



The Old School Henstead

Newsletter 18 February 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

Arise - the boys and girls raised funds over our Christmas celebrations that helped to provide a present for 814 children - for many of whom it would have been the only gift they received.

Shine - our Year Six has, at time of writing, won ten different scholarships in senior school entrance examinations - academic, drama, performing arts and sport. A truly remarkable achievement - well done to them and to all who teach them.

WJ McKinney MA Hons PgDip MA





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

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

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.

Thursday 31 March - 08:50 Easter Service at St Mary's Church Henstead

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



Living Science Museum.



Over this half term we have been looking at various scientists and their inventions or discoveries. Each of us chose a different scientist to find out more about and then 'became' that scientist for a Living Science Museum. We dressed up like that scientist and then 'came to life' to present the information about that scientist to those visiting the museum. Our amazing scientists included Sir Isaac Newton, Eva Crane, Nikola Tesla, Charles Darwin, Marie Curie, Theodore Maiman and Elsie Widowson. Some of these scientists made some life-changing discoveries, changing the way we look at the world today and the things we know about it.

- Mrs Solomon





Living Science Museum.





Exploring the Underwater World.



To further enhance learning Years One and Three headed to Sea Life centre in Great Yarmouth. They arrived full of enthusiasm and excitement, ready to explore the variety of animals that could be found under the water.

They observed moon jellyfish, pike, leopard sharks, rays, turtles, black tips and many more. They discussed how the bodies of fish moved in order for them to move through the water. Year One was thrilled to see some real life sea-horses just like the ones that they had made in art. They observed the seahorses swimming and hanging on to the seaweed and were amazed to learn that it was the boy seahorses that carried the babies!

Year Three learnt a little more about Little White and Little Grey, the beluga whales that had been flown from China to Iceland. They learnt that it was Sea Life Centre that had made it possible for these whales to be freed from captivity and given as normal a life as possible.

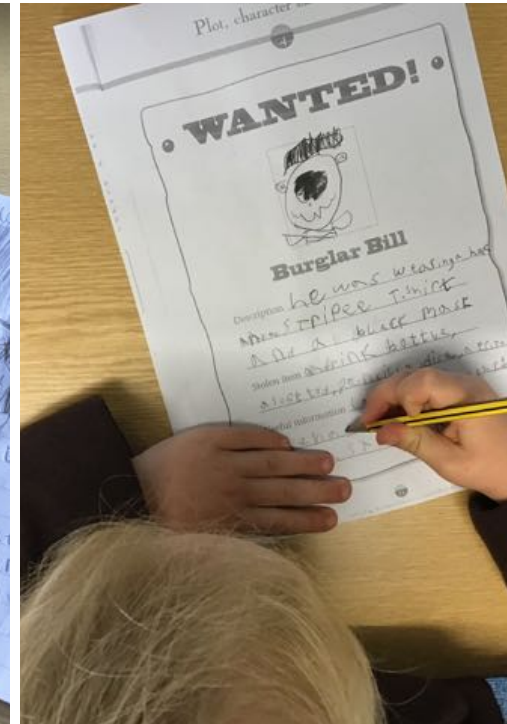
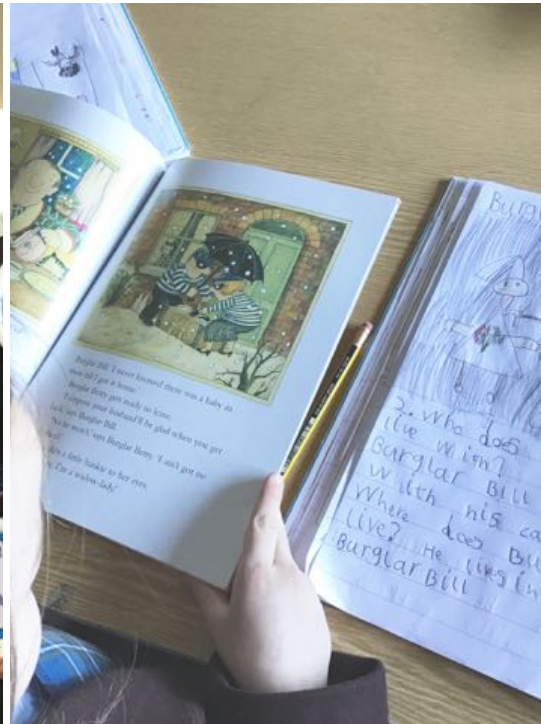
The final activity of the day allowed pupils to stroke a giant starfish. They were amazed to learn more about them, particularly the fact was that when starfish try to escape they will break off their own leg – but not to worry as they do grow them back!

A great day had by all and the pupils displayed exemplary behaviour throughout, as commented on by passers by. - Miss Bennie and Mrs Dakin





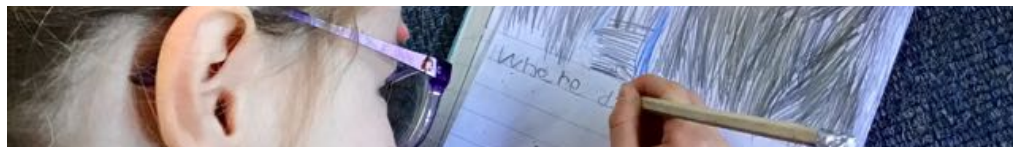
Time for Detective Work.



Literacy lessons have been inspired by the classic story *Burglar Bill* written by Janet and Allan Ahlberg. Our detective work began when a CCTV video and a note from Burglar Bill was left in our classroom! We witnessed Burglar Bill, who was wearing his usual blue cap and striped t-shirt, putting lots of things into his swag bag! The children were not impressed by this and wanted to catch this cheeky fella! A great idea of making Wanted posters with a description of what he was wearing, what was missing and a fitting reward, were created and then displayed around the school. We hope to bring Burglar Bill to justice when we finally catch up with him.

In Numeracy we have started looking at clocks and telling the time. We reflected on what we do at different times of the day and who gets up earliest in the morning! The children used clocks to set different times and work out what the time would be an hour later and an hour earlier. "What's the time Mr Wolf" was a fitting and fun way to kick start this topic.

Our ocean diorama have been carefully completed with sea creatures added - from octopi to starfish. They look beautiful added to our ocean classroom display. Seeing the many different sea creatures on our trip to the Sea Life Centre helped bring their creations to life. - Mrs Dakin





Mathematical Treasure Hunt.



This week, Year 6 created a maths treasure hunt for pupils in Years 1, 2 and 3. Working from a list of topics provided by the junior school form tutors, the pupils devised their own questions, wrote them carefully with illustrations and diagrams on sheets of paper and then composed fantastic clues to the locations of the next questions in the form of riddles and cryptic poems, displayed around the school.

Preparations completed, the boys and girls collected their junior school friends from their classrooms and all set off on the quest. There was much excitement and it was obvious that the younger pupils enjoyed not only the challenge of answering questions and decoding clues, but also working with the pupils at the top of the school. All completed the treasure hunt and they did indeed receive some treasure as a reward!

Year 6 demonstrated maturity, patience and kindness at all times and it was a pleasure to watch them leading and guiding their young counterparts. - Mrs Sonn





E-Safety.

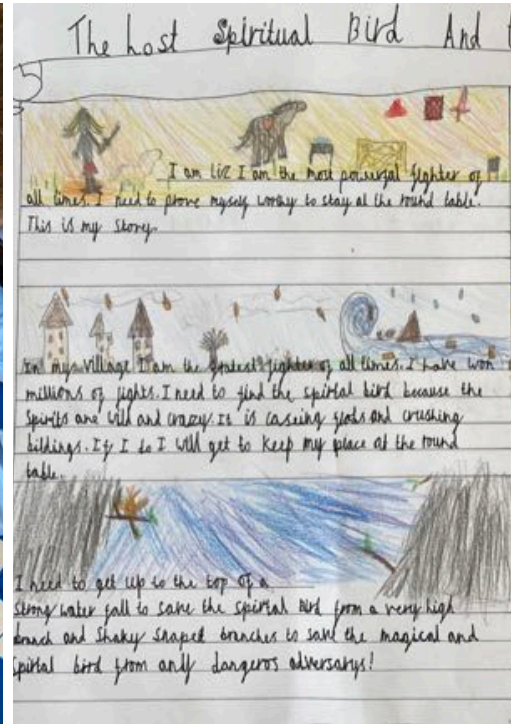


Technology and the internet are increasingly becoming interwoven into our lives. Amidst the enjoyment of researching information, shopping, playing games and communicating with one another, it is an important cornerstone of our curriculum to ensure that safe and sensible usage are employed. Whilst these ideas are inherent in our teaching practice at the school, the annual safety internet day is an excellent opportunity for the pupils to discreetly study themes related to safe online behaviour and conduct. The theme this year narrows focus on relationships online with particular attention devoted to how we communicate with each other. An important message we considered was that our online communications to our friends should mirror how we would communicate in person, with courtesy and respect. In addition, we explored how to block or report messages which strike us as unkind.

Throughout the week, learning first took place in a whole-school assembly, with pupils working in their classrooms at age-appropriate activities designed to harbour discussions around the topics. - Mr Hunt



Where is the Time Going?



Year Three has been exploring time, they have been focusing on past the hour and to the hour. The pupils have been using a variety of games and clocks to help them develop their understanding of time.

We have finally finished our 'Knights of the Round Table' quest stories and the pupils have written them up using handwriting pens to display their beautiful work. We have been focussing on illustrating their tales, using the pictures to describe further and tell the tale that they have created.

Finally in topic this week we have been preparing for our visit to the Sea Life centre. We have been looking at how we as humans impact on the ocean exploring plastic pollution and over fishing. Year 3 all engaged confidently in the discussions that we were having together including how we at school may be able to do our little bit. On top of that the pupils explored the statement of 'Animals in captivity – For or Against'. Pupils engaged in a mock debate about the pros and cons of dolphins and whales being in captivity. They were all awarded A1's for their empathy towards them. They were able to share confidently their learning from today and answer any questions that they were asked!

All pupils have worked very hard and shown resilience when tackling difficult questions or discussions. A great week from all. - Miss Bennie





What a Drama.



Some scenes from our enthusiastic Junior Drama Club members.



Dragon Eyes.



Today Year Two pupils creating Dragon eyes in their art lesson. They used clay and built up the layers to create their masterpieces, demonstrating excellent dexterity and creativity. - Miss Bennie



Love is in the Air.



We celebrated love this week in Nursery and Reception. We started the theme on Monday - Valentine's Day.

The children made cards for special friends, family and even teachers! Throughout the week they enjoyed pink and red, glittery play dough with heart cutters and using the pipettes and small bottles to make love potions. Heart shaped biscuits were baked, iced and handed out to loved ones.

We spoke about how we know we are loved through: quality time; words of affirmation; acts of service; receiving gifts and touch. Every day we read a different story about loving and being loved. - Mrs Vorster





Design & Technology Club - Problem Solving.



This week's focus in Design and Technology after school club has been construction. The pupils are following the plans that they have made and are starting to really get into the nitty gritty of building their own roller-coasters. As they build they are coming across problems such as 'will the tracks join up?' or 'will my marble flow all the way around the track?' All the pupils are showing great imagination and problem solving skills whilst working on their projects. Well done all.

- Miss Bennie





Sports Gallery - Water Survival Training.



Upper School pupils working on their survival skills in the water for their gold certificates.

Sports Gallery - Swimming Drills.





OTHER NEWS.

Certificates Awarded This Week

Congratulations to Lolah in Year Six for achieving 10 ten A1's for a Silver Certificate.

Pony Club

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



@OldSchoolHstead



YouTube

