



THE OLD SCHOOL HENSTEAD

INDEPENDENT PREPARATORY SCHOOL



School Newsletter
Summer Term
9th May 2025



With two busy weeks already under our belts, it's been fantastic to see the pupils jump straight back into their learning with such enthusiasm. In Nursery, the children are exploring exciting new toys and embracing outdoor learning. Mrs Dakin's class is getting to grips with telling the time, puzzling over how to stop seagulls feasting on Mr Grinling's food in their current English story, The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch. Meanwhile, Mrs Braidwood's pupils are diving into the world of Ancient Egypt as they research Tutankhamun, and in my class we've been imagining what life might be like if England was flooded and Norwich became an island, inspired by our class novel Floodland. We're also busy researching notable British scientists in preparation for our upcoming assembly.

When they're not immersed in books or investigations, the children might be practising the high jump, learning how to care for ducklings, pitching a tent or growing their own vegetables in the school garden. There's a wonderful variety of hands-on, meaningful learning happening every day at Henstead.

On Monday, we'll be waving our oldest pupils off as they head to Snowdonia for the week - one of the true highlights of life at Henstead. The forecast looks kind, and we can't wait to hear all about their adventures when they return.

Bon voyage and happy exploring!

- Mrs Sonn





Key Dates:

Monday 12th - Friday 16th May - Year 5 and 6 residential trip to Wales

Monday 19th May - Stay and Play for Pre-reception pupils

Monday 19th May - Year 1 and 2 trip to Southwold Lighthouse

Wednesday 21st May - PTFA Quiz (families welcome!)

Friday 23rd May - Henstead Hike and last day of half-term (families and dogs welcome)

Monday 2nd June - New half-term begins

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

Tuesday 10th June – Prep school year group transition morning

Wednesday 11th June – Summer disco

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

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

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

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

Friday 4th July - Speech Day and last day of term (From 12pm)

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



PTFA Quiz Night

Our PTFA Quiz night will be held on Wednesday 21st May. Doors will open at 4.15pm, for a 4.30pm start in the school hall. As last year, the quiz will be for adults and children can stay at no charge and be cared for with a movie and games. (Year one to Year six).



We will again be ordering fish and chips, with options of cod/haddock or sausage and chips for adults and sausage and chips for children. Food will arrive just after the first half of the quiz at 5.15pm.

Tickets will be available to purchase next week.

Henstead Hike

Our Annual Henstead Hike will take place on Friday 23rd May. This year we will be raising money for our summer show - The Dream Thief.

We will be walking from Ness Point, Lowestoft to The Old School Henstead. The children will need to wear their school sports kit. Depending on the weather, they will also need their school raincoat, summer hat and sun cream.



We welcome you all to come and join us, from the start or at any part of the route.

More information and sponsorship forms will be sent out next week, as well as a Go Fund Me link.



Ducklings for Rehoming



Our ducklings are ready to find their forever home. If you are interested, please see Mr Hunter.

Hire of the Hall



We are delighted to offer the hire of our school hall for birthday parties.

If you would like more information, please see Leanne in the office.





Back to School

It was lovely to see the children so happy to be back and catching up with their friends after the holiday. Even the school ducklings looked pleased to be back!





Nursery

What a wonderful and busy couple of weeks we've had since returning to nursery. The sunshine has been on our side, giving us plenty of opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors—especially with our exciting new outdoor equipment, which has been a big hit with the children! It's been such a joy to have our nursery family back together again, and we've loved welcoming some new faces into our group too.

- Miss Coote



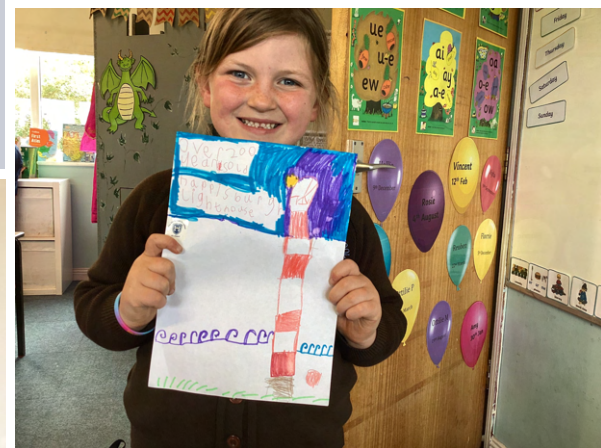




Junior School - Mrs Dakin's Class

What a great two weeks we have had back at school! We have enjoyed the sunshine where we can and look forward to all the exciting events this term brings!

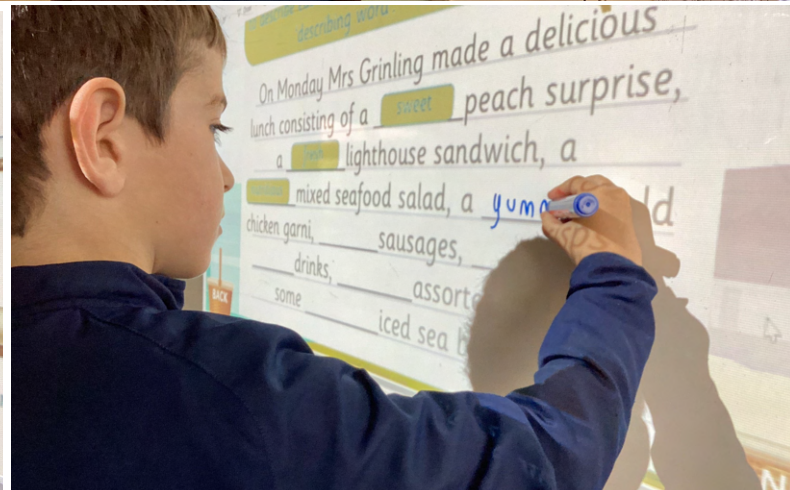
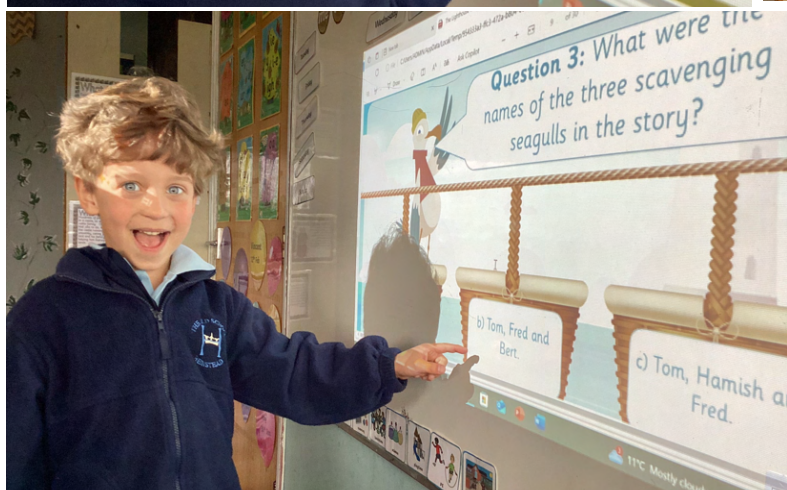
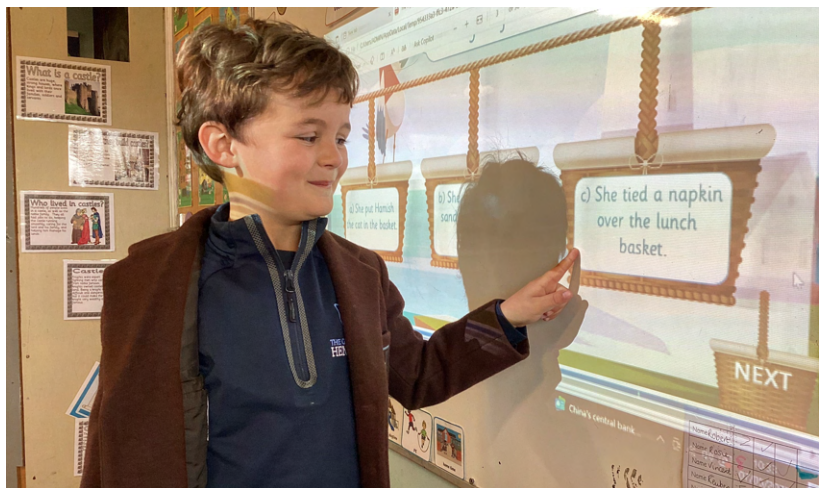
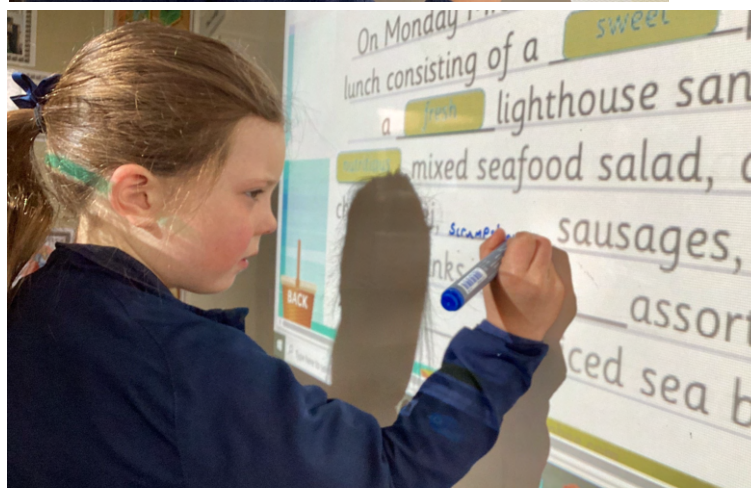
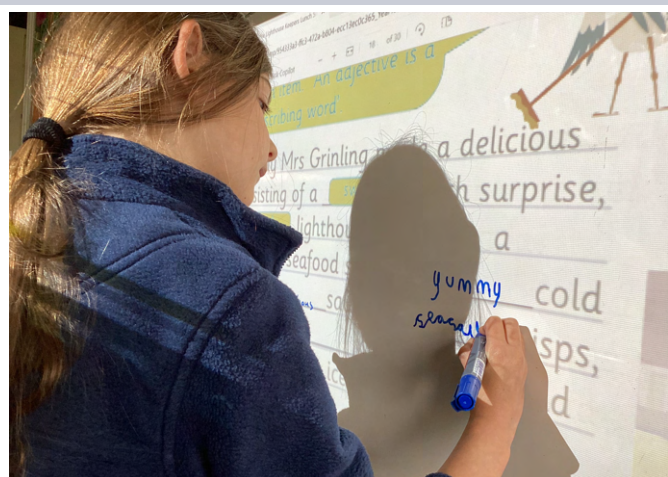
Our summer term English topic is based around 'The Lighthouse Keepers Lunch' story. In preparation for this, the children were asked to do some research during the Easter holiday on lighthouses and share their findings with the class. I have seen a variety of excellent presentations and offerings for our display, very well deserved A1's to several children so far.





Also in class, we have learnt about the characters in the story and answered comprehension questions on what Mr Grinling gets to devour for lunch everyday! The children have also created their own story boards about pesky seagulls and mustard sandwiches! Much more fun and learning is yet to be discovered in the topic. We have a trip soon to Southwold lighthouse where we will discover more about how these amazing structures work.

- Mrs Dakin





Senior School - Mrs Braidwood's Class

Over the Easter Holidays, the children in Years 3 and 4 completed a piece of research where they chose an important historical moment and created a diorama to illustrate it. This week the children presented their work, and together we learnt about the Mars rover landings, Dancing plague, the battle of Waterloo and opening of the Bournville factory. As always, I was impressed with how confident and prepared the children were for their presentations.

Well done, team!

- Mrs Braidwood



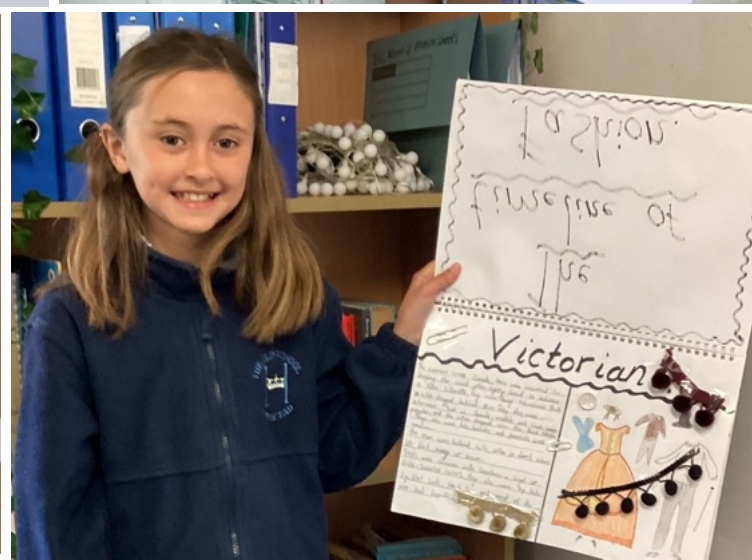




Senior School - Mrs Sonn's Class

On our return to school, we had the pleasure of listening to presentations our pupils had prepared on topics they're passionate about. From pet rats to origami to fashion through the ages to the moon landings, each talk was thoughtfully researched and delivered with great enthusiasm. It was a joy to see how much they'd learned, and equally inspiring to watch them build confidence, practise public speaking, and take pride in sharing something that matters to them. Opportunities like this are so valuable for developing communication skills and self-expression.

- Mrs Sonn





Food Tech

Last week our senior pupils rolled up their sleeves in Food Tech and made nettle soup from scratch. Along the way, they learned that nettles are packed with iron, calcium and vitamin C - great for giving the immune system a natural boost.

Who knew that something that stings could be so good for you? Nettles really know how to soup-rise us!

-Mrs Byard





Ducklings

Our ducklings are thriving and having a great time as they find their sea legs!

The children have been absolutely wonderful in caring for them and it's been lovely to see their gentle, nurturing sides shine through.

Our feathered friends may still be small, but they're making a big splash in school life and stealing hearts along the way!





Beach Trip

Buckets, splashes, sunny fun - beach days are number one!

We had a fantastic day at the beach last Thursday - how lucky we are to live so close. It's such a joy to be able to hop on the minibus and be building sandcastles and splashing in the waves in no time.

Beach days = best days!







Mascots

This half-term our school values are thinker and teamwork.

Last week's mascot winners were:

Year 1/2 - Hollie for great thinking during science about ocean animals.

Year 3/4 - Rose for excellent critical thinking in English.

Year 5/6 - James for his scientific thinking and reasoning.



This week's mascot winners are:

Year 1/2- Robert for thinking of great questions to ask in English.

Year 3/4 - Izaak for being a great team player and leader in rehearsals.

Year 5/6 - Layla for being such a great ambassador for the school.



Aristotle is going to visit Wales with the children next week and they are all going to look after him together. Mrs Sonn has been impressed with how hard all the children have been working and Layla wanted everyone to share Aristotle for the week.



House Competition (Golds)

Each week the children are awarded golds for good work and behaviour. These golds are individual awards and feed into the running total points for their house.

This week's winners were:

Waveney - Otilie

Deben - Vincent

Orwell - Otilie

Yare - Rosie



TTRS Champions

Well done to Otilie who was the highest climber on the school leaderboard this week!





LAMDA Results

Congratulations to Sophia, Izaak, Reuben, Ottilie, Louis and James, who passed their recent LAMDA exams with distinctions.

We're very proud of you all!





Lunch Menu - w/c 12th May

MONDAY	Jacket potato with cheese, beans or tuna
TUESDAY	Chicken with rice and peas
WEDNESDAY	Tomato pasta with sweetcorn and garlic bread
THURSDAY	Sausage, mashed potato and carrots
FRIDAY	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 19th May

MONDAY	Jacket potato with cheese, beans or tuna
TUESDAY	Chicken in a wrap with salad and mozzarella sticks
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

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