



The Old School Henstead

Newsletter 12 November 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

Missing

*Less said the better.
The bill unpaid, the dead letter.
No roses at the end
Of Smith, my friend.
Last words don't matter,
And there are none to flatter.
Words will not fill the post
Of Smith, the ghost.
For Smith, our brother,
only son of a loving mother,
The ocean lifted, stirred,
Leaving no word.*

John Pudney

Lest we forget.





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Dates for your Diary - calendar updated weekly with additional events, fixtures and excursions.

- Monday-Tuesday 15-16 November - School Photographs (individual and sibling groups)
- Tuesday-Friday 16-19 November - Book Fair
- Friday 19 November - Children in Need (please bring donations and cakes for sale)
- Thursday 25 November - Advent Service (pupils only)
- Friday 26 November - Years 4 & 5 Assembly (pupils only)
- Wednesday 1 December - 2:00 Under 9 Mixed Uni-Hoc Tournament, East Point Academy
- Tuesday 14 December - Nursery Nativity, St Mary's Church, Henstead
- Wednesday 15 December - Lower School Nativity, St Mary's Church, Henstead
- Thursday 16 December - Carol Service (by candlelight) at St Mary's Church, Henstead
- Friday 17 December - Autumn Term Ends



Remembrance.



To help put back together in our minds those who have given their lives serving their country, we have been trying to make connections to help us.

We have looked at old photos of the children who attended our school in 1916 and thought of how it must have been for them, as the eldest pupils joined up almost immediately on leaving to face the horrors of the Western Front.

Of course, in the World Wars, it was perhaps more straightforward to identify the enemy - for a power-crazed individual, intent on world domination was an obvious source of evil - we thought 'never again will we see the like.' Sadly, we were wrong.

Since then our service men and women have been called to serve and have given their lives, near to and far from home - let me enlist the help of my oldest and youngest research teams who have made and learnt these flags - the number of those fallen is a stark reminder of the reality of conflict.

Bosnia - 72
Iraq - 179
Afghanistan - 457
Korea - 1,129
Northern Ireland 1,441
Malaya 1,442.

In these more recent conflicts, perhaps most notably, Afghanistan - proximity of grief and loss narrows perspective, for as General Eisenhower said when asked about casualties in the Normandy landings in 1944 - if the soldier killed is your friend or loved one, then for you the casualty rate is 100 percent.

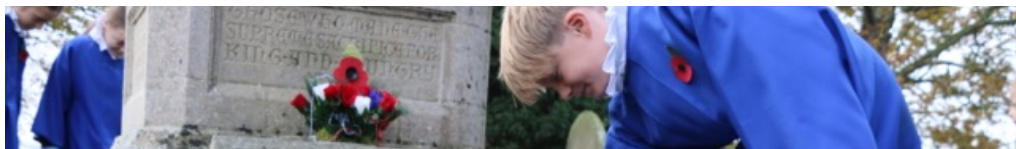
I have looked for connections to help me remember and commend to you a wonderful black and white wartime film, made in 1945 called *The Way to the Stars* - it tells of the fortunes of a Royal Air Force base, the British and American crews that flew out of it and their links with the local community. The setting is clearly recognisable with reference to RAF stations in Eastern England still in operation, Another connection is an engaging screenplay written by a former pupil of one of the schools in which it has been my privilege to serve, then Flight Lieutenant Terence Rattigan, later a highly successful dramatist. This screenplay includes poems by the Norfolk-educated John Pudney, whose words express a way to remember our lost comrades far better than mine.

They do not always get it right.

They do not always understand the motivations of the political masters who send them, but too many have followed the example of Jesus and are now in God's hands. - Mr McKinney



Remembrance.



As part of our Service of Remembrance, pupils who had relatives who fell in conflict planted crosses at the war memorial.



Remembrance in Song.



Both the Senior and Junior Choirs contributed musical offerings to this year's Remembrance Service; the Senior Choir's "We Will Remember" is a reflection on the sacrifice of the fallen, with a wistful and somewhat folky feel. The Junior Choir performed "Let There Be Peace on Earth", complete with actions and a really thoughtful commitment. We framed the service with two hymns, the traditional "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" by Parry, and "Peace Perfect Peace" which is both moving and powerful in its simplicity, and finished our service. Our boys and girls also recited in unison the Kohima Epitaph as part of the Act of Remembrance at The War Memorial.





Red Wings Horse Sanctuary



Years Two and Three had a wonderful trip to Redwings Horse and Donkey Sanctuary. The weather was lovely and dry which meant that the pupils were able to walk about the sanctuary and say hello to all of the different animals. The pupils were particularly drawn to the donkeys – especially Wolfie who was a Poitou donkey from France. He was much bigger than all the other donkeys in the paddock.

We found out some really interesting facts about the nutrients that horses need, especially in the case of the sick and injured horses rescued by the sanctuary. The pupils were able to connect their current science topic 'Animals including Humans' to all the information that they gathered and really begin to understand the importance of water, fresh air and food. A great day had by all!

Miss Bennie and Mrs McCarthy





Resilience and Research in Core Curriculum.



This week Year Three pupils have been working very hard across the curriculum. In English we have been exploring imagery in poems. The pupils have been exploring the different vocabulary that we could use to create an image in a reader's head – a firm favourite of the class is *'When Daddy fell into the pond'*. There was much laughter in the classroom when the pupils imagined it to be their own dads that fell in.

In maths the pupils have been exploring measure. We have been investigating length and weight this week. There has been much discussion in the class about what could be appropriately used to measure certain things, for example our hands could be used to measure horses however wouldn't be much use measuring capacity. The pupils have been measuring each other using metre rulers then comparing their findings. Pupils were learning to answer questions about the data that they discovered.

In Science the pupils are extending their learning from the trip to Redwings on Monday, they are exploring nutrition – but focusing on what we need. The pupils were learning to read food labels and understand what food is good for us and what food should be eaten in moderation.

- Miss Bennie





Junior Dance Club.



The children have been choreographing their own routines to music from the Nutcracker in recent weeks and this week, they performed to their peers beautifully. Well done dancers! - Mrs McCarthy



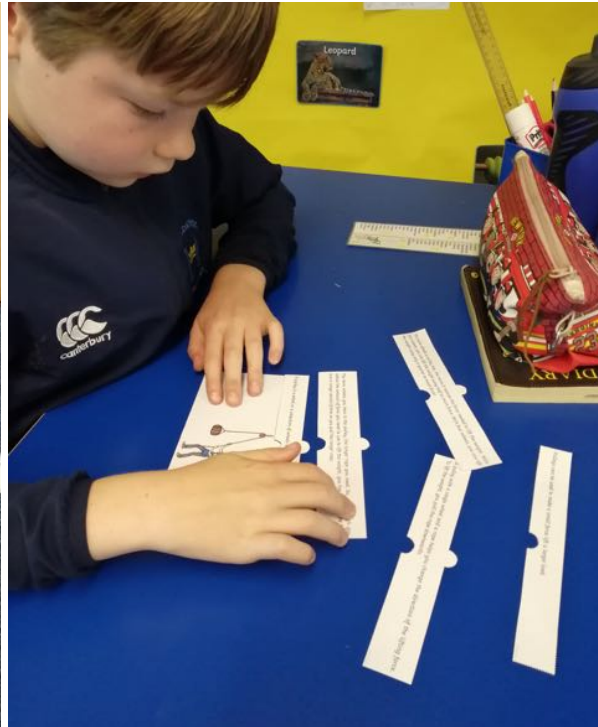
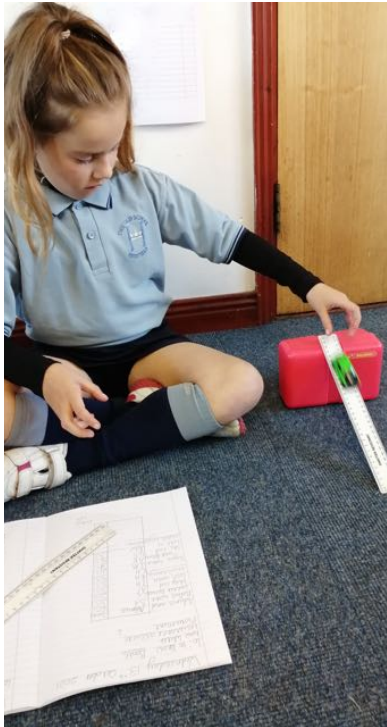
Remembrance in Art.



Year Two contemplated Remembrance Day through the medium of art.
- Mrs McCarthy



Forcing the issue.



We are coming to the end of our science topic on forces. We have learnt so much and tried out so many different investigations to find out more about the different kinds of forces. Our focus over the last couple of weeks has been on friction to slow moving objects down and then using forces to make things move. We had a lot of fun testing out different surfaces for a toy car to roll across, to see which surface it travelled further on. We found out that the bumpier the surface was, the shorter the distance the car was able to travel, thus the greater the friction.

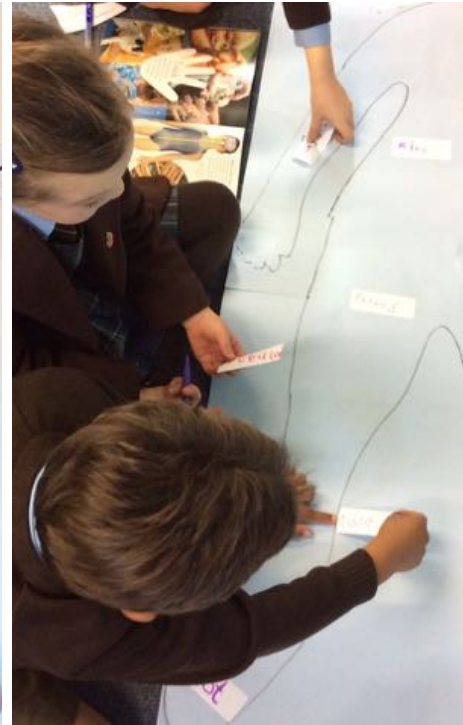
In looking at making things move, we investigated different mechanisms that help us to move objects. We found out that we can use mechanisms to reduce the amount of force needed compared to the amount of output achieved. For example, if you use a pulley system, the more wheels used in the pulley, the less force is needed to lift the object. When working on levers, we found that the longer the lever, the less the force is needed for lifting a heavy object.

- Mrs Solomon





Year One blows the House down!



What a week! All the children enjoyed great success in their spelling tests and, as a result, two golds were awarded to everyone and a treat on Friday afternoon. Well done!

We had a story and a visit from Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf in Literacy this week. We decided to question Little Red Riding Hood to see what was in her basket and just why did she stop to speak to the wolf? The wolf was asked who was tastier - grandma or Little Red Riding Hood? Also, why was his tummy so big? Hopefully we will find out the answers next week.

Art straw skeletons helped us start our topic on 'Our Bodies' where the children had to carefully cut and flatten paper straws to size for the different bones they have, not an easy task but resilience was demonstrated by all. Jonah was used for our next task of being drawn around, then investigations were done into writing and correctly placing labels for all the bones in the human body the children could name and find out about. What a team! - Mrs Dakin





If you go down to the woods today...



Today Nursery and Reception children enjoyed an expedition in one of the school minibuses to explore nearby woods, where they made a number of exciting discoveries.



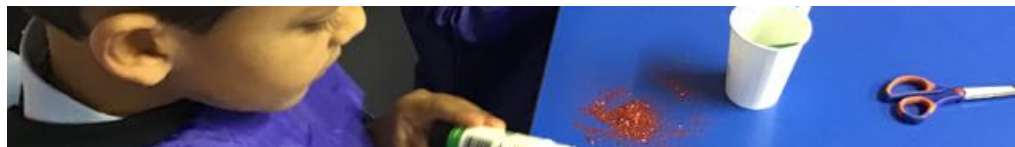
La Maison, Ses Pièces et Chambres.



Some A1 work from Year Two in French. The children had to draw, then label in French the different rooms in their house. Très bien! - Madame Dakin

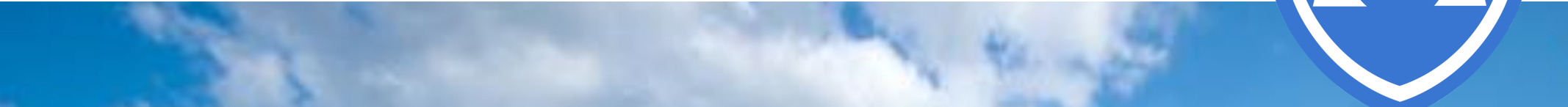


Junior Art Club - Remembrance Poppies.



This week in art club the children enjoyed making poppies for Remembrance Day, with wonderful results. - Mrs Webster

Sports Gallery - Swimming.





Spreading Kindness.



A pop-up hair salon appeared on the tennis court during a lunch break. It's wonderful to see the older pupils giving their time to care for and nurture friendships with the youngest. Wonderful role models demonstrating kindness.



Nursery News.



We have had such an exciting week. The children are full of ideas which have helped inspire us to set up different activities to feed their interests and develop their learning. A firm favourite with all of the children was the giant spider's web in the garden. The children were able to practise their gross motor and throwing skills to get the bean bags through the spaces in the web without knocking off any of the insects. Passing the garden you would have heard the chant "don't wiggle the web". Indoors there was a smaller web where the children used tweezers to take out insects and pom poms that were trapped - an excellent opportunity to develop those important fine motor skills. As ever, scooping and pouring is a popular activity and at the rice tray the children were counting how many scoops filled a bowl, how many rice grains were in their hand and guessing how many spoonfuls it would take to fill the different containers.

It was also the week we put the tortoise down for his long winter nap. The children helped dig him up from his enclosure where he was already beginning the process of brumation. They gave him his final warm bath to make sure he was empty of food and that he was hydrated. Mrs Vorster has him at home in her garage now in a deep box of soil and the children look forward to seeing him again in the spring time.

- Mrs Vorster





OTHER NEWS.

Mascots

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

Reception: Orlando for making great progress and being resilient in all areas of learning.

Year One: Lucy for conducting excellent research on the planets.

Year Two: Eddie for researching a range of possibilities in our maths sessions this week!

Year Three: Louis for his resilience in English when recognising patterns in a poem.

Year Four: Grace-Marie for her excellent research on Bridget Riley.

Year Five: Ariane for her excellent research skills in looking at various animals and how they travel around the world.

Year Six: Millie for being incredibly resilient and determined to succeed while working on fractions problems in maths.

Uniform Shop

Open on 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.

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.



@OldSchoolHstead



YouTube

