



# THE OLD SCHOOL HENSTEAD

INDEPENDENT PREPARATORY SCHOOL



School Newsletter  
Spring Term  
12th January 2024



## A Happy New Year

The year is new and stretches ahead of us... 12 months, 52 weeks, 366 days (it is a leap year!). Like all new years, it holds the promise of being good and happy. Monday's assembly focused on a packet of seeds which has the potential to bring beauty, is loaded with pollen and capable of attracting bees and butterflies. My message built within the assembly was that the seeds will only thrive, the seedlings grow, and the insects benefit if we consistently care for and provide all that the seeds require. The same applies to our children - working together we can help them flourish and enable their promise to grow.

I therefore very much look forward to watching them flourish through the upcoming weeks.

- Miss Clifton





## Key Dates:

**Monday 22nd January - School Photographs**

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**Friday 16th February - Finborough Cross Country**

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**Monday 19th Feb - Friday 23rd Feb - Half Term**

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**Thursday 7th March - World Book Day**

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**Thursday 21st March - Easter Service**

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Full details regarding each of these events will be provided nearer the time and more dates will be added weekly.



# Reception

The nursery and reception children were so lucky to meet some fantastic 'people who help us' this week. They were visited by a paramedic, a police officer and a police sergeant! It was so much fun learning all about their special jobs.

- Miss Doughty







## Year Two

In maths this week we have been looking at place value. We had fun representing numbers with actions, clapping and jumping and nodding our heads to the value of the number. We then used the base ten equipment to represent the numbers. Great work, Year Two.

- Mrs Solomon







# Official Opening of The Hub

At the end of last term, the illustrator and author Polly Dunbar - who also happens to be the mum of two of our pupils - visited the school to officially open the Hub and to read some of her wonderful stories to the children.

Younger pupils heard the tale of Hedgehog and Tortoise, who learn what Christmas is all about in 'Merry Whatmas?' and they designed a bauble showing what Christmas means to them. Senior school pupils enjoyed the tale 'Owl or Pussycat' and some lucky children got to wear fun costumes for a little bit of role-play.

Many thanks to Polly for entertaining us all and for opening our new reading and learning space. - Mrs Sonn







# Violin



Last term the violinists entertained in an assembly, playing 'Silent Night', and 'Big Ben & Little Ben' with Mrs Pakenham accompanying on piano. They demonstrated how to produce a good tone with their bows in 'Silent Night', and also showed how the violin can be played 'pizzicato' (by plucking the strings) in 'Big Ben & Little Ben'. There are some spaces available for new pupils in violin and guitar - please contact the office for more information.

- Mrs Pakenham and Miss Bullen

# After School Clubs

## Spring Term 2024

### Junior Clubs (Reception to Year Two) 3.35pm - 4.10pm

**Monday**

Football (Mr Hunter)

**Tuesday**

Arts & Crafts (Mrs Dakin)

**Wednesday**

Makaton (Mrs Braidwood)

**Thursday**

Musical Theatre (Miss Doughty)

### Senior Clubs (Year Three Onwards) 4.10pm - 5.00pm

**Monday**

Stop Motion (Mr Hunter)

**Tuesday**

Origami (Mrs Sonn)

**Wednesday**

First Aid (Mrs Solomon)

**Thursday**

Comic Book (Miss Bennie)

Book Here:

[https://parents-  
booking.co.uk/tosh](https://parents-booking.co.uk/tosh)



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# PTFA

Thank you to the PTFA for organising our Christmas Fair in December and to everyone who came along and supported this school event and made contributions to the hampers and the stalls. We raised an incredible £855.

Our PTFA will be meeting on **Thursday 25th January** at 4.10pm to discuss events and ideas for the year ahead.

It would be great to have some new parents come and join us. Even if you are unable to help at events, fundraising ideas and support in other ways would be much appreciated so that we can continue to hold these great events for the children and school.





# 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 our mascot winners from this week:

Reception - Vincent

Year One - Florrie

Year Two - Hugo

Year Three - Darcie

Year Four - Minty

Year Five - Jayden







## Lunch Menu - w/c 15th January

MONDAY	Spaghetti and Meatballs served with Mozzarella Focaccia and Salad Bar (A,b,d,g,i)
TUESDAY	Chicken Kebabs in Flatbread and Salad Bar (A,b,d,g,i,n)
WEDNESDAY	Pork and Apple Burger, served with Herby Diced Potatoes & Salad Bar (A,b,d,g,i)
THURSDAY	Roast Chicken, Yorkshire Pudding, Stuffing & Roast Potatoes, Served with Seasonal Vegetables (A,b,d,g,i)
FRIDAY	Fish Cakes served with Chips, Garden Peas or Baked Beans and Salad Bar (A,b,d,e,g,i,n)

Daily - Selection of Fresh Fruit, Yoghurts, Cheese and Biscuits with a Sweet Treat on a Friday <sup>(g,b)</sup>

*Alternatives for vegetarian, vegans and food intolerances.*

(a=celery, b=gluten, c=crustaceans, d=eggs, e=fish, f=lupin, g=milk, h=molluscs, i=mustard, j=nuts, k=peanuts, l=sesame seeds, m=soya, n=sulphur dioxide)



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