



The Old School Henstead

Newsletter 11 February 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

Arise and shine!

The morning greeting from parents that many of us enjoyed (and still enjoy) is as positive a start to the day for even the most sleepy of heads. Little did I know that my mother had in fact been quoting Isaiah, even before the cereal (porridge in winter) and school uniform! I was proud to witness our LAMDA candidates do just that last Saturday morning - they did indeed arise, did shine and have also entertained the whole school with their performances in assemblies this week. Well done to all and huge thanks to Mrs Philips for all her hard work in coaching and guiding them.

WJ McKinney MA Hons PgDip MA





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

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

Wednesday 16 February - Years One & Three visit to Sea Life Centre

Saturday 19 February – Sunday 27 February inclusive - Half Term

Thursday 3 March - World Book Day - Pupils may dress up to represent their favourite book character (not superhero or football kit)

Friday 18 March - Red Nose Day (Red Noses will be available for sale at school on the day) Normal uniform to be worn.

Saturday 2 - Sunday 24 April - Easter Holidays

Friday 20 May - The Henstead Charity Hike

Sunday 22 May - Friday 27 May - Year Six Residential Trip to Snowdonia



Oh the Places You'll Go.



Year Six pupils have been enjoying developing their compass and map-reading skills over the last couple of weeks. They began with the basics – how a compass works, and today moved onto using OS maps to locate particular places. Maps are fascinating things, and the children learned to use eastings and northings, as well as six-figure grid references, to find places of interest – churches, lakes, railway crossings and even a pub. They were most impressed by how precisely they were able to pinpoint different locations and are keen to continue their learning in the great outdoors.

Now, this teacher may be thinking far ahead, but, looking to the future and senior schools, hopefully all of our Year Six girls and boys will participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, which includes an expedition, and I hope that they will recall these navigating skills to assist them on their adventures.



'A map says you: read me carefully, follow me closely, doubt me not...I am the earth in the palm of your hand.' Beryl Markham, 20th Century aviator. -
Mr McKinney and Mrs Sonn



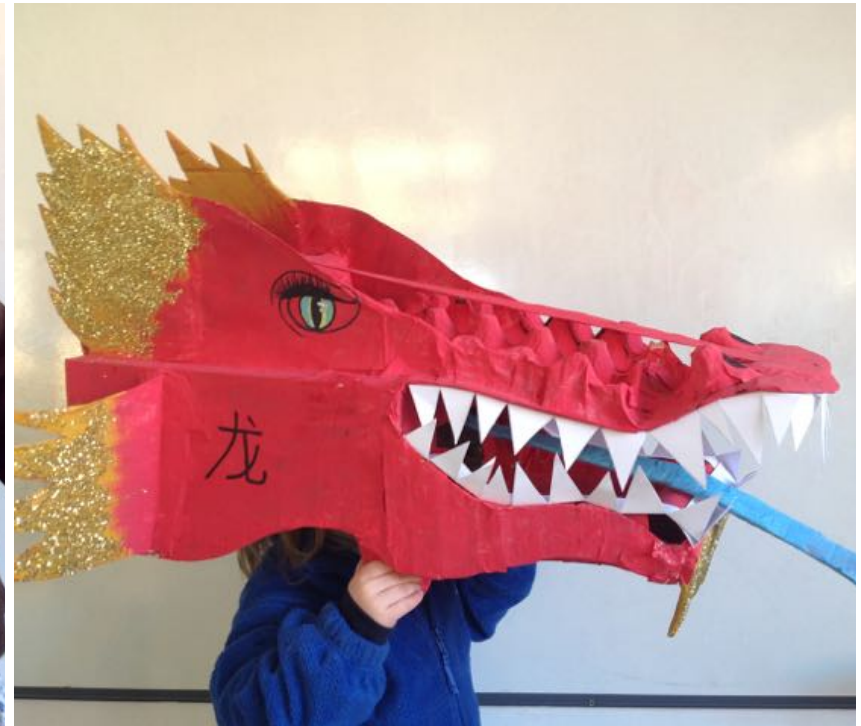
Soil Science.



Investigating soil and how it is formed, pupils in Year Three have been investigating the different layers of soil! For illustrative purposes in this experiment we used Oreos, Bourbons, chocolate chips, chocolate Mousse, coconut and wriggly worms! - Miss Bennie



Chinese New Year.



The children enjoyed performing their Lunar New Year assembly to the school on Wednesday. To celebrate the Year of The Tiger, they used masks and props to tell the story of 'The Great Race' and how the twelve animals each crossed the river to win a year named after them in the Zodiac. They performed a wonderful song, with the help of Mr Spencer, before the grand finale, a dragon dance! Hidden inside their very own red and gold 'puppet', the children paraded up and down the hall, just like a real Lunar New Year street celebration. - Miss Doughty



Wild Life Photographers.



Nursery and Reception children in the role of wildlife photographers, capturing photographs of tigers in the wild. - Mrs Vorster



Materials Science.



This half term, Year Two has been learning about materials during our Science afternoons. The children have been working scientifically to perform a range of investigations to explore the properties of materials further.

One week, the children investigated floating and sinking fruits and vegetables. They placed various groceries in a large tub of water after making predictions about which would sink or float based on their shape, size and what they were made from.

Another afternoon the children investigated absorbency of materials where sponges, cardboard, clothes and cotton wool were tested. The children used various measuring equipment to plan and perform their experiments.

They also conducted studies to find the most suitable material to build a bridge to support Mrs McCarthy's Deben fox called Mr Red. Teams made bridges from lego, paper and tape or spaghetti and marshmallows. Each bridge worked to varying success and we discussed and understood the reasons why.

The team work and resilience that all of the children have shown during these investigations has been excellent.

- Mrs McCarthy





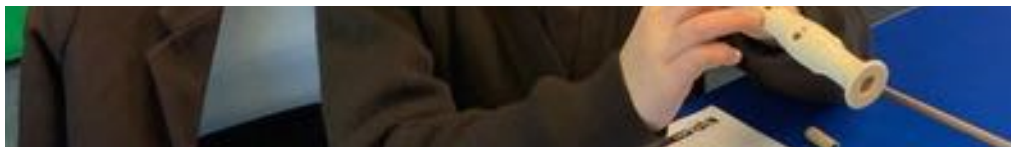
Literature and Sonic Studies.



Over the last fortnight, Year Four has made excellent progress across all of their subjects. Working in a variety of locations, their attitude towards learning and developing their understanding has been, as ever, exemplary.

In English, we have explored a range of fiction and non-fiction texts, including *Wolves in the Walls* and *Wolf Wilder*, and then analysed their meaning, implicit and explicit. The children are already at a level where they can detect meaning behind the words, seeking to understand authors and the nuances hidden beneath their phrasing. This was particularly evident when exploring a passage explaining the historical significance of wolves in Russia. The children were impressive in their abilities to grasp the notion of symbols and, in the case of this book, their roots in superstition.

In science, our study has been towards something far less metaphysical: sound. Observing how pitch and how it affects sound waves, we directed our focus to musical instruments. Using a variety of instruments, including drums, recorders, our own panpipes, we explored how the length of vibrations can change various metrics of sound. A fun (and noisy) lesson, the pupils consolidated their understanding well with a blend of theoretical and practical considerations. - Mr Hunt



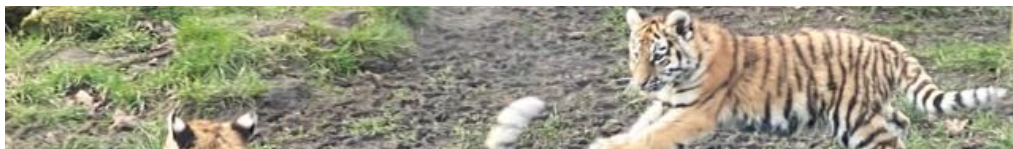


Zoological Studies.



To wrap up our learning about tigers we travelled to Banham Zoo. The tiger enclosure was an exciting place and we were fortunate to see the tiger cubs wrestling each other and playing with their parents. Joanna the zoo keeper told us all about the different types of tigers, what they eat, where they live and how they are endangered.

The children also enjoyed the ride on the small train around the zoo, stroking a snake and laughing at some very funny monkeys. It was a wonderful day together and the teachers were so proud of our perfectly behaved boys and girls.
- Mrs Vorster



Zoological Studies.





Independent Schools Association Cross Country Competition.



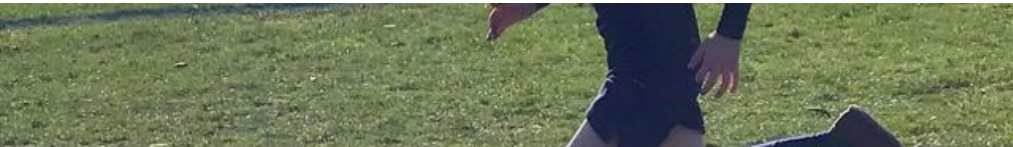
This year's Independent Schools Association (ISA) regional cross country event was held near Stowmarket, with over one hundred competitors per race.

Congratulations to Rafferty for winning the silver medal for 2nd place in the Under 11 Boys category, which takes him through to the national final next month.

Under 11 Boys	Under 11 Girls
2nd Rafferty	12th Amelie
50th Isaac G	36th Millie
60th Sam	50th Lola
Under 9 Boys	Under 9 Girls
37th Louis	12th Grace-Marie
41st Jayden	30th Emily
52nd Robin	50th Violette
55th Max	
67th James	

A great performance by our cross country team. We look forward to the national final in March.

- Mr Hunter



Sports Gallery - Swimming





OTHER NEWS.

Mascots

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

- Reception: Orlando for excellent research for his trip to the zoo.
- Year One: Lucy for her experimentation with colour and brush strokes in art while creating a crashing wave painting.
- Year Two: Lexi for showing empathy towards her friends and teacher.

- Year Three: James for experimenting in English while writing a 'knight of the round table' quest story.
- Year Four: Robin for empathising with the characters in our recent study of *Wolves in the Wall*.
- Year Five: Adam for his excellent research on a scientist for a project.
- Year Six: Isaac for experimenting with writing and creating his own Greek myth.

Certificates Awarded This Week

Congratulations to the following pupils who were awarded Certificates for achieving five A1's (Bronze) and ten A1's (Silver):

Bronze	Silver
Sofia	Lola
Olivia	
Betsie	
Saffie	
Lexi	

Pony Club

Don't forget to sign your child up for Pony Club (open to pupils in Reception to Year 6).