

# The Old School Henstead

Newsletter 5 November 2021

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

The boys and girls have returned full of vim and vigour and thrown themselves into the busy schedule wholeheartedly this week. There is much excitement in expectation of the bonfire party and fireworks, but we have had time to reflect and look back in preparation for our Remembrance Service at St Mary's. We look forward to welcoming the whole school community to both these events.

WJ McKinney MA Hons PgDip MA









DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

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

Monday 8 November - Visit to Redwings Horse Sanctuary (Years 2 & 3)

Monday-Tuesday 15-16 November - School Photographs (individual and sibling groups)

Tuesday-Friday 16-19 November - Book Fair

Friday 19 November - Children in Need

Wednesday 24 November - Humanities Trip to Sutton Hoo (Years 3 & 4)

Wednesday 1 December - 2:00 Under 9 Mixed Uni-Hoc Tournament, East Point Academy

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

Friday 17 December - Autumn Term Ends

#### Latin Latest.







There are many reasons why our senior boys and girls study this fascinating language, not least the motto of our school

adeo in teneris consuescere multum est

Taken from Virgil's Georgic poem, it encapsulates the heart of one of the central aims of an independent preparatory school such as this, for - so strong is habit in tender years - it does indeed give our children a confident start.

It is the next step after phonics and half of our English vocabulary is made up of Latin words and roots, with nearly all scientific terminology rooted in Latin. It is the language of Law, government, logic and theology. It trains the mind, supports the learning of English grammar. Latin is excellent preparation for the learning of any language.

In applying modern language teaching approaches to a classical language, we also give prominence to Roman history and incorporate story-based approaches to language learning.

Vindolanda (Hadrian's Wall as a school trip?) is a remarkable archaeological site as well as a starting point for our learning journey, as we learn with **Minimus** the resourceful Latin-speaking mouse.

Why learn Latin? To use the motto from another school in which I have served

donorum dei dispensatio fidelis - the faithful stewardship of the gifts of God.

- Mr McKinney

## Poetry in Motion.





Year Two pupils have returned from the half term break full of their usual joy! We began learning about the poet Edward Lear, and we have been looking at two of his poems in particular: The Owl and the Pussycat and The Quangle-Wangle's Hat. The week started with the children creating actions to go alongside The Owl and the Pussycat to support them in being able to recite the poem by heart. I can say that they did this with great enthusiasm and were able to recite the first verse by heart by the end of the first lesson. Throughout the week, we moved to look at the poem in more detail and even created our own version: The Frog and the Elephant. The week ended with children learning about prepositions and identifying these in Lear's other well known poem, The Quangle Wangle's Hat. The children have enjoyed the world of nonsense poetry this week.

- Mrs McCarthy



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## House Art Competition.



The winning entry from Yare.

The inter-House competitions remain as hotly contested as ever, both by the children and by the House members of staff. Indeed, the grown up children may well be even more competitive than their younger counterparts. The art competition in the first half of term was no exception... the school values of confidence and creativity were the theme and much in evidence.

Deben's exhibit was compact and the judge was informed that it needed further explanation, which was eloquently provided by the House captains. A replica of the school show stage had been produced, with drapes in Fox's red and even a ramp, but it was the puppets, each made by a member of the House, which became the key feature, for they were dressed as the character played by that pupil in the summer performances. From the mad scientist, through the swamp beast, to the youngest elephant. It was a charming piece.

Orwell used a range of media and materials in their tableau and the mighty Ducks had also given thought to the interests of the likely adjudicator of the event - we had Lego characters climbing and abseiling, there were mountains, a collage of images of school activities and individual artwork, all centred around the school crest to pleasing effect.

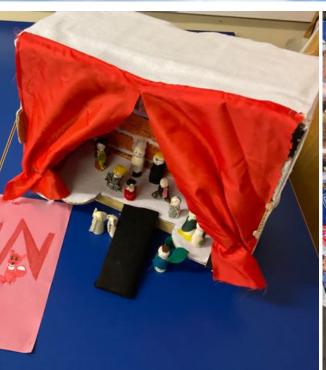
Waveney had clearly put a lot of research into their project and the wisdom of the Owls was evident in referencing the Latin roots of confidence 'with faith.' There was strong artwork to accompany figures both historical, (Shackleton, Nightingale, Mandela) to contemporary (Radecanu) and how a confident approach had helped them to succeed in their aims. The dark background set off the different aspects strongly.

Yare had used both a physical and technological approach to their display - they formed the letters of 'I am confident' by lying on the field, to be photographed by drone! To accompany the display, a recording of every Yare Bear telling us about what he or she was confident completed the ingenious entry.

The judging committee met - one new judge quickly realised that not being directly involved in the competition was not necessarily a softer option. Every entry showed just why the House competitions work so well, as older pupils support and engage with younger house members to great effect. There was excellence in all entries, but here had to be a winner and Yare just squeezed ahead of a four-way tie to make the line first. Roll on the Christmas inter-House pageant!

# House Art Competition.









House Art Competition entries from Waveney, Deben and Orwell.

## Exploring Characters Through Hot-seating.





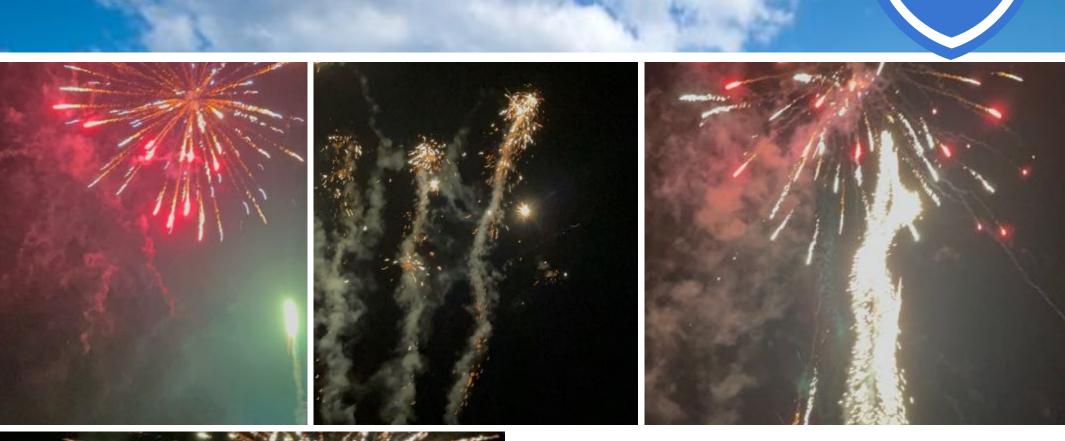


This week in their Drama lesson, Year Six pupils were hot-seating one other in order to learn more about the protagonist in our current class novel, Skellig, by David Almond. Hot-seating is an exercise in which a character, real or imaginary, played by a pupil, is interviewed by the rest of the class or by one other pupil. It invites children to recount events and explore perspectives and experiences in a story and is an excellent way of understanding a character's thoughts, feelings and motivations. It is a useful tool for improving questioning skills, and both parties are required to improvise so they are also thinking on their feet and developing their acting ability.

There is much dramatic talent in the year group and they all thoroughly enjoyed watching and listening to each other and engaging in the exercise. All agreed that it gave them greater insight into the story and characters which will, ultimately, lead to enjoying the reading process even more. - Mrs Sonn



## Bonfire & Fireworks Party.



A huge thank you to all the families who joined us for our Bonfire & Fireworks party today. A special thank you to our wonderful PTFA team of parents for all their hard work in creating such an amazing event for The Old School Henstead community.

## Diwali.



and creating our own Diya lamps. - Miss Doughty

# English Craft.





Year One pupils were asked to select a Funnybones character, name them and describe what they liked to do. - Mrs Dakin

# Sports Gallery - Swimming.



# Sports Gallery.





Fast ball drills this afternoon.

#### Junior Art Club - Catherine Wheels.



glue was dribbled on carefully ready for the glitter, and colourful ribbons were cut and curled to show the effect of a swirling Catherine Wheel. - Mrs Dakin

# Nursery Gallery.











Lots of autumnal activities this week, including conker printing, pumpkin cake making and creating art by walking through autumn-coloured paints in our wellies. We were also keen to try out our new tricycles - Mrs Vorster











#### Dashing Drama

This week in drama, Year Four pupils enjoyed a drama session designed to prompt improvisational confidence. The lesson was initiated with a warmup involving the children collaboratively exploring balance, using limited parts of their bodies. Following on from this, they were tasked with miming different scenarios using their bodies, hands and facial gestures, considering how best to convey certain emotions and moods without the use of speech. The children thoroughly enjoyed this element of the lesson which resulted in some excellent performances.

Finally, we improvised some short plays. The children were given one prop and were tasked with creating a short play together. With the creative abilities of the children coupled with their impressive collaborative skills, the plays were hilariously funny and deeply enjoyable to witness.

As always, the efforts and attitudes of Year Four were excellent and resulted in an enjoyable lesson. Well done.

Mrs Sonn and Mr Hunt



#### OTHER NEWS.

#### Mascots

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

Reception: Freddie for resiliently returning back to school ready to learn.

Year One: Louiza for resilience in maths, persevering with counting on.

Year Two: Saffie for researching poetry and its structure.

Year Three: Margot for her resilience in maths when tackling dividing with remainders.

Year Four: Robin for demonstrating excellent research skills when learning about animation.

Year Five: Ted for his good research skills to find out about animals that migrate.

Year Six: Lola for researching information for her upcoming senior school preparation.

#### **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.











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