



# The Old School Henstead

Newsletter 10 December 2021

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

The youngest performers are rehearsing in St Mary's as I write and after a wonderful Christmas Fayre, so generously supported by our school community, the magic of the last week of the Christmas term beckons...

*What child is this, who, laid to rest,*

*On Mary's lap is sleeping?*

The opening phrase of this nineteenth century carol has given the four Houses the theme for their Christmas entertainment this year and we look forward to seeing their performances on the last afternoon of term. There will be Christmas lunch for all, and the judging of the classroom decoration competition. Deck the halls!

*WJ McKinney MA Hons PgDip MA*





DATES FOR YOUR  
DIARY.

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

Tuesday 14 December - 8:50 Nursery Nativity, St Mary's Church, Henstead

Wednesday 15 December - 8:50 Lower School Nativity, St Mary's Church, Henstead

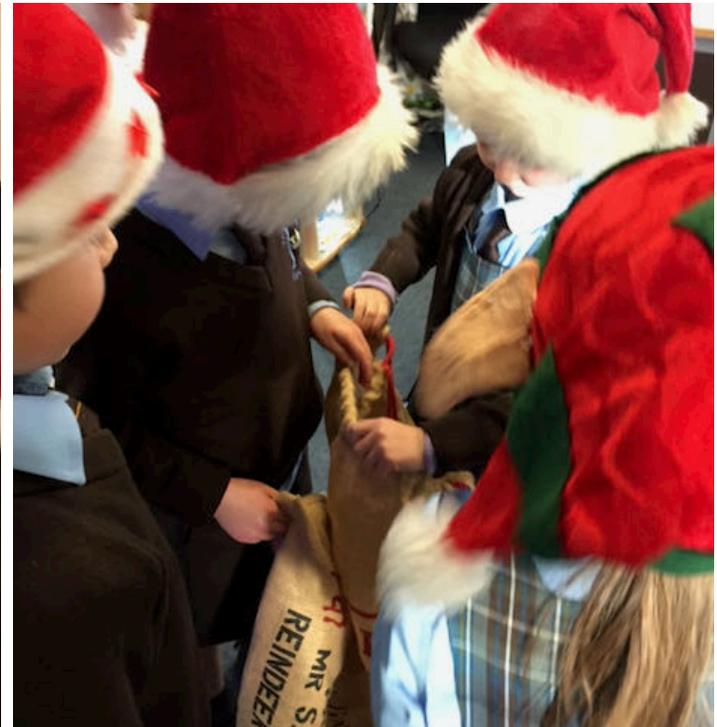
Thursday 16 December - 7 pm Carol Service (by candlelight) at St Mary's Church, Henstead

Friday 17 December - Autumn Term Ends

Wednesday 5 January - Spring Term Begins



# Elf Christmas Post.



There is still time to post your Christmas cards to friends at The Old School Henstead. Our earnest elves provide a free same day delivery around the school.



# Christmas Fayre Gallery.



Lots of smiling faces at the Christmas Fayre, with Santa's elves, Christmas hand transfers and delicious bakes!



# Christmas Fayre Gallery.



A steady queue for Father Christmas, handmade Christmas decorations, hampers and "guess the weight of the cake" competition.



# Christmas Fayre Gallery.



Elves on duty and lots of activity in the Christmas card making zone.



## Pastel Art - Grumpy Gnomes.



Years Four and Five explored colour, shade and texture in art. The pupils each created a 'grumpy' gnome using the different skills that they had learnt. Each pupil showed individuality and creativity in his or her execution. There were different coloured hats, gnomes with bush beards and little feet.

The pupils should be really proud of the pieces they created. They were also awarded A1s for their efforts today.

Examples of the finished pieces feature on the next pages.

- Miss Bennie





# Grumpy Gnomes.



A few of the finished art pieces.



## Year Five Transforms Fractions Successfully!



We have been working very hard with our mathematics work this week.

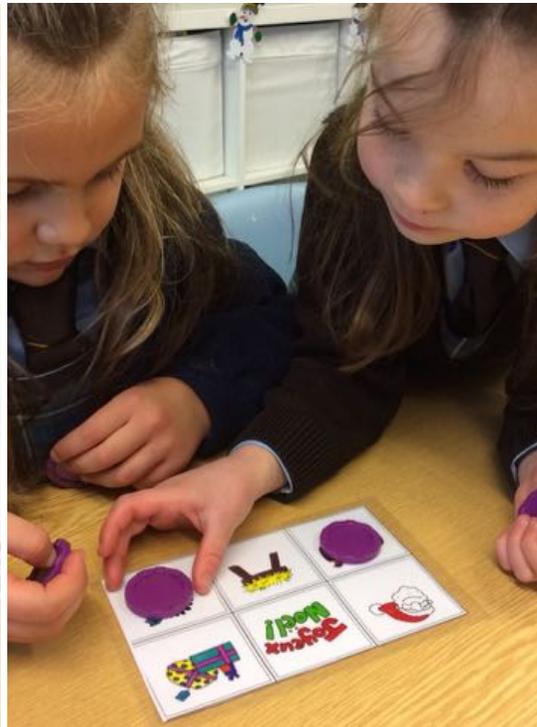
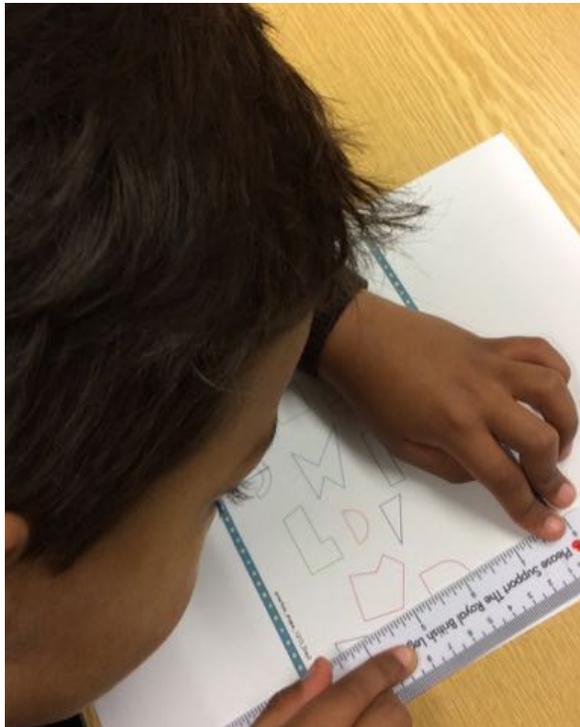
We looked at fractions, including how to convert an improper fraction into a mixed number, as well as finding the fraction of a number. Along with this, we then looked at changing fractions to decimals. Although this is a tricky concept, the children did very well with working these out. To help us remember these, we played a pairs game to match the fraction with the decimal number.

- Mrs Solomon





## Year One Learning hits the Rehearsal and Lotto Jackpot!



Nativity rehearsals are in full swing, lots of actions and singing have shown how truly confident and enthusiastic the children are! We look forward to performing for you next week!

Back in the classroom we have enjoyed thinking about Christmas and what that means to us all.

French Christmas lotto saw us learning new vocabulary and a chance to win a bookmark! The children enjoyed using the bookmarks to test each other on their counting and colours, all in french of course!

In maths, subtraction has been just one of our topics this term, we have carefully counted bricks, used number lines and fingers to help us solve and write number sentences.

Symmetry proved to be very exciting, spots were counted, shapes were compared and patterns were scrutinised. Next rulers were used to draw lines of symmetry on different shapes, but were all the shapes symmetrical? Some very thought provoking work.



- Mrs Dakin



# Skeletons, Christmas and Tinsel.



Although we are nearing the end of the term, Year Three has really been working hard this week. They have been getting themselves ready for the nativity play, practising their lines and ensuring that they are the best character that they can be. The three Kings have been working on how to look important and 'Kingly', the narrators have been working on their pronunciation and 'Grumble' the donkey has been working on her grumpiness.

In amongst all of that the pupils have been learning about the Human body and how it works. Pupils were amused when they learnt that without our skeleton we would be like a jelly fish! In maths the pupils have been looking at subtraction, they have shown resilience when answering these questions.

Well done Year Three! - Miss Bennie





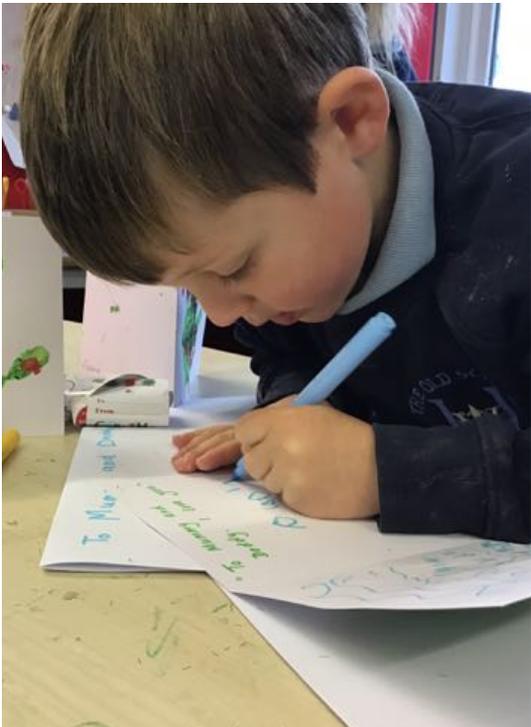
## Junior Art Club.



Our last art session for this term saw the children make their own stockings and decorate them, ready to fill with the Christmas card and decorations they made. We have really enjoyed art and crafting with you all! Mrs Webster and Mrs Dakin



# Nursery News.



The children have been busy rehearsing for the nativity performance. We are so proud of how they have concentrated in their music lessons with Mr Spencer. Their good listening has resulted in some beautiful, clear singing and actions. All the children have shown confidence when practising their lines and songs on stage. We are looking forward to performing in front of a live audience.

Alongside this we have managed to find the time to make Christmas cards, write messages inside, read a variety of Christmas stories, act them out with props and scoop reindeer feed into pouches ready for Christmas Eve. The children often ask for the nativity story to be told to them by using the figures. They particularly enjoy it when the candles are lit to remind us of what a special story it is. It goes without saying that they are also enjoying the chocolate advent calendar!

- Mrs Vorster





# Christmas Craft and Writing.



Nativity small world play. Writing and posting Christmas cards and making peppermint stars.



# Swimming Gallery.



Swimming sessions this week ended with a an element of Christmas fun before getting out the pool.



# Sports Gallery - Rugby Drills.





## 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 excellent reading and maths.

Year One: Edie for resilience in science club when making a maze for a magnet.

Year Two: Saffie for resiliently reading and writing, independently.

Year Three: James for his resilience when tackling tricky sums in maths.

Year Four: Robin for resilience in his beep test during a games lesson.

Year Five: Samuel for showing resilience when completing his maths assessments.

Year Six: Jack for excellent scientific research.

### Christmas Lunch

All pupils are invited to our traditional Christmas lunch on the last day of term, Friday 17 December.

### Christmas Elf Post

Our Christmas postal service started this week, for pupils wishing to send cards to others in the school. Pupils should make sure they write the name and form on envelopes to assist the Year Two elves with their express delivery service!



@OldSchoolHstead



YouTube



independent schools council

