



The Old School Henstead

Newsletter 7 May 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

The witty observations of the inseparable friends in the Lion King lead me to think of our school motto, which forms part of the school crest: Adeo in teneris consuescere multum est - a more modern rendition of Virgil would be 'such are the advantages of an early education.' We see them every day. Nursery children head down the path, hand holding to begin the day with their friends. Young readers in Reception read their owl poems, beautifully illustrated, to receive their A1s this week. Year Ones construct castles that any model village would be proud to own. Year Two barely looked up, such was their concentration in preparation for spellings. Year Three sang to this author in French. Year Four constructed habitats to amaze, Year Five now put up tents efficiently in preparation for their outdoor adventures, Year Six have introduced a lunchtime initiative to engage the whole school in improving their sports skills. We are indeed blessed here at The Old School Henstead and I am reminded of another motto in another school in which I have served. This one also coined in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, but the first monarch of that name: Donorum dei dispensatio fidelis (The faithful stewardship of the gifts of God). That faith is grounded in the conviction and trust in the ability of every child. Long may we guard it. We are grateful for all that our children experience and for the teachers who equip and empower them. *WJ McKinney MA Hons PgDip MA*





**DATES FOR YOUR
DIARY.**

Dates for your Diary

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



Music - Swamp Percussion.



This week in Music, Year 5 has been creating sound effects for the swamp scenes in the forthcoming Year 5 and 6 production of "Dragon!".

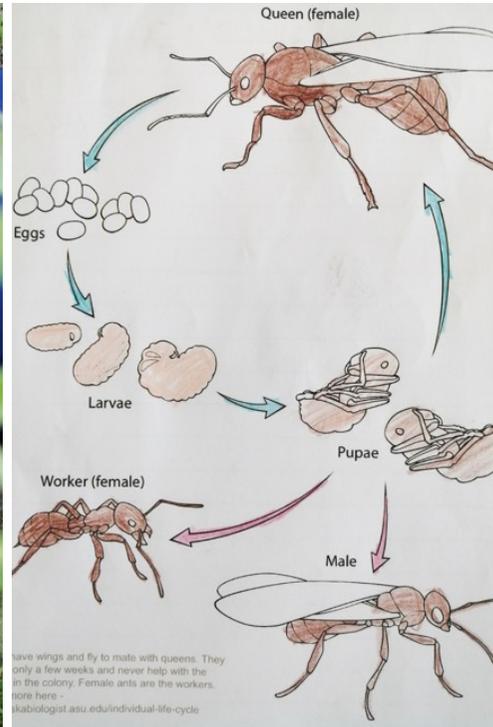
Pupils used a wide variety of percussion instruments including; the spring drum, the gato drum, the binasara, guiros, bongos and rainsticks. The sounds they created were suitably eerie and created a suitable accompaniment to the "Swamp-beasts Chant"!

Mr Spencer





Science Antics.



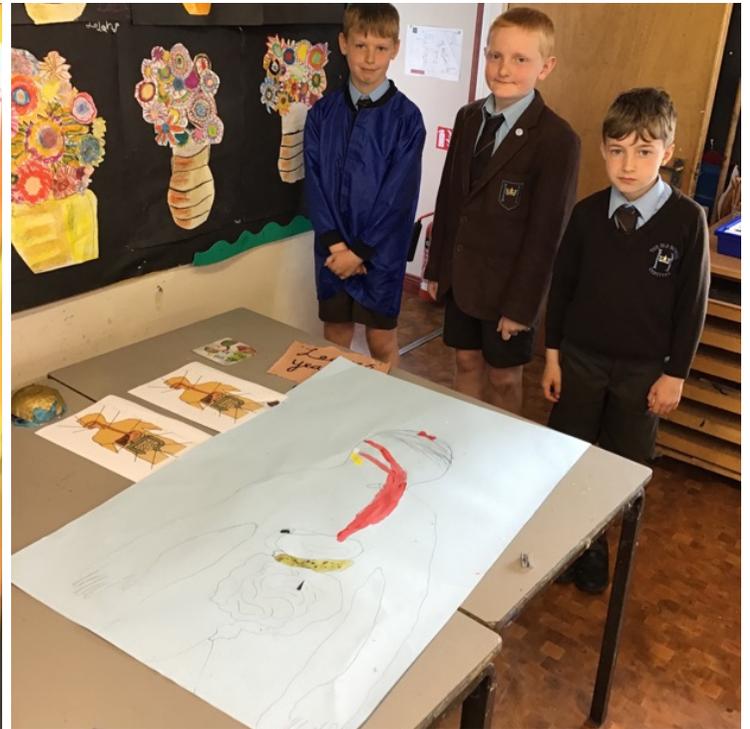
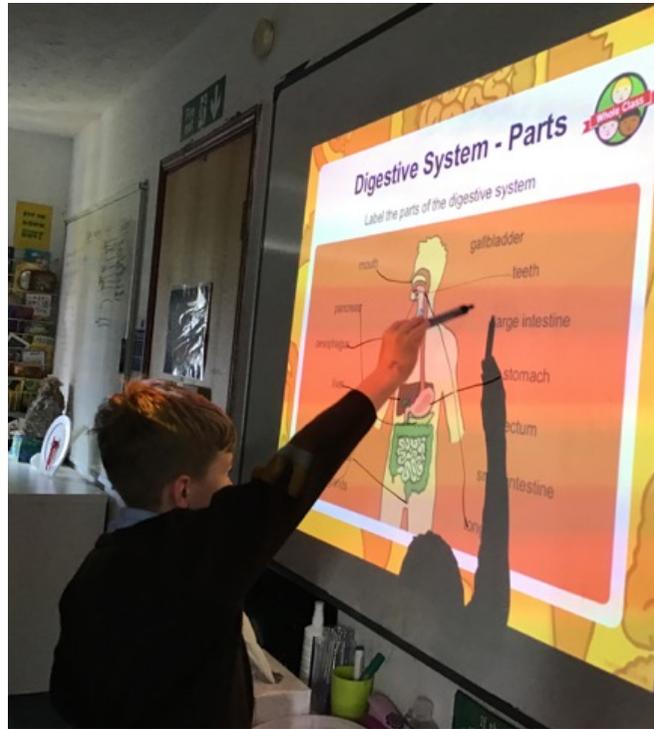
For our science lessons in Year 5, we have been focusing on the life cycles of various living things. These have included plants as well as insects. We found out about both types of fertilisation in plants - sexual (needing two parent plants) and asexual (where the plant reproduces by itself). Looking at insects, we have learnt about the life cycle of an ant, which is more interesting than you might think! Did you know that when ants hatch out of an egg as the larva, it is not decided at that point whether it is male or female? This is determined by whatever is needed most at the time - such as male soldier ants or female worker ants. We tried looking for ants around the school grounds and found some ant colonies. They were quite tricky to catch and observe!

- Mrs Solomon





The Science and Art of Digestion.



Year 4 pupils have been learning about the digestive system in science and art. . . - Miss Doughty



Art- Learning about Illustration.



Pupils in Year One have been learning about the author and illustrator Eric Carle. They used a range of creative painting and collage techniques to create their own hungry caterpillars. - Miss Doughty



Senior Mentors.



Year 6 pupils are running a regular Friday lunchtime sports training session to help younger members of the school improve their athletic abilities. Not only is this extra tuition helping develop the children's technique, it is a great opportunity for the most senior members of our school community to practise their leadership and mentoring skills. - Mrs Sonn



Creative Creatures.



The Nursery children followed instructions beautifully this week, creating ladybirds and snails, they were so focused and listened to the step by step instructions.



Sports Gallery.



Pupils hone their long jump and race techniques as part of their athletics programme this term.



Botanical & Horticultural Science.



In Science we have been discovering “*What is growing in our school garden?*” Good observation is essential in science. Scientists use observation to collect and record data, which enables them to construct and then test hypotheses and theories. Scientists observe in many ways – with their own senses or with tools such as microscopes, scanners or transmitters to extend their vision or hearing. We started our topic by using our observation skills to identify different types of fruit and vegetables that might be grown in our school garden. We then fine tuned these skills by looking at fruit and vegetables in extremely

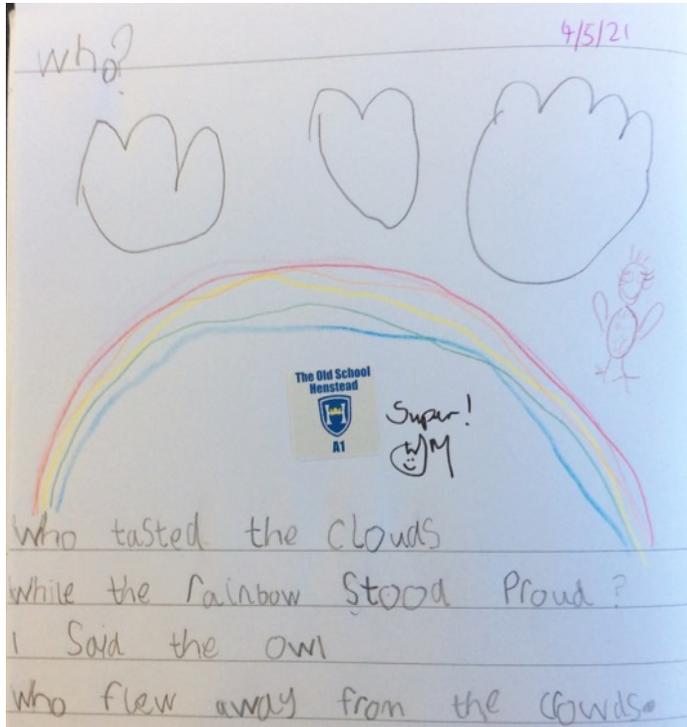
enlarged photos in order to notice botanical details that would be usually unnoticed and made drawings in a large scale. Using magnifying glasses we were able to observe fruit and vegetables in a different way and to notice new details. Mr Hunter kindly took us around our school garden and explained what would be growing in each bed and the polytunnel. We made a map of the garden and all helped to label the beds correctly. We shall continue to monitor what is growing in the garden using our senses and magnifying glasses for enhanced observation and detail detection.

- Mrs Loader & Miss Vipond





Poets & Mathematicians.



In Literacy, we have been looking at nature poems and enjoyed reading the perfect spring poem by William Wordsworth, "Daffodils". We have also been exploring the 'wh' phoneme, linking it to question words and practised using the question mark for punctuation. We wrote a class nature poem utilising the structure of Pie Corbett's "Who?" poem and incorporating the children's ideas, with an emphasis on rhyme, incorporating all of the ideas we have been working on. We hope you enjoy it!

In Mathematics, we have been working on our coin recognition. Within this work, we have had the opportunity to practise counting in twos, fives and tens, linking this to our understanding that different coins that can be used to represent the same amounts. In show and tell, we were able to bring in different coins to assist in our recognition skills. We then consolidated these skills at our very own Year One Shopping Shop where we used the skills needed as both the customer and the shopkeeper.

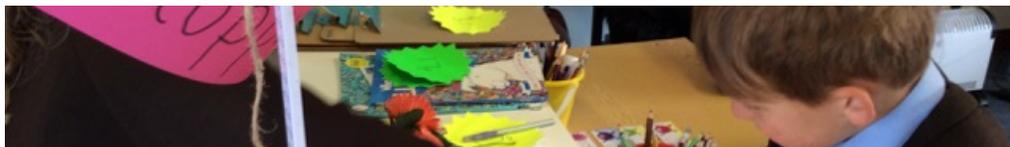
Who tasted the clouds

While the rainbow stood proud?

I, said the owl

Who flew away from the clouds.

- Mrs Loader & Miss Vipond



Y1



Road Safety.



Our year 6 pupils have become JRSOs - Junior Road Safety Officers. This is part of a nationwide scheme to raise awareness of road safety.

Year 3 has been busy discussing the importance of road safety and the need to follow basic rules to keep themselves safe. They now know and understand that they should:

- always walk on a pavement or footpath if there is one.
- walk on the right-hand side of the road (facing oncoming traffic) if there is no pavement.
- groups should walk in single file when there is heavy traffic, around bends, and at night.
- take extra care crossing cycle lanes because bicycles are more difficult to see and not as noisy as other traffic.

Keen to share their learning they designed posters to display throughout the school.

Well done Year 3, an important message to share.

- Miss Clifton





Nursery News.



We had another wonderful week of learning and fun with our nursery friends. The weather wasn't the best this week but we have still found time to go outside for sports with Mr Hunter, practise our climbing and balancing on the nursery equipment, construct ball runs and paint stones and sticks for a display. We have noticed a subtle shift in our pre school friends' attitude towards their learning. Often we will find them leading an activity that they have enjoyed with one of the adults such as a phonics game, reading a story or setting out a maths problem. We have also been watching how our friends in Reception are growing up. They are becoming good mentors, helping the nursery children with their learning and modelling good behaviour. Our Early Years department is a happy, friendly, enthusiastic and busy place. - Mrs Vorster





Mascots

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

Reception: Louiza for thinking about her sounds and spellings.

Year One: Max for thinking mathematically during the study of money.

Year Two: Jayden for working excellently in a team during money work in maths.

Year Three: Raef for outstanding thinking to solve a coded mathematical pirate challenge.

Year Four: Ariane for clever thinking about rainforests.

Year Five: Isaac G for team working well in every lesson.

Year Six: Charlotte for thinking and clever analysis in English.

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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