



The Old School Henstead

Newsletter 14 January 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

A journey has begun with the new term and we have been greatly blessed with the enthusiasm and eagerness of our young learners. Like the Magi, they have been guided to new challenges, showing empathy and a willingness to experiment as they travel. Our youngest have returned from swimming with joyful enthusiasm, the inter-house drama will see the exploration of C.S. Lewis' Narnian tales and clubs range from ballet to sign language! Scholarship candidates are ready for the fray. A great start!

WJ McKinney MA Hons PgDip MA





DATES FOR YOUR
DIARY.

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

Friday 28 January - Under 11 Boys (A & B teams) Football Tournament at Alleyn Court Preparatory School

Half term: Saturday 19 February – Sunday 27 February inclusive



Mock Exams.



On Thursday morning, Year Six sat their mock English and maths exams - vital preparation for those about to take entrance exams for senior schools, and in general for all pupils as they will, at some point in their school life, be sitting public examinations.

The mocks are designed to familiarise pupils with this formal environment, but in a less pressurised setting. The aims are also to provide them with reassurance about what to expect and enable them to manage their feelings in an exam situation, as well to learn about the rules and protocols of official assessments. It is an opportunity for them to get used to managing their time effectively, giving them a better chance of answering all questions in their tests. Here at The Old School Henstead we firmly believe in building confidence in our pupils so that they view exams as a positive challenge and are more than ready for the demands and expectations of their future schools.

On a personal note, I would like to publicly thank the pupils for the effort and dedication they put into prep studies last term. I have no doubt that these efforts will pay off in Year 7 and beyond. Well done, Year 6. I am very proud of you all. - Mrs Sonn





School Council Election



A new term means a new set of school council representatives must be chosen to be spokespeople for their forms. So on Thursday morning pupils took a few minutes out of their break to cast their all-important votes for the person they felt would best be able to communicate their ideas for how to make the school a better place.

Head of School Council, Rafferty, along with his deputy, Amelie, ran the election and did a splendid job of guiding and supporting younger voters and answering queries. They then counted the votes - twice - just to make sure - and informed the Headmaster of the results. They are as follows:

Reception - Sofia
Year 1 - Lucy and Izaak
Year 2 - Toby and Betsie
Year 3 - Violette and Jayden
Year 4 - Robin
Year 5 - Ariane and Christabel

Congratulations to all of our new reps. We hope you have an enjoyable and successful term carrying out your duties.

Rafferty, Amelie and Mrs Sonn





Thank You For Making A Difference at Christmas.



Thank you to everyone who so generously donated to our Christmas Wonder Tree charity appeal. We raised £550 for Soul Foundation, who, in collaboration with Norwich City F.C., Zatu Games and LoveYourNeighbour, distributed over 800 Christmas presents to children in our region who would otherwise not receive a gift. Thank you for making a difference.



Rock Solid.



Year Three pupils exploring sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks in a science lesson. - Miss Bennie



Dragons Inspire Creativity and Poetry.



We started the term by sharing a book called *"Tell me a Dragon"*, by Jackie Morris. This book, with its beautiful illustrations, has become the stimulus for our English work. Taking inspiration from cultures around the world, we decided to create our own dragons taking influences from nature. Using balloons and paper mâché, the children created their own dragon eggs which have been decorated to represent the dragon inside: fire dragons, cloud dragons, snow and ice dragons are just some of those we have resting in a nest in the classroom. This has been the basis for our writing and the children explored noun phrases to create a collection of poetry about each of their dragons (which will hopefully hatch soon!).

Our topic work has also begun with the Great Fire of London, learning more about the time of the fire, and how buildings were made in Tudor times. The children created collage drawings using a range of materials to create buildings which included the key features such as: brick, wattle and daub and steep roofs.
- Mrs McCarthy





Rainforest Explorations in English.



This week, the pupils in Year Four started their English studies with rainforest stories. Opening the topic with *The Great Kapok Tree* by Lynne Cherry, the children first considered the significance of trees to the local wildlife and the implications of deforestation. After our initial foray into the generalities, we looked closer at specific animals and their dependence on trees to inspire some persuasive writing aimed at a logger featured in the story. We explored how the author used a range of literary devices, including adverbials and comparisons, to engage the reader.

A topic deserving of time and debate, the pupils appear to have thoroughly enjoyed considering the issues surrounding rainforests, both through literature and real-world research.

As we continue our topic study, the children will explore writing reports based on the overarching principles learned. - Mr Hunt





Musical Notes.



The children have been using lots of instruments in their first Music lessons of 2022; Year 4 and 5 learned how to play the castanets in their Mexican song "La Raspe", whilst Year 1 experimented with adding long and short sounds on drums, triangles and finger-chimes to the "January Song". - Mr Spencer



Learning Sign Language.



Our new Sign Language after school club got off to a great start, with tremendous enthusiasm and determination to learn. There are still a few spaces remaining for any new joiners. The club is open to pupils in Years Three to Six. - Mrs Solomon



Contemporary Art Sculptures.



Exploring the works of contemporary artist Marc Quinn, Year One pupils used clay to create sculptures of their own hands.



Reception's Detective Work.



The reception children have been busy learning about people who help us. This week, we've been busy exploring what police officers do and how they help us. We've written about police dogs, taken fingerprints and even investigated some crimes! What an exciting week.



Sports Gallery - Swimming.



Our youngest swimmers got off to a great start with their lessons this week. There was much excitement to get into the pool.

Sports Gallery - Football Drills.





Nursery Gallery.



Nursery pupils have been learning about the role of the police and how we care for babies.



Making Bird Feeders.



Pupils in Nursery and Reception enjoyed making bird feeders by applying seeds to a roll and hanging them on trees in the school grounds.



OTHER NEWS.

Mascots

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

Reception: Freddie for for empathy in reading and maths.

Year One: Ted for empathising with an upset child.

Year Two: Minty for showing empathy on a daily basis to her friends.

Year Three: Margot for empathising with literary figures during English.

Year Four: Grace-Marie for a display of empathy to the characters in The Great Kapok Tree.

Year Five: Christabel for her experimenting skills using the materials in science.

Year Six: Mrs Sonn for empathetic support of all her pupils in their entrance examination preparations.

Certificates Awarded This Week

Congratulations to the following pupils who were awarded Bronze Certificates for achieving five A1's: Aurora, Bethany, Emily and Margot.

Shout Out for Magazines & Cardboard

Our Art & Design Technology Department would be grateful to receive any unwanted lifestyle (not news or showbiz) magazines (travel/adventure, wildlife, fashion, homes and garden, using parental discernment) and CLEAN AND DRY plain cardboard boxes

and plastic bottles, for an upcoming project. This request is for this week only, as we will be unable to dispose of excess recyclable materials.

After School Clubs

Please contact the School Office for any additional bookings.



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