



THE OLD SCHOOL HENSTEAD

INDEPENDENT PREPARATORY SCHOOL



Newsletter Issue 45,
February 3 2023



The children have been so excited to come to school this week and to show you what they are learning. Thank you to all who were able to attend the inaugural Open School days, and for giving your children a precious opportunity to share their daily learning experience with you. Your support and involvement are key to partnership and at the heart of all we do. We look forward to working with you further as the year continues.

- Miss M J Clifton



Key Dates:

Monday 6th February - The Great Henstead Bake Off

**Friday 10th February - U9/11s Boys and Girls, ISA
Regional Cross Country at Great Finborough School**

Saturday 11th February - Sunday 19th February - Half-Term Break

**Wednesday 22nd February - School & Nursery
Photographs**

**Monday 6th March - School Choir sings at The White
House Care Home, Beccles**

Thursday 23rd March - Easter Service at St Mary's Church

**Friday 24th March - Easter Bonnet Parade
End of Spring Term**

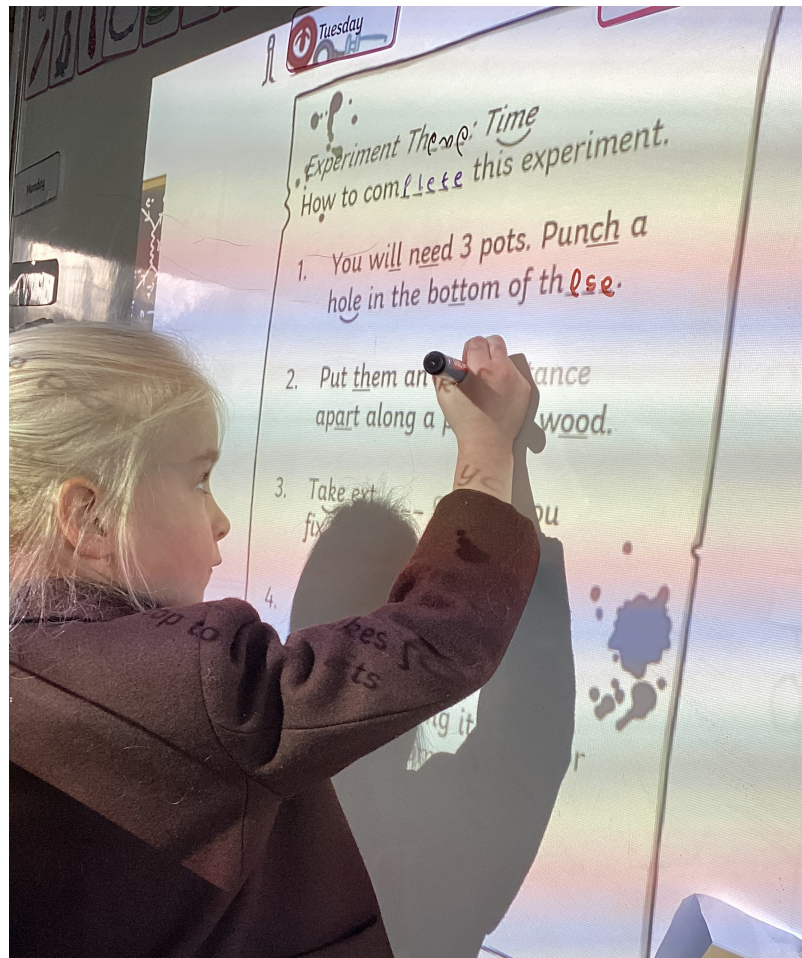
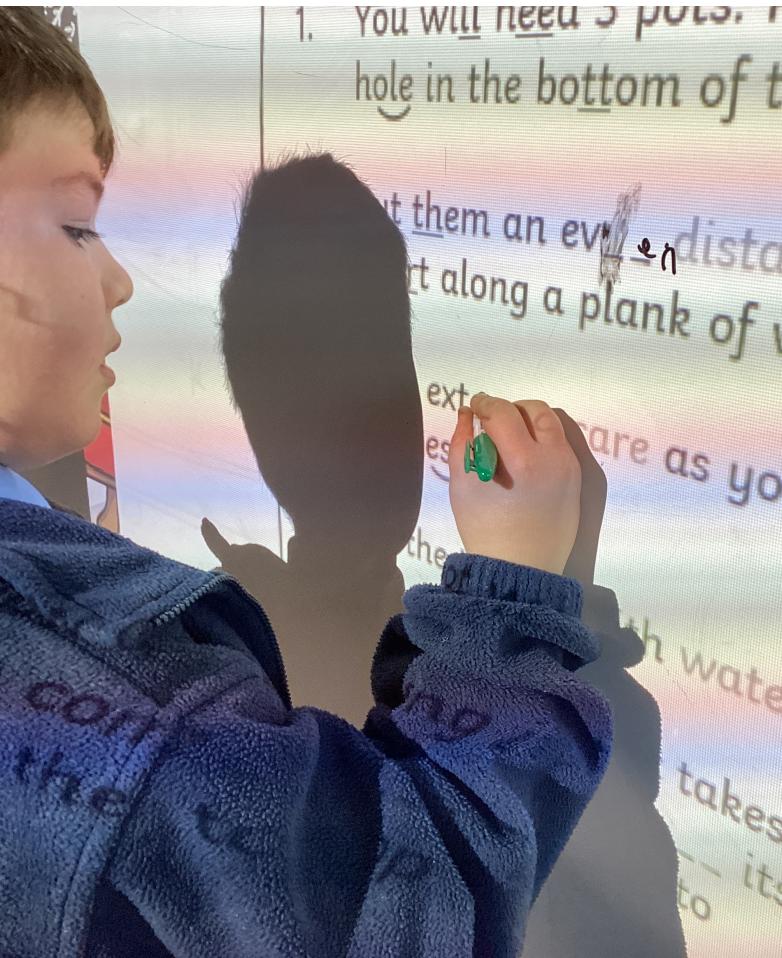
Monday 27th - Friday 31st March - Easter Holiday Club

Monday 17th April - Summer Term



What an exciting week in Nursery! Alongside all their other learning, our nursery children have been working so hard with their phonics lessons this year and it has really paid off. This week each nursery child has been given their first ever reading book to take home and share with their grownups. We are very proud of all our happy readers!

- Mrs Braidwood



The children in Year One have all been working hard on split digraphs during their phonics lessons. These are taught within the phase 5 phonics in Year One. We have looked at the five different split digraphs that end in the letter 'e' and start with one of the five vowels. We have learnt the sound each one makes and looked at different words containing split digraphs to read, spotted them in our reading books, written them during our phonics lessons and practised them in our weekly spelling tests!



Penguins has been a continuing theme during our lessons in Year One this week. The children used cold coloured paints to set the tone, formulating the background for these fascinating creatures. The penguins were carefully crafted out of paper, snowflakes and glitter was added for full icy effect, the result some very cute creations! Question for Year One - Are penguins found in the Arctic or Antarctic? Tell me on Monday!

- Mrs Dakin





Year Three pupils have been using their afternoons on a Tuesday to develop their baking skills. On the menu this week was 'Unicorn Magic' (Meringue with colouring). The pupils had to work together by separating the egg whites, measuring the sugar, mixing the meringue and piping the mixture onto baking trays. Some great teamwork by the pupils in Year Three. Well Done!

- Miss Bennie





Chess Club

There are four hundred distinct chess positions after two moves (first move for White, followed by first move for Black). After three moves, there are 5,362 (after White's second move). As such, chess is a wonderfully complex game. Naturally, as we began our forays into learning and appreciating the game, we looked at opening strategies. Rather than memorising specific move combinations, our key focus was on general principles. Specifically, 'owning' the centre, developing powerful pieces and not leaving many pieces 'hanging' - undefended pieces.



As time continues, we will continue to focus on the centre, 'tempo' and thinking about the end game. Despite being quite new to the game, the boys have shown great aptitude and have been engaged with the process.



They have particularly enjoyed seeing if they can beat various AI bots on [chess.com](https://www.chess.com), including 'Mittens' and the omniscient Stockfish which has an Elo rating of ~ 3400 . If they manage to defeat the latter, Magnus Carlsen might be looking over his shoulder... - Mr Hunt

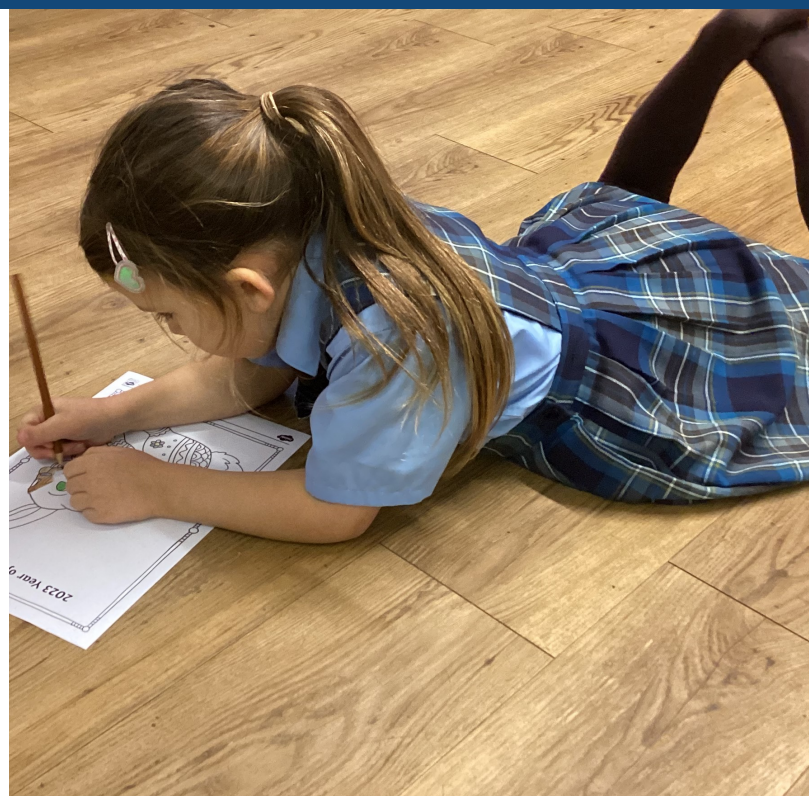


In their science lessons, Year Three have been investigating different soil samples from around the school site. Learning soil is made from a mixture of rocks, sand, organic matter and water. - Mrs McCarthy





Our junior club members enjoying their weekly "Yoga and Mindfulness" session.





School Mascots



Mascots were awarded this week to the pupils best demonstrating our school values for this half term; empathy and experimenting.

Well done to all of this weeks mascot winners!

Reception: Ottilie

Year Three: Olivia

Year One: Orlando

Year Four: Alex

Year Two: Louiza

Year Six: Christabel



Achievements

Congratulations to our Bronze and Silver certificate winners this week - Sophia, Jonah and Araminta.





Candlemas

Candlemas is celebrated on February 2nd. It is the day Christians remember about baby Jesus being taken to the temple by Mary and Joseph, when Jesus was 6 weeks old. Simeon and Anna were at the temple and when they saw Jesus, they knew this was the saviour God had promised and would be sent to save the world. Christians believe Jesus is a light to the world and therefore a candle is used to symbolise this.

In assembly, we acted the story out, lit a candle and the children sang a beautiful song, which really captured the significance of this special day.

- Miss Solomon





PTFA

Our school PTFA is a group of volunteer parents and teachers, who work together to raise extra funds for the school through fun events.

Over the years our PTFA have raised funds for various things, including a school minibus, the Sports Pavilion, and iPads.

PTFA Meeting

The PTFA will be holding a meeting at the school on **Tuesday 21st February at 6.30pm.**

The meeting is open to all, so if you are interested in joining or helping in any way, please come along, we would love to have you as part of the team. We know life is busy, but we would be very grateful for anytime you could give to help.

We will be discussing fundraising for the upcoming year, along with other items to help the school.



PTFA Updates

Firstly, a big thank you to everyone that attended the Christmas Fair, we hope you and your children enjoyed it. The PTFA successfully raised £1,109.80. Special thanks to all the PTFA who came along and helped on the day and to Beccles Toy Shop.

We are a step closer towards raising our target of £6000 - to fund a new trim-trail for the children!



Uniform Shop

We are seeking two parent helpers to take on the school uniform shop. If you are interested, please speak with Donna and Tess in the Uniform Shop or the Office. Thank you.





Open School Days





Open School Days





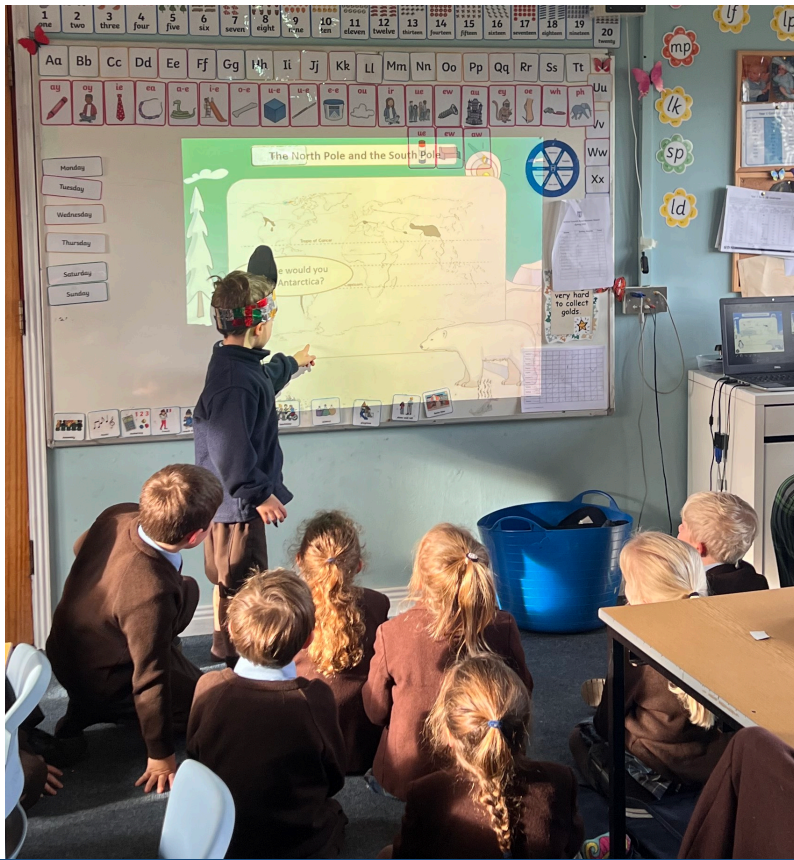
Open School Days





Open School Days





Open School Days





YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR:

Easter Bonnet Parade

FRIDAY 24TH MARCH
8:50AM
THE ORCHARD

THE OLD SCHOOL HENSTEAD IS
DELIGHTED TO INVITE ALL PUPILS
TO TAKE PART IN THIS EASTER
TRADITION! PLEASE CREATE AN
EASTER BONNET TO WEAR IN A
PARADE AT THE END OF TERM.

PRIZES FOR:
MOST COLOURFUL
MOST CREATIVE
THE LARGEST



HENSTEAD

INDEPENDENT PREPARATORY SCHOOL



THE GREAT HENSTEAD BAKE-OFF

Monday 6th February

Boys and girls, the school council invites you to bake a cake for the inaugural **Henstead Bake-off competition!**

It can be anything you like. Perhaps a gorgeous gooey chocolate cake, cute cup cakes, a luscious lemon drizzle or why not a dairy-free treat to mark Veganuary?

If you would like to enter, please bake a cake (or two or three) and bring it into school on the morning of Monday 6th February. The council members will then judge your creations and choose winners in three categories: EYFS, junior school and senior school.

Mums, dads and grandparents, please bring your pennies to school at the end of the day as we will be selling the cakes to raise money for break time play equipment.

Good luck everybody

We can't wait to see what you make!

School Council





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