



The Old School Henstead

Newsletter 30 April 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

A warm welcome back to this busiest of terms. Already there is evidence of teamwork - I was particularly pleased to see the collaborative work and research that has gone on in Year One this week. The tentage is also under preparation in the hope and faith that the residential trips will proceed as planned later in the term. Year Six has continued to lead the school with enthusiasm, whilst they prepare for the challenges of Snowdonia. Cymru am byth! As you will see from these pages, we have been blessed with sunshine and the boys and girls have responded superbly. Well done!

WJ McKinney MA Hons PgDip MA Ed





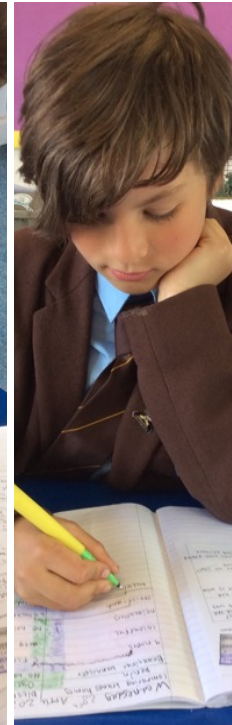
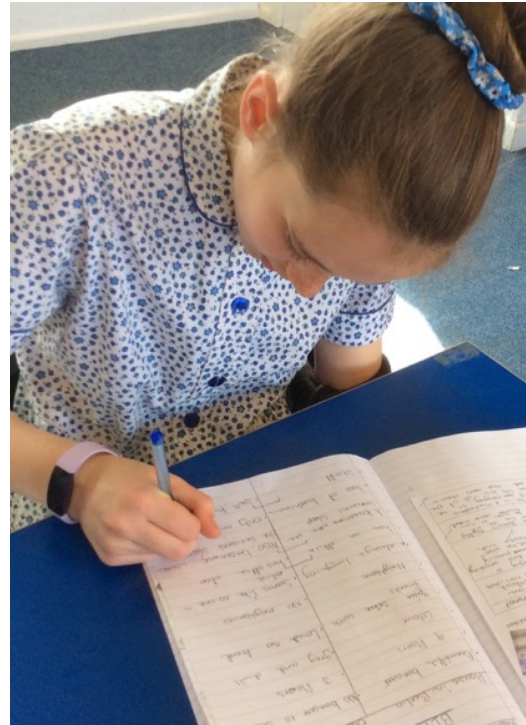
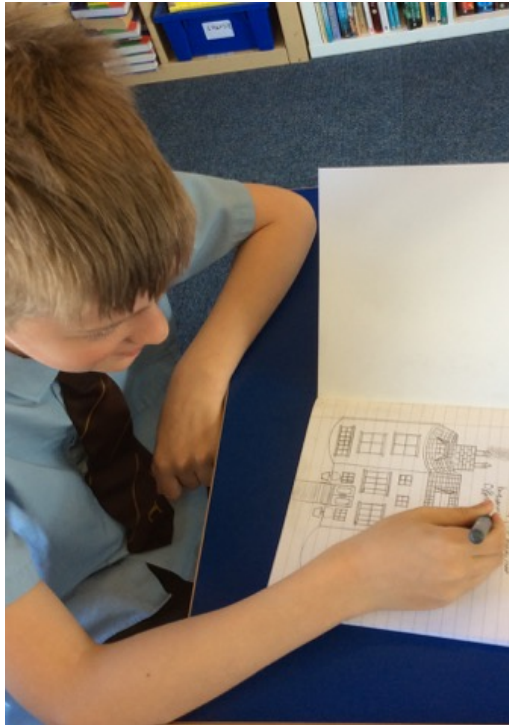
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Dates for your Diary

- Monday 3 May - May Bank Holiday (School Closed)
- 23-28 May - Year 6 Adventure Training & Leadership Trip (Snowdonia)
- Sat 29 May - Sun 6 June - Half Term
- 9-11 June - Year 5 Outdoor Education Residential trip
- Friday 9 July - Summer Term Ends



Literature - The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas.



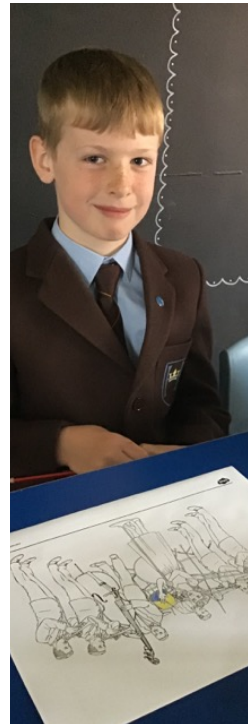
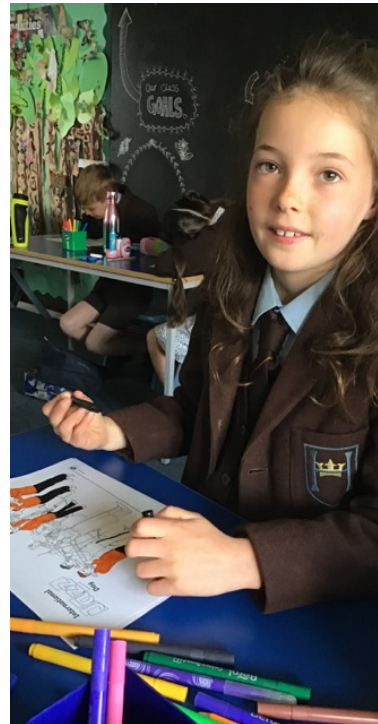
Year 6 is currently studying *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, a moving story about the forbidden friendship between two young boys during the Second World War. The novel is written from the point of view of an innocent nine-year old boy called Bruno, and is played out against the backdrop of Nazi-occupied Poland. It has a strong moral message that feels extremely relevant today, about how friendship can transcend race, colour and nationality.

This is an opportunity for the boys and girls to use their inference skills in order to understand the many layers of meaning in the story. They are also analysing character development and exploring how the author creates setting and atmosphere as well as narrative devices which enhance the storytelling process. These are all important skills which the pupils will carry with them to English studies at their senior schools. They have learned their craft well and I have no doubt that they will continue to acquit themselves capably next year. - Mrs Sonn





Celebrating International Jazz Day.



Today Year Four pupils were treated to a performance by Ted of "Andrew Mine, Jaspar Mine" to mark international Jazz Day.

They learnt about the history of jazz, typical jazz instruments and some famous jazz musicians.

- Miss Doughty





Shakespearean Studies.



This week in Year 5 English lessons we have been looking at our most famous bard, William Shakespeare. Our focus has been on *Romeo and Juliet*, which has caused much hilarity! We tried using the 'old English' and wrote our own ending for the play, where Romeo and Juliet do not necessarily die! This was as a comic strip version of the play.

Along with this, we have also focused on script writing, including taking a script and trying to act it out, using the stage directions given. We made the most of our beautiful outside space here at school, using this as part of our scenery for the play. A lot of fun was had by all.

- Mrs Solomon



Getting Ready for Camp.



Year 5 pupils have been practising erecting tents ahead of their upcoming trip in June. Exciting times.



Studying Scientific Methodology.



During this half-term, the children in Year 2 have been investigating absorption in materials. Applying a scientific method, the children considered the necessary constituent parts of a scientific experiment. To begin, the children created hypotheses, developed fair tests, discussed methodology and concluded with reflections upon results.

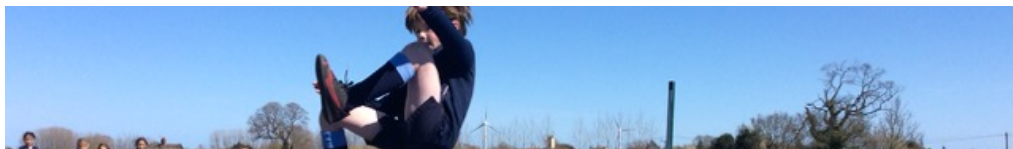
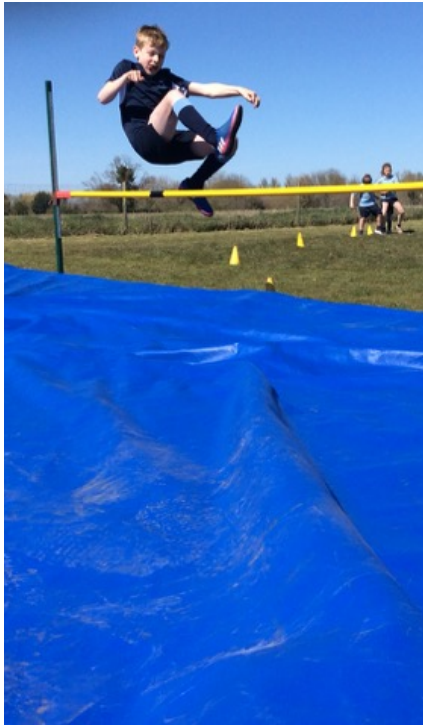
Utilising scientific equipment, the children enjoyed using pipettes, beakers and other apparatus to conduct their experiments properly. Further, their willingness to consider the real-world application of their investigations was excellent, and made for some amusing and fun suggestions, particularly the least suitable building materials for homes.

Well done, Year Two. - Mr Hunt





Sports Gallery.



Pupils hone their high jump techniques as part of their athletics programme this term.



Nursery Sports Gallery.



There no shortage of competitive spirit and enthusiasm for sport in our Nursery, as hurdles practice rolled out this week.



Outdoor Education.



Year 4 pupils working on their teamwork by crossing the tennis courts on planks without falling off. - Mr Hunter



Nursery News.



Our Nursery children make us so proud with their independence when leaving their relatives at the gate, walking confidently up the path and hanging up their own coats and bags on their pegs. They are a happy little team whose members look after each other. When they see a friend upset they show care and kindness and when they see a friend in need of assistance they are there to help them by opening a door or locating a lost water bottle. As well as watching them develop positive relationships with each other we are also observing good thinking and learning. So far this term they have shown an interest in The Titanic, rainbows, gardening and fairies. These interests have been explored through art, water play, singing, science, problem solving activities and role play. The children have been enthusiastic learners, participating with big smiles and lots of chatter. Nursery is the place to be!

Mrs Vorster





Tortoise Tales.



There was great celebration at Tuesday lunchtime when Philip announced triumphantly that he had spotted Vinnie on the tennis court. We were sceptical at first as tortoises are known to roam for miles and our tortoise had been missing for 10 days. However, Philip had indeed seen Vinnie. The whole school erupted with a hearty cheer and processed behind Philip as he gently placed Vinnie back in his garden. Vinnie has since apologised for worrying the school community and Mrs Vorster would like to thank all the children and the local families who have been searching the school site and neighbouring gardens for our beloved shell baby.

- Mrs Vorster





Chinese Puzzle Challenge.



The tangram puzzle was invented in China 4000 years ago. The puzzle requires for seven pieces to be used to re-arrange them back into the square that you started with. - Miss Clifton



Reception News.



Reception pupils have settled back well into school life, and they have had a productive week. In literacy, they have been practising their handwriting, grammar and spellings to write all about the adventures of Vinnie and hot air balloons. In maths, we have focused on numbers up to 50 and what is one more, one less and how to count objects accurately. Money has also been a focus, and the children have created a shop, making price tags and using language to develop their understanding of coins. This week, we looked at different colours and mixed primary colours to create other colours at to produce a colour wheel.

- Mrs Scriven





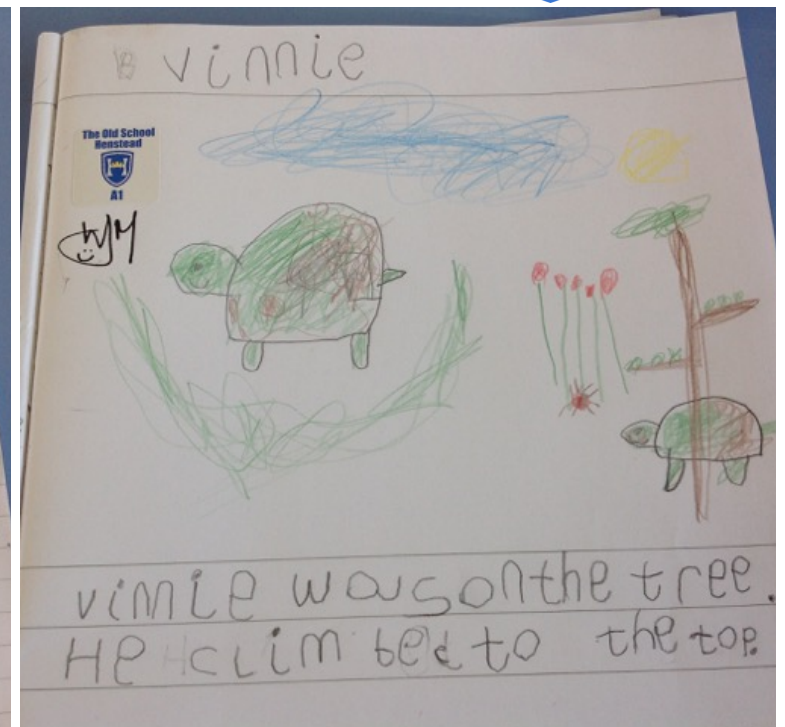
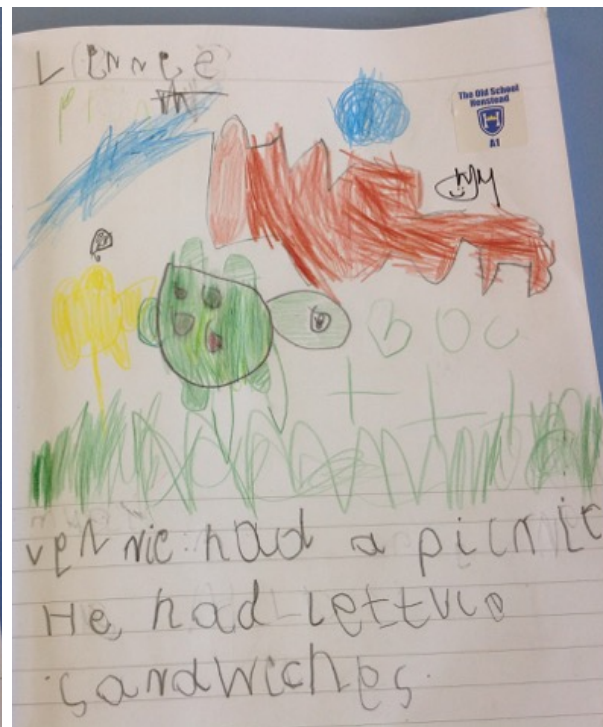
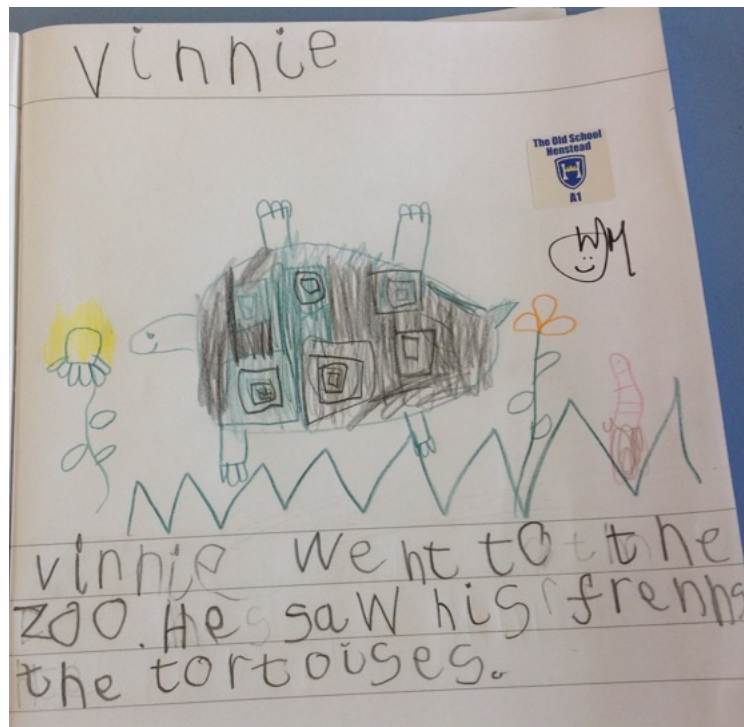
Castles and Awards.



Year One Easter castle projects made at home after learning all about them during topic lessons at school. The resulting A1 awards contributed to reaching the target of Silver Certificates for some pupils. Congratulations. - Mrs Loader



Reception Tales of the Tortoise.



Examples of some A1 work from Reception pupils who created narratives about Vinnie the tortoise's adventures, as they imagined what he had been up to during his recent absence... - Mrs Scriven



OTHER NEWS.

Mascots

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

Reception: Darcie for her excellent thinking and teamwork during class reading lessons and for using her phonics.

Year One: Minty for great thinking in maths and super class teamwork.

Year Two: William for working well in a team during maths

Year Three: Robin for his awareness of environmental issues and his willingness to share his thoughts about the welfare of endangered species

Year Four: Georgina for thinking well in symmetry lessons.

Year Five: Bobby for the way he worked with his group this week with writing scripts.

Year Six: James, for displaying excellent thinking skills when helping younger pupils to improve their high jump technique.

Uniform Shop

Kindly email the uniform shop on uniformshop@theoldschoolhenstead.co.uk with any uniform orders or enquiries. Our team of parent volunteers is always happy to help or to arrange a private appointment.

Sun Cream & Hats

Now that we are starting to experience some days of beautiful sunshine, please ensure that you send your child to school with a school house cap (or Nursery sun hat) as well as their own bottle of sun lotion or cream.



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