



THE OLD SCHOOL HENSTEAD

INDEPENDENT PREPARATORY SCHOOL



School Newsletter
Summer Term
20th June 2025



There's been a calm focus across the school this week as pupils tackled their end-of-year assessments. Walking along the path between classrooms, the quiet concentration was almost tangible. I'm always so proud of the way our boys and girls approach these moments—with maturity, determination, and their usual positive spirit. I have no doubt that the results will reflect the hard work they've put in throughout the year.

Meanwhile, in the Nursery, our youngest learners have been joyfully exploring their minibeasts topic. It's been a delight to see their enthusiasm as they learn about the tiny creatures that crawl, fly and wriggle through the natural world. I've spotted some fantastic artwork - colourful drawings and careful paintings - and heard lots of confident counting (minibeasts do make great subjects when it comes to legs and wings!). It's a topic that's clearly sparked their curiosity and creativity in equal measure.

- Mrs Sonn





Key Dates:

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

Friday 4th July - School and Nursery picnic, Prep school Speech Day and last day of term (Families are welcome to join us for a picnic on the field from 11.50am)

Monday 7th July - Friday 11th July - Summer Holiday Club

Monday 14th July - Friday 18th July - Summer Holiday Club

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



Nursery

As we come to the end of the academic year, we are busy getting our leavers 'Reception Class ready'. We have posted a checklist onto Tapestry for you to look at, so you can carry on these activities over the summer holidays to further help your child with their development and work on anything they find tricky.

We hope you are all enjoying seeing the group photos and videos on Tapestry of what your children are taking part in and learning at nursery each week. The boys and girls are busy cutting, sticking, building, counting and writing, which all help to develop their fine motor skills, hand eye coordination, focus and literacy skills.

We are looking forward to making the most of the last two weeks of the year, and will continue our Mini Beast topic for the rest of the term. The children love the different activities set out each week, and this theme has tapped into their natural curiosity about the world around them.

-Mrs Gilham





Junior School - Mrs Dakin's Class

This term in art, the children have been studying sculpture. We linked this to their learning about sea creatures in their topic lessons. This week, they completed the project by creating oil pastel habitats for their clay sea creatures to live in. I was impressed with the range of techniques they applied to their work and the beautiful colour choices they made. They also amazed me with the amount of oil pastel they manage to get onto themselves as well as their canvases!

-Mrs Dakin







Senior School - Mrs Braidwood's Class

The boys and girls had great fun in science this week exploring the fascinating world of reaction times. Using nothing more than a ruler and a sharp pair of reflexes, pupils worked in pairs to test how quickly they could respond to a falling object. One person held the ruler vertically, while their partner waited - eyes focused and hands ready - to catch it as soon as it was released.

There was plenty of laughter, a few surprised faces and even some friendly competition as the class discovered how small differences in distance could reveal big differences in reaction speed. This simple but effective experiment was a brilliant way to bring science to life, helping pupils understand how our nervous system works, and just how fast (or slow!) our brains and bodies can respond.

- Mrs Sonn





Outdoor Crafts Club

For the last few weeks at outdoor crafts club, we have been making pictures of animals using leaves, have been on a nature hunt to find all the colours in the rainbow and built junk modelling houses for outdoor animals. This week we took nature rubbings from outside equipment, trees, wooden stumps and even the tyres in the nursery!

-Miss Coote





Warden's Trust Centre Trip

The children in years three and four went on our annual trip to the Warden's Centre at the beginning of this term. This was the youngest group of pupils we have ever taken on a residential and despite the torrential rain and high winds, every single one of them camped the night and showed true resilience and determination.

On Thursday, we spent the morning preparing orienteering maps at school before heading over to Morrisons. Here, the pupils worked in two teams to collect the items on a shopping list that they would need to make the meals whilst we were away.

With much excitement, we then dropped off our bags at the Warden's Centre before heading out to the woodland near Sizewell to complete an orienteering challenge. Spirits remained high even during a downpour that lasted the entire walk back from the woods to the centre.

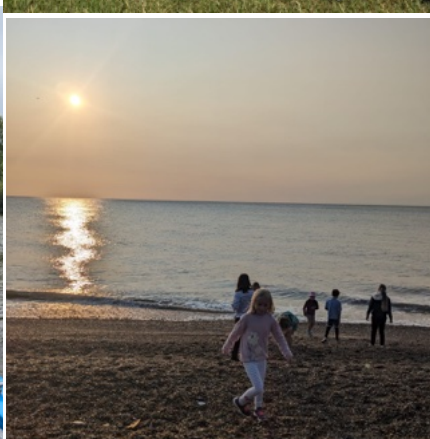
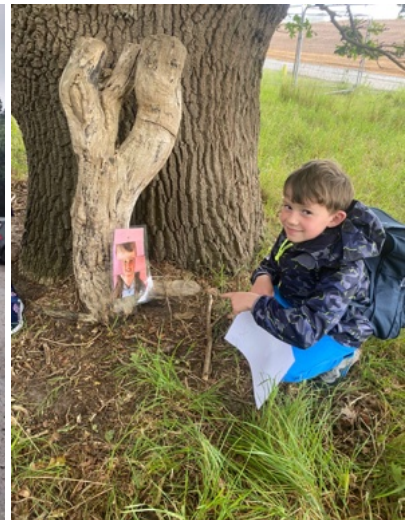
Once back - warm and safe - the children helped to erect their tents inside the centre as the high winds and continuous rain were not the first experience of camping that we wanted them to have!

On Friday, we had a very early morning start as the children awoke at dawn. We walked down to the beach for some beachcombing as the sun rose, had a leisurely breakfast and broke camp before hiking along the coast to Thorpeness for a morning of rowing on the mere. The children showed the true Henstead spirit through the whole trip and I am, as ever, proud of every one of them for how they rose to the challenges they faced.

- Mrs Braidwood









Props Club





Hensteads Got Talent

What began as a bit of fun soon turned into a whole-school celebration of creativity and confidence!

Last week, two of our pupils arrived at school eager to show their classmates a few magic tricks they had been practising at home. Their enthusiasm was infectious, and before long more children were keen to share their own hidden talents, from mindreading and magic tricks to singing and gymnastics.

Inspired by their initiative, we held two impromptu Henstead's Got Talent assemblies, giving pupils the chance to step into the spotlight and entertain their peers. It was a fun and heartwarming occasion, full of gasps of amazement and plenty of applause.

We look forward to seeing what hidden talents emerge in the future!

- Mrs Sonn







Summer Disco

The school summer disco was a dazzling success, with pupils throwing some serious shapes on the dance floor and showing off their best moves. DJ Braidwood kept the energy high and the dance floor buzzing with classic crowd-pleasers and non-stop fun. There was even time for the Conga!.







Henstead Hike

Once again, we would like to say a huge thank you to our Henstead parents and families for their generous donations for our Henstead Hike.

The total raised is £895!

Thank you! ❤️



Achievements

Congratulations to Ottilie, who achieved a distinction in her recent Imperial Classical Ballet examination.

Well done, we are very proud of you!





Mascots

Last week's winners were:

Year 1/2: Amy for achieving excellence in all of her assessments.

Year 3/4: Emma for her hard work and great progress in her maths assessments.

Year 5/6: Lexi for demonstrating excellence in her English assessments.



This week's winners are:

Year 1/2 - Ottilie for great improvement and trying her hardest on sports day.

Year 3/4 - Freddie for doing so well with all of his assessments and being a great team player.

Year 5/6 - James for putting his all into every single event on sports day.





House Golds

Last week's winners of the house gold awards were:

Orwell - Ottilie M
Waveney - James
Yare - Hazel
Deben - Monty



This week's winners of the house gold awards are:

Waveney - Rose
Yare - Emma
Orwell - Sophia
Deben - Louiza





ART EXHIBITION

04 JULY
2025

IN THE SCHOOL HALL

**KS2 CHILDREN'S
RESPONSE TO THE
QUESTION:**



**What is the most important
thing in life?**



Lunch Menu - w/c 23rd June

MONDAY	Jacket potato with cheese, beans or tuna
TUESDAY	Chicken and salad wraps
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 30th 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 (Nursery pupils only)

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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