



The Old School Henstead

Newsletter 27 November 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

Track and trace? Tier regulations? 'And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered... so all went to be registered, each to his own city.' Luke's account is echoed in these days, but let us remember that we are approaching the celebration of the event that set Heaven to singing (I can hear our angels rehearsing in the Hall as I write), an event that gave the stars of the night sky a new brilliance and announced to a despairing, hopeless and frustrated world the coming of the Prince of Peace.

WJ McKinney MA Hons PgDip MA Ed





Writing Techniques for Emotion and Atmosphere.



The Year 6 pupils were set the challenge to 'show, don't tell' in English this week, a writing technique which creates atmosphere or evokes what characters are feeling, thinking and their motivations through their senses, body language and actions, instead of directly telling the reader. This type of writing brings stories and characters to life for readers – rather than writing about a character being tired, one might write instead, “she rubbed her eyes, yawned loudly and slumped forward in the chair.”

They rose to the challenge admirably. Here is some of the writing they produced. See if you can guess the emotion:


“He closed his eyes tightly and tears trickled down his cheeks like waterfalls.”

“He opened his mouth wide and screamed loudly, while clutching his knee to his stomach in agony.”

“Her heart was beating fast as she gasped for air. Her jaw dropped and she let out a piercing scream.”

“He looked down sorrowfully and his mouth drooped. He walked glumly over to the chair and sat so he could calm down a little.”

Bravo, Year 6, on creating some inspiring descriptions, which will transform your narrative writing. As the great writer Chekhov said, “Don’t tell me the moon is shining. Show me the glint of light on broken glass.”
Mrs Sonn

his character is in pain.	Describe their facial expression.	Describe their body language.	Describe their actions.
	His eyes were tightly closed. His mouth was open as if to scream or cry.	He clenched his teeth close to his chest. His legs were crossed. He leaned bent over his bent leg.	Tears were rolling down his cheek and onto his shirt.

write a descriptive paragraph which shows how your character feels without directly telling the reader. His eyes were closed tightly, with tears trickling down his cheek and onto his shirt. His mouth was open as wide as a roaring lion. He looked down sorrowfully and his mouth drooped.

The first task was to 'act it out', so the boys and girls set about creating tableaux of different emotions. The rest of the class had to guess what they were and create sentences to describe those feelings. Much fun was had interpreting intriguing facial expressions and body language. Then the challenge was to write sentences and finally a descriptive paragraph to show, not tell, how a character feels.



Reception News.



Reception pupils are in fine form this week as they start to tackle digraph sounds. We have observed some lovely writing and children are working hard to blend their new sounds and read tricky words. Festive seasonal decorations have begun with parcel wrapping, the creation of tree decorations and Christmas calendars. In maths, we have been decorating stockings and looking at patterns that follow a sequence. Outdoor activities continue to capture the children's interest as we look and feel for signs of winter.

Mrs Scriven





Creative Writing.



This week, the children have focussed on creating adventure stories. A lot of work and effort goes into writing a story, from researching settings and characters, to the writing and editing process. As such, the children have worked hard this week to create stories with thrilling plots, unique characters and bizarre twists. Focussing first on creating a plan, the children worked hard to consider how to create an exciting plot. This process involved them first determining a problem and dilemma which their character faced. Subsequently, they were tasked with forming a solution to the problem and considering the moral or lesson to their story.

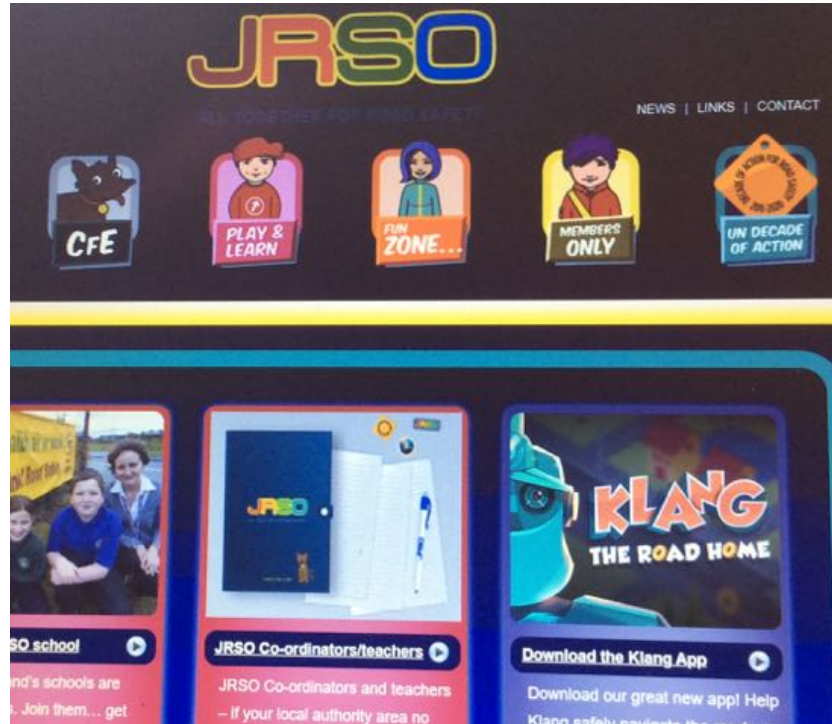
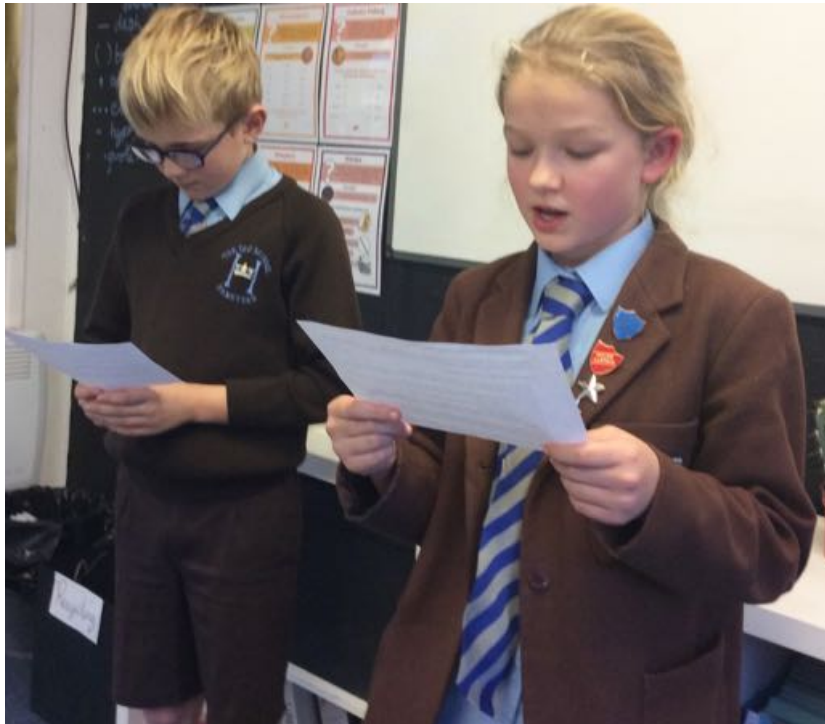
Careful handwriting, mindful punctuation and rich uses of vocabulary were crucial to the successes of their work, which resulted in an awarded A1 for their efforts. Also noteworthy this week has been Year Two's continued efforts in reading. Developing fluency and expression when reading aloud, along with progressing comprehension and inference skills when speaking about literature has been very pleasing to see.

Another excellent week. Well done, Year Two.
Mr Hunt





Junior Road Safety Officers.



This week, the Heads of School and other members of Year 6 gave a presentation to their year and invited pupils in Year 5 to apply to become JRSOs (Junior Road Safety Officers) and help to run a scheme to raise road safety awareness and promote road safety issues within the school and local community. It is run in conjunction with the local road safety officer.

If you would like to find out more about this worthy project, go to www.jrso.com.

Watch this space for information about their first initiative.

Mrs Sonn





Art Gallery.



Year 3 children have started an exciting new art project. What could it be?
- Miss Doughty



Christingles.



Nursery and Reception pupils have been busy creating Christingles.

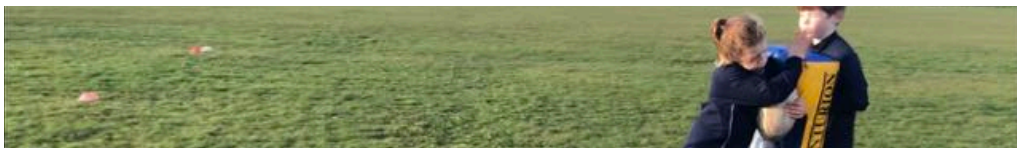


Sports Gallery - Hockey.





Sports Gallery - Rugby Training.





Nursery Gallery.





Prizes for Prize Winners.



Last week, the Year 4 children had the task of choosing how to spend the voucher they won in the Independent Schools Association art competition! After a very democratic vote and some careful adding up, they decided on two new games to play during indoor rainy day break times.



Zoom Bingo Night

The PTFA launched their programme of events with a hugely successful remote bingo evening. This great evening of family fun raised £225 for PTFA project funds. As always, the boys and girls were eyes down on the numbers, scoring points for their houses. The enjoyment was obvious. Huge thanks to the PTFA team and all who took part. We are delighted report the following winning results (1 line = 10 house points; 30 = bingo/full house):

Game 1:

William 10
James H 20
Georgina 30

Game 2:

Toby 10
Toby 10
Emily 30

Game 3:

Tilly 10
Jemimah 20
Jemimah 30

Game 4:

Isaac M 10
Lucy 20
Rohan & Rafferty 30

Game 5:

Tilly 10
Isaac G 20
Jemimah 30
James H 30
Adam 30

Christmas Baubles

Don't forget to submit your Christmas Bauble order forms to the school office by Monday 7 December.

PTFA NOTICES.



OTHER NEWS.

Mascots

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

Reception: Carter for resilience in all school work.

Year One: William for resiliently writing and reading.

Year Two: Rohan for resilience and perseverance during story writing.

Year Three: Raef for outstanding polar bear research and presentation of work.

Year Four: Sam for excellent research and understanding in division.

Year Five: Amelie and Jack, for changing direct speech to indirect speech and research on a Tudor Rose presentation respectively.

Year Six: Isabelle for excellent internet research for a class project.

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