



# THE OLD SCHOOL HENSTEAD

INDEPENDENT PREPARATORY SCHOOL



School Newsletter  
Summer Term  
23rd May 2025





We've loved looking after our resident ducks this half term and have been amazed by how quickly they're growing. The children have shown great care and gentleness in helping to look after them, and have been captivated by their daily adventures in the pen and paddling pool. Just like our pupils, the ducks are busy learning how to navigate the world - gaining confidence, growing fast and discovering new things every day.

Thank you so much to all the parents and grandparents who joined us for the Henstead Hike, and to everyone who has donated so generously. I'm thrilled to share that we have raised £600 so far, which is a wonderful reflection of how supportive and kind-spirited our Henstead community truly is. We had a fantastic day walking through some of the prettiest corners of our local area, enjoying both the scenery and each other's company. Along the way, we made two very welcome pitstops at the homes of Henstead pupils and their relatives, where we were treated to essential supplies of sweets and ice lollies, much appreciated by both children, parents and staff alike!

Wishing you and your families a restful and refreshing half-term break. I look forward to welcoming everyone back for what's set to be a busy and exciting final few weeks of term.

- Mrs Sonn





## Key Dates:

**Monday 2nd June** - New half-term begins

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**Thursday 5th - Friday 6th June** – Years 3 and 4 residential trip to the Warden's Trust Centre

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**Tuesday 10th June** – Prep school year group transition morning

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**Wednesday 11th June** – Summer disco

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**Wednesday 11th June** – Musical performances by Mrs Lincoln's pupils

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**Friday 13th June** – Parent-teacher meetings (afternoon)

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**Monday 16th June** – Sports Day and summer fair (From 1.30pm. Families welcome)

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**Tuesday 17th June** – Musical performances by Mrs Bullen's pupils

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**Wednesday 18th June** - Years 1-6 trip to Carlton Marshes and school overnight camp-out (for Years 3-6)

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**Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd July** - Prep school summer shows (evenings)

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**Friday 4th July** - Prep school Speech Day and last day of term (Families are welcome to join us for a picnic on the field from 12pm)

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





# Nursery

We will be accepting 30 hours funding from September. Please get in touch as soon as possible to let us know your requirements, so we can check the spaces available.

After the half-term holiday we will start topic planning, which will change on a half termly basis. Our next topic is all about minibeasts and each child will be provided with next steps to enhance their learning. Watch out for a memo on Tapestry which will explain these steps, the area of EYFS we are working on and the main focus of activities each week. We will also be updating you on your child's key person when we return to school at the beginning of next month.

- Mrs Gilham











## Junior School - Mrs Dakin's Class

The children have really enjoyed exploring our science topic on Ocean Animals. This week we focused on seahorses. We discovered that a baby seahorse is called a 'fry', and that seahorses can range in size from just 2cm to 35cm! To complement this learning the children created their own unique and beautifully designed seahorses.

On Monday some very excited children set out on a trip to Southwold Lighthouse-and what a day it was!

Our guide welcomed us and shared the incredible story of this amazing landmark! Built from 300,000 Victorian bricks, the lighthouse stands proudly at 31metres tall. We were a little out of breath as we climbed all 113 steps to the top. We learnt that the lighthouse first shone its light in 1890, originally powered by six oil wicks. It was automated in 1938 and now its powerful beam reaches an impressive 27 miles out to sea. One fun fact we discovered, every lighthouse is referred to as 'she'! It was a day of fun, learning and unforgettable views.

- Mrs Dakin











## Senior School - Mrs Braidwood's Class

This term, in English, we have been reading 'The Story of Tutankhamun' by Patricia Cleveland-Peck. The children have completed fact files on Tutankhamun and are currently working on engaging newspaper articles about the discovery of his Tomb. Last week, they were set a challenge to decipher a hidden message that was written in Egyptian Hieroglyphics. They worked in small teams and completed the task so quickly that they then had time to write their own names in Hieroglyphics too!

- Mrs Braidwood







## Senior School - Mrs Sonn's Class

Over the next few weeks we'll be exploring the lives and work of some brilliant British scientists. Each pupil has picked a scientist they find inspiring and will be finding out more about who they were, what they discovered and how they've made a difference to the world we live in today.

As part of their project, the pupils will be asking big questions like: What inspired this scientist? What challenges did they face? Why does their work still matter now?

Through research, discussions and creative tasks, they will step into the shoes of these fascinating figures, discovering how curiosity, determination and a love of learning can lead to amazing things!

- Mrs Sonn









# Props Club

Production for the summer show is in full swing! The children in the 'Set & Props Club' have made an excellent start on our backdrops this week.

- Mrs Braidwood







# Achievements

As always, we are so proud of all our children's extracurricular successes. Last weekend, Louiza competed in her first-ever equestrian show and came home with a third, fourth, and a special mention! Congratulations!



Congratulations to Beatrix, who recently achieved her Brown Belt in Karate.







# Show Rehearsals



As you most likely know, show rehearsals for the summer production have been in full swing this term! The children are all putting in an incredible amount of effort and energy into their performance and we are all proud of the progress they are making. We are hoping to be off script by the time we get back from the half-term holidays, so please make sure that you are all practising your lines at home!







# Senior School Music

The pupils have really enjoyed getting to grips with the ukulele. It's a fantastic first instrument for young musicians - easy to handle, quick to make progress on and a great way to build confidence and musical skills.







# Wales Trip

Years 5 & 6 headed to Wales for their residential trip. The bus journey there was filled with excitement, questions and lots of singing!

On arrival, the pupils got to have a look around the house they would be calling home for the week and chose the all-important question of who'd be staying in which room. This was followed by a quick Tesco shop to stock up with all the essential items they would need for their stay.

Day one saw us head off to Afon Du, where a gorge scramble awaited us. We couldn't have asked for better weather conditions, beautiful sunshine shone down on us as we worked our way up the gorge, through the elephant's bottom, abseiling down into a pool of water, before scrambling our way back to the top. A short hop over a fence and we had made it to the top, where we would jump 10ft into a plunge pool to cool off.











Wednesday saw us take on our biggest challenge; we headed up Mount Snowdon which stood at 1038m tall. It was a test on our physical and mental strength to just keep going when things got tough. This task was met head on with a can-do attitude and some excellent conversations which kept us going as we made it to the top in an amazing 2 hours 45 minutes! Once at the top, we were met with stunning views of Wales. Once back down to the bus, we headed to Llanberis where we had a swim in Lake Padarn to cool off.

Our last activity was paddle-boarding, the children showed great perseverance as they worked out how best to paddle, balance and work their way to the other side of the lake whilst standing up.

This week really showed just how teamwork and a can-do attitude can stand you in good stead.

A brilliant week was had by all. Well done everyone!

- Mr Hunter











# Henstead Hike

Thank you so much for your generosity in helping us to exceed our target to raise funds for our summer show. It is very much appreciated. We would also like to thank everyone that joined us along the way. All of the children did extremely well.















# Music Concerts

We're pleased to invite you to two upcoming assembly performances showcasing the hard work and musical talents of our pupils:



Wednesday 11th June – Mrs Lincoln's pupils

Tuesday 17th June – Mrs Bullen's pupils

We would love to see as many of you there as possible so we can celebrate their progress.







## Lunch Menu - w/c 2nd June

<b>MONDAY</b>	Jacket potato with cheese, beans or tuna
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Chicken and salad wraps
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Tomato pasta with sweetcorn and garlic bread
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Sausage, mashed potato and carrots
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Fish and chips with garden peas

Daily - Soup of the Day

Carrot/Cucumber/ Pepper Sticks

Piece of Fruit, Yoghurt, Raisins and Biscuit

*Alternatives for vegetarian, vegan and food intolerances.*





## Lunch Menu - w/c 9th June

MONDAY	Jacket potato with cheese, beans or tuna
TUESDAY	Chicken, waffles and beans
WEDNESDAY	Macaroni cheese with broccoli
THURSDAY	Beef burger or sausages with potato wedges and corn on the cob
FRIDAY	Pizza and carrot sticks

Daily - Soup of the Day

Carrot/Cucumber/Pepper Sticks

Piece of Fruit, Yoghurt, Raisins and Biscuit

*Alternatives for vegetarian, vegan and food intolerances.*





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