



The Old School Henstead

Newsletter 11 September 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

We have enjoyed a hugely positive and successful start to the school year and I have already enjoyed giving A1s for excellent work. Our values of confidence and creativity are being exhibited both in class and on the school fields, as our boys and girls approach new learning opportunities and challenges with enthusiasm and good humour. The School Council continues to be a forum for the children to contribute to the development of the school through their class representatives. A1s and Golds are scoring points for the Houses. Well done to all of you!

WJ McKinney MA Hons PgDip MA Ed





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 23 September (evening) The PTFA AGM will be held remotely online. This is an opportunity to elect new committee members and for the PTFA team to discuss how they can support the school. Details of how to register to join the meeting online will follow.

Thursday 24 September Harvest Festival celebrated at school (sorry, we are unable to invite parents, but we hope you will support our appeal for produce - see page 4 for more details.)

Saturday 17 October - Sunday 1 November Half Term

Tuesday 17 November Nasal 'Flu Immunisations (Reception to Year 6). A link for parental sign-up will be emailed to parents as soon as we receive it.



New Heads of School



We are delighted to announce that our Heads of School for this academic year 2020-2021 are Charlotte and Zak.

“We are very excited about our roles as Heads of School and we are looking forward to performing our duties over the year. We want to make sure we are positive role models for the younger pupils, and good representatives of the school when we have visitors. We are also looking forward to developing our leadership skills.”

We wish you every success in the year ahead in your new roles of responsibility.





HARVEST FESTIVAL APPEAL.

Let's Fill a Van with Groceries!

This year we are shouting out for food (non-perishables) to fill a van! We are teaming up with the Soul Foundation charity (in partnership with Norwich City Football Club and the YMCA), who run the largest food bank for our region, delivering thousands of boxes of food every week to families in need in the area. Demand has risen as a result of the recent lockdown and job losses, and we would like our small school to make a big difference to families facing difficult times. Therefore, **instead of asking families to donate one item per child, we would be hugely grateful if you**

would consider donating several items or a bag of groceries, so that we may fill the charity's van, which will be with us on the day. No need to worry about the weight of items, as they may be dropped off at the gate.

We have been asked to donate only non-perishable items, such as any tinned goods, pasta, coffee, tea, cereals, biscuits and other treats.

We thank you for your generosity in advance. The charity has told us that there are families reaching out to them, and who are referred by social services, as they literally do not know where their next meal

will come from. Please help us make a difference and fill the van!



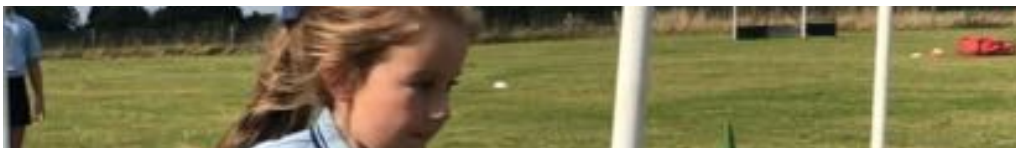
Autumnal Art



The Year 3 pupils have started exploring their new art topic, Autumn. This week, they collected textured leaves and experimented with printing and mark making in their sketchbooks. - Miss Doughty



Sport off to a great start.



It has been wonderful to see how quickly our pupils have got stuck into their sports programmes after the summer break.



Rugby season kicks off.





School Council Election



The much anticipated school council elections took place on Wednesday. The job of the council is an important one, as it provides a platform for pupils to voice their thoughts and ideas about how to make our school a better place. It's also a chance for the representatives to develop their leadership, debating and decision-making skills.

Remote voting took place in form rooms, after which the newly appointed Heads of School Council, Phillip and Isabelle, counted (and recounted) the numbers while nominees nervously awaited the results.

I am delighted to announce that the representatives for this term are:

- Year 1 - Saffie
- Year 2 - Rohan
- Year 3 - Grace-Marie
- Year 4 - Henrietta
- Year 5 - Isaac G
- Year 6 - Phillip and Isabelle (Heads of School Council)

Congratulations to all. Mrs Sonn





Budding Scientists.



During our Science lesson this week we focused on the importance of washing our hands and how this can protect us from germs. Each child scientist had their own cup of water which had a sprinkling of pepper added to it. The pepper floated on top of the water and represented the germs in our experiment. Each child placed a finger into their cup of water and then removed it. They observed that the pepper stayed on their fingers. Fingers were wiped with kitchen towel and a small pearl of soap was rubbed onto a single finger of each child. The children put their soaped up fingers back into the peppered water cup. This time the children observed that the pepper moved away from their soapy fingers. The children clearly understood the significance of washing their hands with soap to remove germs and NOT just running them under the tap. You may want to try this experiment at home. We also read the story of Super Soap!

Mrs Loader





Early Years News



Our Nursery and Reception classes have been very busy exploring their new learning environments and making new friends. Nature and our Christian ethos are at the heart of all we do during the day and children are free to make creative choices, while the Early Years team offer activities to support and guide them. It is wonderful to see our children discover, explore and experiment with their learning. Daily phonics, reading, maths, art and drama lessons are in full swing and exploration of this terms topic "All about me" has begun. Nursery have been dancing and singing along to Mrs Suffolk's music, while Reception have been enjoying music lessons with Mr Spencer in the music room. Nursery continue to run, climb and explore their surroundings while Madame Dakin and Señora Webster have introduced the children to French and Spanish. An excellent start and a big thank you to all the parents for your encouragement and support. Mrs Vorster





Reception News



As we begin our journey this year, we welcome our new class mascot Mabel the meerkat. who will not only be the symbol of our class, but will represent all that is good about Reception. Mabel has a significant job to do this year as she is responsible for helping teach the children all about our school values. The children will, of course, learn the importance of these values, although they will naturally develop the skills as the older children and adults lead by example. The benefit of our values-based approach is that it encourages the children to take responsibility and become actively involved in their school community. Congratulations to this week's winner for demonstrating such amazing confidence and creativity.
Mrs Scriven



Fruits of their Labour



During an outdoor ed lesson, Year 4 pupils tended to the produce growing in our organic garden and polytunnel. It looks like they are starting to see the fruits of their labour.



MEET THE MASCOTS.

Mascot mayhem!

In the week in which we meet our new mascots for the first time, it seems appropriate to do some research on the origins of these much-loved class friends, be they virtual or with the winners in the fur/feather/flesh. It was fascinating to discover that the term originates from provençale, a

dialect of French spoken in a region in southeastern France, bordering Italy and the Mediterranean Sea. It is known for its diverse landscapes, from the Southern Alps to the Camargue delta and its white horses. Mascot is a shortened form of mascotte which came into popular use after La Mascotte (1880), an operetta by the French composer E. Audran (1840-1901).

Nowadays, it has come to mean any person, animal, or thing adopted by a group, a sports team, a House or class as a symbol of hope and good things to come. We welcome them all. The Headmaster's mascot? The empty cross on the bookcase behind me in my study represents hope for everyone.

The pupils are very excited to learn the identity of the first mascot winners of the year. May we introduce this year's class mascots, as named by the pupils:

- Mabel Meerkat (Reception)
- Diamond the Owl (Year 1)
- Frankie the Fox (Year 2)
- Nugget the Elephant (Year 3)
- Honey the Bee (Year 4)
- Bamboozle the Panda (Year 5) and
- John the Platypus (Year 6).

More on the choice of these animals in future editions.





OTHER NEWS.

Mascots

Mascots were awarded this week to the pupils best demonstrating our school values for this half term - Confidence and Creativity.

Reception: Lucy, for having a wonderful confident start to school life and sharing her creative ideas.

Year One: Toby, for speaking confidently and charming manners.

Year Two: Emily, for confident maths work.

Year Three: Chloe for creativity in singing in the Junior Choir.

Year Four: Isabella, for hard work and a confident, positive attitude.

Year Five: Bobby, for a confident start to Year 5 after lockdown.

Year Six: James, for a confident and mature start to Year 6 studies.

Facebook & Twitter

Follow us on Facebook on [@theoldschoolhenstead](https://www.facebook.com/theoldschoolhenstead) and Twitter on <https://www.twitter.com/oldschoolHstead> (click on the links in colour above to reach our pages.)

School Photographs

Individual and sibling group photographs will be taken next term by our school photographer. The date will be published closer to the event.



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