Four, Five and Six had been the subject of ante-post speculation. Would Raff run to form, take the title and break the school record? He did all three. Kitty, still smarting from biscuit deficiency, was the first senior girl to finish. Waveney completed a strong day, just pipping Deben in the house competition. Well done to all the competitors. The BCCC





## English Literature - Year Six



### Year Six English Learning Focus

This half-term, we have been reading *Journey to the River Sea* by Eva Ibbotson.

The boys and girls have been thoroughly absorbed and entertained by this story about an orphaned London schoolgirl, Maia. She is sent to live with her unpleasant relatives along the Amazon river. There she discovers an exotic world bursting with new experiences, and sets off on a colourful and exciting adventure.

*Journey to the River Sea* won the Smarties Book Prize Gold Award, was runner-up for the Whitbread Children's Book of the Year and the Guardian Fiction Award, and was also shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal.

Through this wonderful story, we have been able to create character profiles, make family trees for the characters, use powers of inference and deduction and answer comprehension questions, as well as enjoy lively discussions about the text and make predictions about what will happen next.

Reading is a powerful resource for taking thrilling and exotic journeys without even leaving our homes. This story will be the jumping off point for the pupils to do research projects about the Amazon river over the coming weeks, and to write their own stories of incredible adventures. I look forward to reading them!

Mrs Sonn







## Story Writing for Budding Authors



This week, Year Two studied fairy tales for story writing inspiration. The purpose of which was to gain an increased understanding of different styles of vocabulary, grammar and story construction. To begin, the children selected and read a fairy tale from our library. During the process, they considered how characters were portrayed, and the types of problems and dilemmas faced in such stories.

The children's contributions in lessons were fantastic, and some super uses of vocabulary were spotted in the books. The children especially enjoyed reading aloud this week, using plenty of expression when imitating how characters might sound. I might have joined in too...

A super week of learning, Year Two. Thank you for your efforts.

Mr M Hunt.



## Mathematics



The Year 3 mathematicians have been working hard to use and apply established skills. With a strong numerical focus, they have reviewed their understanding of numbers up to 1000 and then beyond.

Remembering times tables, counting forward and backward in a multitude of multiples, reinforced the foundations for adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. Solutions have been achieved mentally and using formal written calculation methods.

A variety of learning styles facilitates a variety of approaches, with individual, partners and teams engaging in shared learning.

Together the children have assessed not only their own, but each other's work to support and extend understanding.

Together we shared the delight of conquering two-digit by a single digit multiplication and

pushed the boundaries to tackle three-digit by a single digit multiplication.

As stated by one child to a parent, "Maths is fun" – indeed it is.

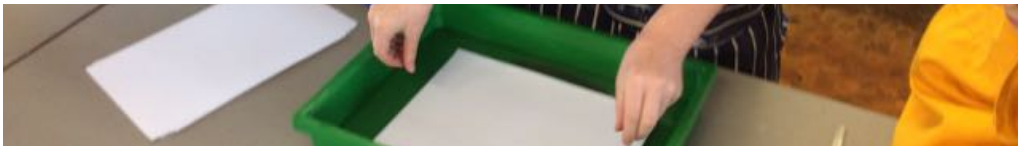
Miss Clifton







## Marbling Art



Year Six made some wonderful creations in their Art lessons, using marbling techniques. - Miss Doughty



## Collaborative Art & Literature

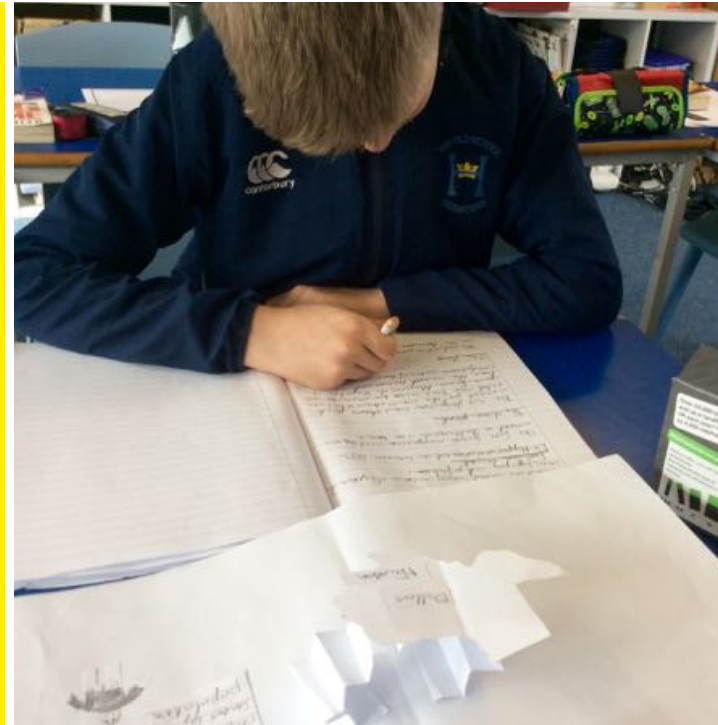
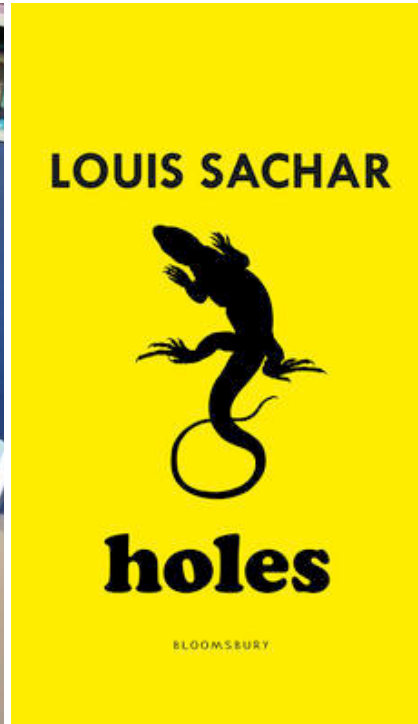


Oh I do like to be beside the seaside - lolly included! Collaborative art and literature in Year One. - Mrs Loader





## English Literature - Holes



This week Year Five started their new class reading book *Holes* by Louis Sachar. This award-winning book is about a boy called Stanley Yelnats (notice the palindrome?) who has been wrongly accused of a crime and gets sent to Camp Green Lake - a juvenile detention centre in Texas. Whilst there they are made to dig holes each day. But what are they actually digging for?

Along with this we have started to look at the US and the various states there. This week, we focused on Texas, to link with our book. We have written a non-chronological report about Texas, using the Internet to help us find out some interesting facts about it.

Mrs Solomon





## Nursery News - All Wrapped Up!



We love cardboard boxes. We can hide from our friends in them and jump out to scare them, imagine they are a rocket, house or train and even just sit inside them quietly with a special friend having a chat.

We were given two large empty boxes this week and the children did all of the above and more. We read two stories about cardboard boxes *This is our House* and *Whatever Next*. Both books gave us extra ideas about how we could play with our boxes.

This week John the Chicken will have a sleepover at Jonah's house. He has been very caring towards the younger children in Nursery.

Mrs Vorster







## Reception News



Excellent resilience, understanding and teamwork in Reception this week. We continue our adventures in and out of school and have enjoyed writing letters to our mummies ready for that special day on Sunday.

During Show and Tell this week we all enjoyed asking and answering questions about our friend's favourite things from home. It is lovely to hear the children's vocabulary expanding and seeing their confidence flourish.

We finished the week off with an Easter-themed day of crafting, games and learning.

Mrs Scriven





## Getting Ready for Remote Learning



Last week Year 6 provided some additional mentor learning for the remote learning classrooms that would start this week. There was much excitement.





## OTHER NEWS.

## Choral Speaking Competition

The theme for the inter-house competition this year was inspired by Michael Rosen and, as always, the Houses really pulled together, anticipating the school value of *teamwork* for the beginning of next term.

We were determined that the competition should take place, even though we had to comply with the developing situation to ensure the safety of our community. It meant that there was a reduction of rehearsal time and that a number of children were already working at home last week. All the performers rose to the occasion. The House senior pupils led the performances. There

were superbly choreographed actions, involving everyone from the Year Six House Captain to the youngest Receptioner, confidently delivered stanzas and even a rap! It was impossible to separate three of the Houses, who were deservedly runners-up, but it was the Waveney performance that carried the day.

Mr McKinney

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## Senior Choir at Easter Service

At our Easter Service, brought forward last week, the Senior Choir performed, "Now The Green Blade Riseth", a beautiful old French melody set to a text which compares the miracle of Christ's resurrection with the annual miracle of the end of Winter and the return of life all around us as Spring unfolds. A particular well done to Amelie for opening and closing the song so beautifully with her solo. The Junior Choir performed "When Easter to the Dark World Came", a bright and cheerful song which captures the joy of Eastertide perfectly. Well done to both choirs for performing so well. Mr Spencer



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YouTube

