



The Old School Henstead

Newsletter 17 September 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

Give thanks for the harvest - the choirs are in full rehearsal as we prepare for the return to St Mary's Henstead for our Harvest Festival service on Thursday 30 September. Farmer Rob has not long finished bringing in the sheaves from the fields around the school and we were treated to the sight of a combine harvester in action at close quarters. We will be supporting the work of Soul Foundation in our donations at the service and we will have an opportunity to hear about the foundation's work, not least during the recent upheavals. We look forward to welcoming all members of the community to the service and details will follow next week.

WJ McKinney MA Hons PgDip MA





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Dates for your Diary - fixture dates, further events and educational visits will be advised in due course.

Friday 24 September - 2pm Under 11 Mixed Hockey Tournament at Norwich Dragons Hockey Club (parents may spectate)

Thursday 30 September - Harvest Festival Service at St Mary's Church, Henstead (parents welcome)

16-31 October inclusive - Half Term

Friday 12 November - Children in Need

Thursday 16 December - Carol Service (by candlelight) at St Mary's Church, Henstead

Friday 17 December - Autumn Term Ends



Weighing up The Jungle Book.



We have had a great start to the new year, with all of Year 5 participating enthusiastically in all of our lessons. In English, we have been learning about the punctuation needed for direct speech, specifically focussing on 'interrupted' speech. To help us understand this concept, we had a human sentence, moving the 'interruption' from one place to another! Eg. You could say, "Where," asked Shere Khan, "is the man cub?"

As well as this, we have been reading 'The Jungle Book' by Rudyard Kipling, so decided to study India to find out more about the country, including the animals that live there, especially in the forests. We then used oil pastels to create some amazing artwork of some of these animals. Our favourites

were: the Bengal Tiger, Asian elephants, Indian Sloth Bear, Cobra and the Water Buffalo.

In our science lessons we have started to look at forces and have discovered there are several different kinds of forces, including for example: gravity, buoyancy (upthrust) and friction. When looking particularly at gravity we found out that Isaac Newton discovered the theory of gravity. We used our Newton Meters to find out how much various objects in our classroom weighed in Newtons compared to their mass, which is measured in grams/kg. We found this so much and decided to carry this on at home, weighing objects at home too. - Mrs Solomon





Jeans for Genes.



This week, schools across the country are holding Jeans for Genes days to help raise funds for the charity Genetic Disorders UK, which supports individuals and families affected by a genetic disorder. The Year 6 pupils donned their jeans and confidently led the assembly on Friday morning, informing us all about the work that this worthy charity does.

They began by telling everyone a little more about themselves, including recalling occasions when they had to go to hospital for various reasons. They then explained that children who suffer from genetic conditions spend much

of their lives in hospital, and have to live with debilitating illnesses which means they are unable to do many of the things that we take for granted - running around, playing with our friends and learning in school. This really brought home the message about why donating to Jeans for Genes is so important, as it enables the charity to buy equipment, pay for holidays and fun experiences, as well as provide medical staff to support these families.

Well done, Year 6 on an excellent assembly.

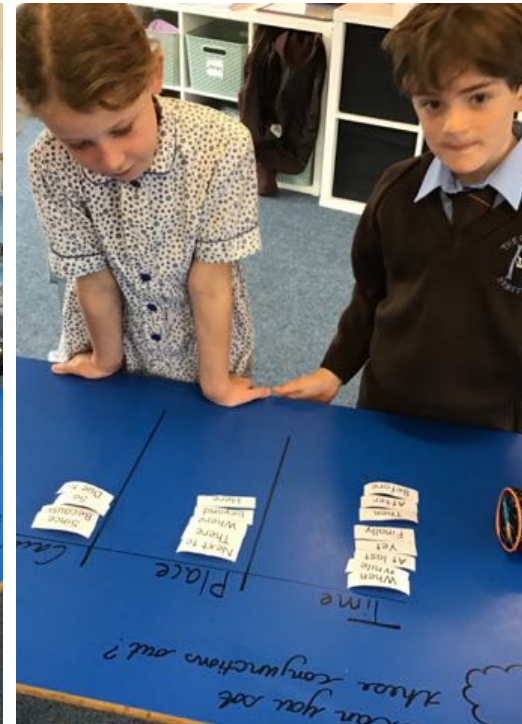
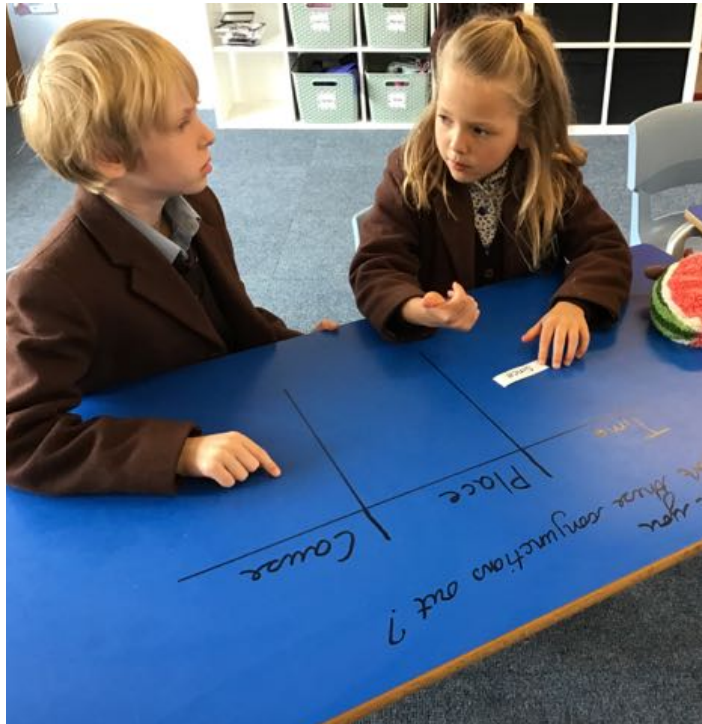
Mrs Sonn

Jeans for Genes Day.





Rising to the Challenge.



This week Year Three pupils have really thrown themselves into their new routine in the upper school! They have been enjoying the different subjects that they have been learning, including Humanities, PSHEE, RE and PE. [i](#)

The pupils have been looking at the different ways that they can improve their writing as we prepare to plan and write our own stories. So far we have looked at WOW words, conjunctions and suffixes. All pupils have worked hard and shown resilience when faced with a new concept both in English and across the curriculum.

Well done Year Three for showing confidence and enthusiasm in all that you do.

Miss Bennie





Five Minutes' Peace? Not in Year One!



It has been so lovely to see all the children make such a confident start to Year One, they have all settled in beautifully. The classroom chalk wall has been used and decorated daily with lovely illustrations and our Vincent Van Gogh topic inspired some bright and shining sunflowers. Our literacy work has been centred around the story *Five Minutes' Peace* by Jill Murphy. The children have enjoyed writing sentences and discussing how poor Mrs Large cannot get just five minutes all to herself without being disturbed! Place value has been our starting focus in Maths. We looked at counting forwards and backwards to twenty and worked out missing numbers on a washing line!

Hope you all enjoyed the cupcakes. A super start Year One.

Mrs Dakin





Music Matters.



Singing Success

We have had two more successful candidates entered for Trinity & Guildhall singing exams by Mrs Lincoln; Christabel who achieved a Grade Two with Merit, and Ted who passed his Grade One. Congratulations to Christabel and Ted and thank you Mrs Lincoln!

Senior Piano Club

Also pictured is our Senior Piano Club (after school on Thursdays). The club is open to anybody learning the piano (in or out of school) who has been learning for about a year or so, and is an opportunity to gain experience playing for and with other pianists, developing sight-reading and all-round musicianship.

Mr Spencer





Artistic Techniques for Autumnal Art.



Year Three has been exploring Autumn through colour and texture.

The pupils have been introduced to acrylic paint and were investigating the different techniques that they could use to create the texture of a forest scene in autumn using brush strokes the were able to create a forest floor texture in the background.

Miss Bennie



Sports Gallery.





Junior Dance Club.



In this week's Junior Dance Club, the session focussed on ballet moves and Mrs McCarthy brought in some of her professional ballet kit to show the children.



Nursery News.



Porridge Oats in a Tuff Tray are always a big hit with then children in Early Years. The children scoop, pour, mix, hide things in them, sing around the Tuff Tray together, take turns and chat. There was a very serious discussion around the porridge oats tray about who likes eating porridge: was it just a cereal for babies; who ate croissants for breakfast; and the traditional tale of Goldilocks. Consequently the Early Years teachers leapt into action and had a planning meeting around the topic of Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

Working closely with their friends in Reception, the children have been corresponding with their new pen pal Baby Bear, enjoyed the role of official porridge tasters for Mummy Bear, had a Q and A session with the real Goldilocks (not Mrs Webster in a wig) role played the story, sequenced the story using pictures, written and drawn their own story maps and used the language of big, middle sized and small to compare and measure themselves and other objects. Alongside this busy and popular theme the children have been engaged in other activities developing their physical, social and cognitive skills and encouraging their creative and independent thinking. - Mrs Vorster





Music Makers.



Our Nursery children have been enjoying making music in their sunny garden.



OTHER NEWS.

Mascots

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

Reception: Teddy for coming into school confidently every morning.

Year One: Darcie for confidently participating in games sessions.

Year Two: Betsie for confidently contributing to class discussions.

Year Three: Emily for showing confidence in her writing and demonstrating a good understanding of the class novel.

Year Four: Robin for maintaining a confident approach to all areas of his learning.

Year Five: Samuel for his confident work in maths, working with large numbers.

Year Six: Bobby for beginning Year Six with great confidence, especially in mathematics.

Uniform Shop

Open Monday mornings (8:15-9:15) and Thursday afternoons (3:15-4:15). You may also 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

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. All hats are available from our on site uniform shop.

Your PTFA Needs You

Your PTFA needs you!! We need your energy and skills. Whether you're a whizz at organising or coming up with ideas, we need you! Please get in touch with ptfa2@theoldschoolhenstead.co.uk to help us create great memories for our children.



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