



THE OLD SCHOOL
HENSTEAD

INDEPENDENT PREPARATORY SCHOOL



Henstead Headlines

Autumn Term
19th September 2025



Dear Henstead Families,

It has been a joy to see how quickly the children have settled back into the rhythm of school life, throwing themselves wholeheartedly into every opportunity. From harvesting potatoes, carrots and tomatoes in our school garden to exploring the awe-inspiring scale of the Titanic, their curiosity and enthusiasm have been shining through. The pride on their faces as they dug, picked and tasted their home-grown produce was wonderful to witness and a reminder of the simple joy that comes from working with nature.

Meanwhile, our Reception class has made an excellent start to their learning journey, embracing new routines with confidence and delight. It has been heartening to see pupils across the school guiding these newest members of the school, as well as reconnecting with old friends after the summer, and just as importantly, making new friends as they play together on the field.

What unites all of these moments is the children's resilience, kindness and eagerness to learn. These qualities will serve them well as the term unfolds, and I am deeply grateful for the support you give in helping them to flourish.





Key Dates:

Friday 26th September - Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church

Monday 29th September - Autumn Baking Competition

Tuesday 7th October - Mrs Sonn's class visit to the Norfolk & Suffolk Aviation Museum

Monday 13th October - Pumpkin Carving Contest

Wednesday 15th October - U8/11 Cross country @ Gosfield School, Halstead

Wednesday 15th October - Spooky Disco (Reception to Year 6)

Save the date: Friday 7th November - Henstead bonfire and fireworks night!

Monday 17th November - Flu Immunisations

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



Nursery

We have had a lovely first few weeks in nursery and all the children have settled in so nicely! Our topic for this term is all about me so we are talking to the children about our families and have some wonderful activities based on this for the children to engage with. We have been practicing our fine motor skills through scooping and pouring activities, cutting and painting.

- Miss Johnson





Reception



The children in Reception are learning all about colour in art this term! They have been mixing primary colours and doing a lot of painting. This week we went onto the big field to collect items to make 'nature brushes' so we could compare the patterns they made to 'art brushes'. What a fabulous start to art!

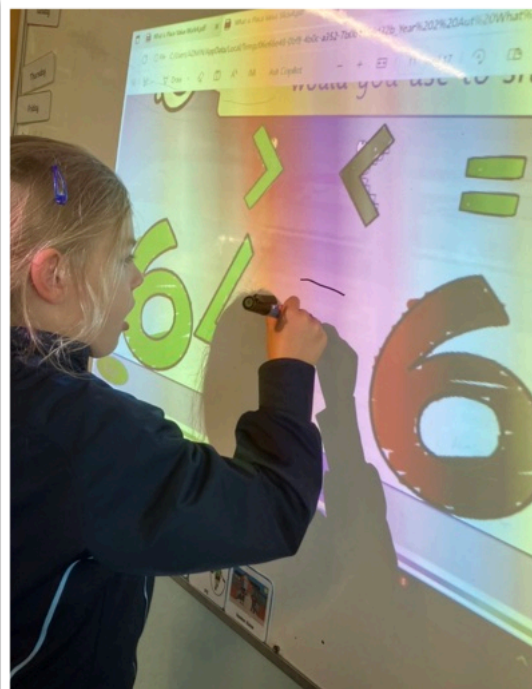




Junior School - Mrs Dakin's Class

Welcome back! Our classroom is alive again with laughter, energy and ideas! We've launched into our new topic all about 'Gravity'. This week we became scientists ourselves and explored the effect gravity has on everyday objects-using a spinner and paper clips to see the force in action. In Maths, we've been learning greater than, less than and equal to using their special symbols- can you remember them? We explored how numbers can be represented in different ways using ten sticks and ones. Then we compared numbers to see which were greater, less, or equal. Try this at home.

- Mrs Dakin





Senior School - Mrs Braidwood's Class

The children in years three and four have thrown themselves into life at Henstead. They have been doing so much great work that it made it difficult to choose the pictures to include in this week's newsletter! In English, we have been exploring figurative language, and the children created this incredible piece of shared writing about the character in the story we are reading:

"Late at night, Heather decided while her parents were asleep, that she would run away from home. Minutes felt like hours, as Heather was walking through the woods. Silver and shiny the moon lit up the path, Heather decided to follow. Blurry and unidentifiable shapes flew past Heather as she took off her glasses. Near the cotton rock Heather saw the bright moon. Cautiously stepping, the smell of wet dog and sap guided her along and the strong smell of condensation knocked her off track. Walking slowly along the path, she felt as scared as a newborn bird, her hands were quivering in fright."

In Humanities, we have been learning all about Life in Ancient Egypt. The children were amazed when we realised just how long ago the Egyptian civilisation began and have been animatedly discussing what life could be like using clues that have been left behind. I was impressed by the comparisons between life today and life then.

In art, our topic is 'portrait of a place'. The children spent a lesson capturing multiple mini sketches of the areas of our school that they felt drawn to. They paid great attention to the details and are capturing increasingly realistic representations of the world that surrounds them.

Well done team, what a fantastic start to the year!

- Mrs Braidwood





Senior School - Mrs Sonn's Class

Exploring the Titanic - This half-term, our class has embarked on an exciting new topic in English: the Titanic disaster. We began by imagining what it would have been like to first glimpse the magnificent ship at Southampton Docks, ready to board with all the crowds, luggage, and excitement of the day. We've also been learning about the different accommodation on board for 1st, 2nd and 3rd class passengers, and what life would have been like for each of them.

One of the most staggering facts we uncovered was the sheer size of the Titanic. At 269 metres long, it's hard to picture just how vast that really is. To help us, we took a measuring wheel and set off from school along the road to Raven's Farm. To our amazement, we discovered that the ship would have stretched around two-thirds of the way there — the length of three football fields!

Seeing this distance for ourselves truly brought home the scale of the Titanic and has fired up our imaginations. This sense of awe will certainly inspire the children's writing as we continue to explore the fascinating and tragic story of the ship that was thought to be 'unsinkable', over the weeks ahead.

-Mrs Sonn





'A Henstead Homecoming'

At the end of the summer term, we were delighted to welcome back two of our former pupils, Olivia and Charlotte, for a week of work experience. Their contributions were hugely valuable, and they quickly became part of daily life at the school, offering support and enthusiasm in every task.

Both Olivia and Charlotte loved being back at Henstead – walking the same paths they once did as pupils, sitting in classrooms filled with memories, and spending time on the field and in the hall where so many happy moments took place. They also enjoyed meeting today's pupils and seeing school life through their eyes.

It is wonderful to see how strong their connection to Henstead remains, and how the school continues to have a lasting impact on those who pass through. A huge thank you to Olivia and Charlotte for their time and effort – they will always be welcome back here.

- Mrs Sonn





A Fresh Start In The Garden

Our pupils have been busy from the very first week back, harvesting the fruits of their hard work from the school garden. Earlier in the year, they planted potatoes, carrots, and tomatoes, and it was wonderful to see them digging, picking and plucking their produce with such pride. There's something extra special about eating food straight from the garden – the flavours are so fresh and vibrant! The children have been learning how the seasons influence what we can grow and enjoy, and it's been a lovely reminder of the simple pleasure of home-grown food. We hope families enjoyed the delicious garden fayre, and perhaps shared in the excitement of tasting something that was just picked only a few hours before.

- Mr Hunter







Photography Club

This week was the first week of photography club. We talked about the different sorts of photography that you can create and then learnt about the 'Rule of Thirds'. The children then went out and used this knowledge to help them capture unique images of the school. As always, I am impressed by the children's creativity.

- Mrs Braidwood





Archery



Archery Club is off to a flying start this term!





Mascots

Last week's winners were:

Reception - Henry for trying his best and starting reception with confidence.

Y1/2 - Robert for trying his hardest each day with resilience.

Y3/4 - Florrie for throwing herself into year three and putting so much effort into all of her work.

Y5/6 - Tabitha for demonstrating great resilience during her first few days as a new pupil.



This week's winners were:

Reception - Julius for showing confidence coming in every morning, and producing some wonderful work on dinosaurs.

Y1/2 - Rosie for confident and fluent reading, and working hard on her handwriting.

Y3/4 - Otilie for her growing confidence in class.

Y5/6 - Beatrix for making an effort in all that she does.





ISA Art Competition Entrants 2025

We are proud to announce that we are entering our children's work into four categories in the ISA art competition this year. We have entries for the Key Stage Two: 3D sculptural competition, photography competition, drawing competition and 2D art competition. We will keep our fingers crossed for them all!

-Mrs Braidwood



Achievements



Last weekend, Otilie took part in a church bike ride to raise funds for the Historic Churches Trust. She cycled an impressive 18km, visiting seven different churches along the way – and was even presented with flowers at one stop!

What a fantastic achievement, Otilie. You've shown real determination and a wonderful example of putting others before yourself. We are all very proud of you!



Individual Music Lessons at Henstead

We are delighted that our music teacher, Rebecca George-Broom, will now be offering one-to-one piano lessons. Rebecca already has an excellent relationship with the children through her class music teaching, so this will be a wonderfully smooth transition for pupils continuing or beginning their musical journey.

If you are interested in your child learning the piano – or another musical instrument – please speak to Leanne in the office for further details.



Social Media

See the magic of Henstead – follow us on **Facebook & Instagram!**

Want to see what our pupils are up to? Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates from school, trips, and special events.

It's a fun way to stay connected and see all the exciting moments happening at Henstead.



Instagram – @theoldschoolhenstead



Facebook – @theoldschoolhenstead



Upcoming Events



Henstead Presents The

Autumn Baking Competition

Prizes for: EYFS KS1 & KS2

Best Decorated

Most Creative Autumn Bake

JUDGING COMMENCES ON
MONDAY 29TH OF SEPTEMBER.

ALL CAKES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO BUY
WITH PROCEEDS GOING TO THE SCHOOL!

What will you make?



HENSTEAD PRESENTS

PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST

13.10.25
MONDAY 13TH OCTOBER

EYFS, KS1 & KS2 PRIZES

Pumpkins do not need to be carved but must be decorated (you could try painting them or decoupage)



Henstead Presents
The

SPOOKY DISCO!

15TH OCTOBER 2025
RECEPTION - YEAR 6

FANCY DRESS OPTIONAL



Lunch Menu - w/c 22nd September

MONDAY Jacket potato with cheese, beans or tuna
Nursery - Pasta carbonara

TUESDAY Chicken fajitas
Nursery - Homemade pitta pizza and salad

WEDNESDAY Pasta carbonara
Nursery - Beef burger, chips and corn on the cob

THURSDAY Sausage, mashed potato and peas
Nursery - Roast chicken, seasonal veg, boiled potatoes and yorkshire pudding

FRIDAY Fish and chips with garden peas
Dessert of the week

Daily salad/fruit bar and yoghurt

Alternatives for vegetarian, vegan and food intolerances.



Lunch Menu - w/c 29th September

MONDAY Jacket potato with cheese, beans or tuna
Nursery - Tomato pasta and meatballs

TUESDAY Chicken salad wraps
Nursery - Ham and cheese wraps

WEDNESDAY Roast Chicken, seasonal veg, potatoes and Yorkshire pudding
Nursery - Cottage pie and seasonal veg

THURSDAY Beef burgers, potato wedges and corn on the cob
Nursery - Roast chicken, seasonal veg, boiled potatoes and yorkshire pudding

FRIDAY Fish and chips with garden peas
Dessert of the week

Daily salad/fruit bar and yoghurt

Alternatives for vegetarian, vegan and food intolerances.



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