



# The Old School Henstead

Newsletter 11 March 2022

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

This week saw the culmination of the Inter-House Drama and we were pleased to welcome Mrs Phillips, our LAMDA teacher and actress, as a guest judge, fresh from the success of her LAMDA candidates in the recent examinations. Adventures they most certainly were and you may read of how each House brought a Narnian tale to life in this edition of the newsletter. Further up and further in!

*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 March - Visit to Framlingham Castle (Years 4 & 5)

Friday 18 March - Red Nose Day (Red Noses will be available for a donation of £1 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



THE OLD SCHOOL  
**HENSTEAD**  
INDEPENDENT PREPARATORY SCHOOL

join us for an  
**EASTER  
BONNET PARADE**  
Friday 1st April

The Old School Henstead is delighted to invite all pupils to take part in this Easter tradition! The task is to create an Easter Bonnet to wear in a parade at the end of term.

The prizes that will be awarded are:

- Most Colourful**
- Most Creative**
- The Largest (This must stay on the head)**

Any questions please email:  
[i.bennie@theoldschoolhenstead.co.uk](mailto:i.bennie@theoldschoolhenstead.co.uk)



EASTER BONNET  
PARADE.





## Studies at Cambridge University.



This week's Year six trip to the Cambridge University Museum of Zoology was a fascinating experience from start to finish. Our guide showed us around this important centre for the study of animals, which is jam-packed with thousands of specimens collected over the last 200 years. There was everything from tiny insects and octopuses (or octopodes, but not octopii, as we learned) preserved in vinegar-filled bottles, to skeletons of leatherback turtles and giant sloths suspended over our heads.

The focus of the day was to use observational skills to understand how animals have adapted over millenia to survive in their environments. The boys and girls began by choosing a creature to sketch.

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## Studies at Cambridge University.



Our guide then showed us some discoveries from the great collecting expeditions of the 19th century, including the very beetles brought back from the Galapagos islands to England by Charles Darwin on his famous journey onboard The Beagle.

We then learned about how natural selection works - the process by which some species fare better in the game of life than others - and this was followed by some close observations of different animal skulls, noticing how their brains, teeth and jaws differed depending on the food available to them in their environments.

We finished our inspirational day by with a wander around the museum, looking with awe at the fascinating specimens on show, and marvelling at the incredible diversity of life on our planet. - Mrs Sonn







## Cat Burglars and Cat Flaps.



This week Year Three pupils have been exploring diaries and recounts. They investigated different types of diaries. We have been focusing on *The Diary of a Killer Cat* by Anne Fine. The pupils seem particularly entertained by all the naughty things that the cat has been getting up to. These explorations led to a discussion about opinions and points of view as we began to think about how the other members of the family may have a different opinion about the events. We will continue to explore this diary for the remainder of the term.

In Maths we have been improving our subtraction skills. We are trying to get quicker at calculating sums and using our mental abilities. To help with this process we have been using the leaping frog. He helps us to break down our numbers when calculating our answers.

In Science we began our new topic on Light, discussing the importance of light and dark within everything that we do in our day to day business. To investigate the pupils had five bags filled with items that they couldn't identify as the bags were empty. The pupils were able to use touch to try and guess the items – none of which were correct! A great week by all in Year Three. - Miss Bennie





## Material Science.



We started a new topic on materials in Year Five. This week we looked at the conditions that help a solid to dissolve.

To investigate this we tried dissolving salt in water of different temperatures. We discovered that we could dissolve more salt in hot water than we could in cold water.

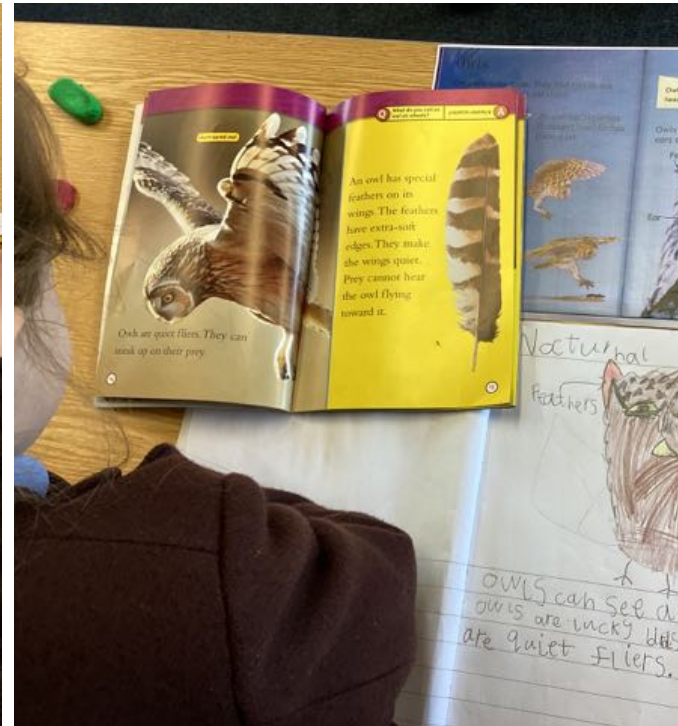
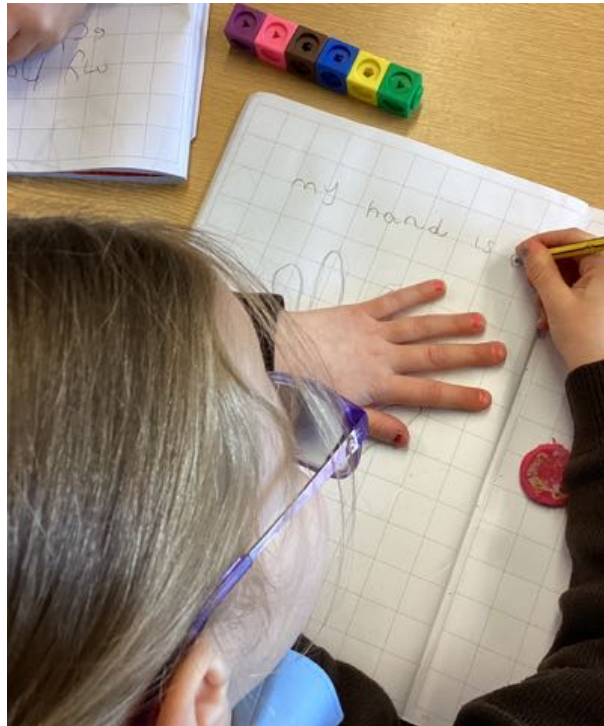
- Mrs Solomon







## Measuring Up.



Year One has thoroughly enjoyed investigating and comparing their hand and feet measurements in maths this week. The children used unifix cubes to help with their measuring skills. Data analysis tested our hypothesis that the tallest member of the class did indeed have the biggest feet!

We have also been thinking about numbers to a hundred, using our sequencing knowledge to record missing numbers in a number series.

Careful research has enabled the children to create a fact file on their favourite nocturnal animal in Literacy. Did you know cats only sweat from their feet? Lots of interesting facts were discovered by these inquisitive children!

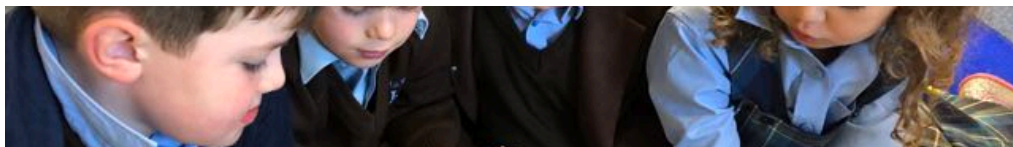
Year One really measured up this week! - Mrs Dakin







## Celebrating International Women's Day.



This week's Junior Book Club session focussed on International Women's Day. We read books about Amelia Earhart and Malala Yousafzai - two very inspirational women who accomplished so much at such a young age. - Mrs McCarthy





## Art - Block Printing



In art, Year Six pupils were experimenting with different processes. The pupils were free to explore the ink with some extending their explorations by incorporating some different colours. - Miss Bennie





## What a Performance. Inter-House Drama.



Each house performed their piece - based on a Narnia book - in the hall, judged by LAMDA teacher Mrs Philips. Her feedback and the results follow:

### Deben - Prince Caspian

#### Judge's Remarks:

*"The characters introduced themselves in proper LAMDA style. Two scenes were presented and began with a strong opening from the senior actors, as Caspian was shocked by Miraz and his Queen's insistence that the old days of Narnia never happened and that there was no such Lion as Aslan.*

*In scene two Lucy tried to convince her fellow travellers that she had seen Aslan and that He wanted her to follow him as they travelled to Caspian's camp. Were they to travel up or down? Out came the squirrels who shared the wisdom of their kind, in that we should all expect to see the Great Lion, if 'nut' today, then soon. The performers were confident and focussed. There was good use of space and they worked well together as a group as well as individually."*





## What a Performance. Inter-House Drama.



### Yare - The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe

#### Judge's Remarks:

*"Clever presentation of the wardrobe and the lamppost led us to the first meeting of Lucy and Tumnus with obvious familial empathy on view. Two senior narrators told the tale as it unfolded, with some scary wolves accompanying the White Witch. The crossing of the frozen river with Mr & Mrs Beaver was artistically portrayed by waving streamers. Aslan stepped in to save the day and gives his life for the traitor Edmund. The final battle was a lively contest with some realistic swordplay. The deeper magic sees Aslan return to life, for the Witch does not know the meaning of sacrifice. The play concludes with the coronation 'once a King of Narnia' and a modern twist (look away C.S. Lewis) - a selfie opportunity. The hunting of the White Stag brought them back to earth..... Strong and clear narration here, with very good use of the space. The portrayal of the thawing river was a genuine highlight - a lovely idea and most effective. The principals were strong vocally and the cast focussed most effectively."*







## What a Performance. Inter-House Drama.



### Waveney - The Magician's Nephew

#### Judge's Remarks:

*"An impressive choral introduction of the tale by the cast presented the principals, Digory, Polly and the engagingly mad Uncle Andrew. Musical harp swirls suggested a magical voyage to Charn, where the ringing of the bell released the wicked queen Jadis (soon to become the White Witch in the world of Narnia) after its creation by Aslan, who was thoughtfully portrayed, as were the choral responses by the littlest, yet individual creatures. The lamp post even grew before our eyes. This was a performance in which both individuals and groups made strong use of the stage space and complemented the music through movement and strong vocal support. An excellent effort."*







## What a Performance. Inter-House Drama.



### Orwell - *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*

#### Judge's Remarks:

*"A tableau greeted us with the scene when the picture comes to life for Lucy and Edmund. With Eustace (played by Miss Doughty standing in for Millie) - we moved aboard the Dawn Treader with a real ship's helm! The crew were much amused by Eustace's pompous rendition of his name - he then headed off to the cave only to be turned into a dragon, who, after much sign language and dragon tears, was able to share his plight and was turned back into a wiser boy by Aslan. The performance was clear and audible with a choral focus. There were great sound effects and props, ably managed by the stage crew. The performers all looked as if they were having fun."*

*We are most grateful to Mrs Philips, our LAMDA teacher, for judging the competition. The results:*

First	Waveney
Second	Yare
Third	Orwell
Fourth	Deben







## Sports Gallery - Swimming.

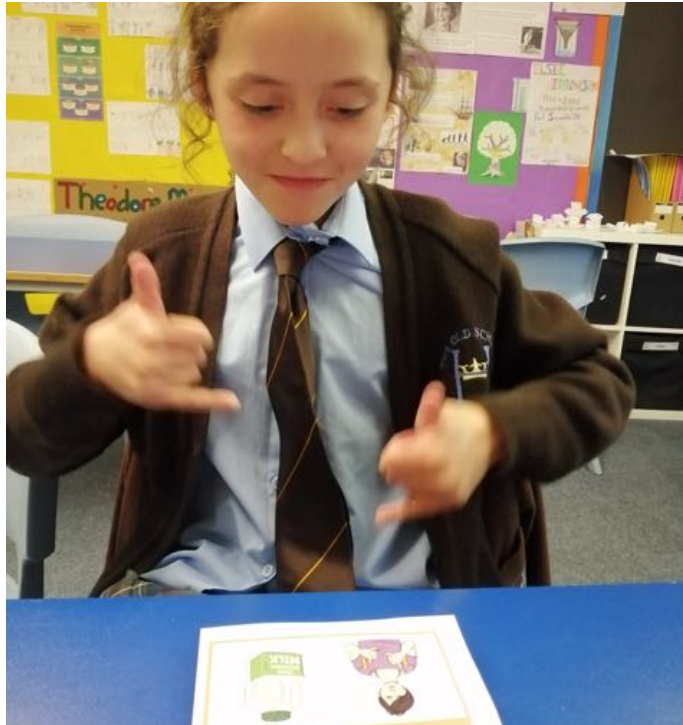


Pupils undergoing their exam for their gold water safety certificates this week, simulating rescue situations in shorts and t-shirts.





## Sign Language - After School Club.



The dedicated members of our Sign Language After School Club have been making excellent progress, as you may see from these pictures. - Mrs Solomon



Shelter Building.





Sports Gallery - Unihoc.







## Nursery - The Gruffalo.



This week we have been absorbed in the well known, much loved story of *The Gruffalo*. The children have been role playing the story, writing their own mini books, making scrambled snake, labelling the parts of Gruffalo and setting up an ice cream parlour serving a variety of Gruffalo Gelato - including everyone's favourite flavour, Owl Ice cream.

- Mrs Vorster





## OTHER NEWS.

## Mascots

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

Reception: Bethany for adventurous analysis of phonemes.

Year One: Louiza for analysis in measuring in maths.

Year Two: Saffie for her adventurous poetry writing.

Year Three: Violette for adventurous use of subtraction methods to find correct answers.

Year Four: Grace-Marie for an adventurous spirit during our study of decimals.

Year Five: Chloe for her adventurous spirit at playtimes.

Year Six: Oliver for excellent analysis of statistics in a recent maths test.

## Pony Club

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

## Lab Coats Available

Lab coats are now available from the Uniform Shop for Years 4-6, to protect their uniforms.



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