



THE OLD SCHOOL
HENSTEAD

INDEPENDENT PREPARATORY SCHOOL



Henstead Headlines

Autumn Term
14th November 2025



Coming Together as a Community

Over the past week, our school and wider community have come together for two very different occasions. Bonfire Night was a wonderful celebration of warmth, light and togetherness - a chance for families and friends to gather, enjoy the spectacle and celebrate all that makes our community so special.

In contrast, our Remembrance Day service offered a moment of quiet reflection, as we paused to honour those who gave their lives in service to others. Our pupils sang beautifully in church, their clear, pure voices filling the space with a sense of hope and peace. It was a moving and uplifting occasion, reminding us of the importance of unity, gratitude and remembrance.

Both events, though very different in tone, highlight the strength of our community spirit and the values we hold dear: celebration, respect and care for one another. Thank you to everyone who took part and supported these special moments in our school calendar.

- Mrs Sonn





Key Dates:

Monday 24th November - School Photographs

Thursday 20th - Tuesday 25th November - Book Fair

Monday 8th December - Nursery nativity

Wednesday 10th December - Years 1 to 4 Nativity

Thursday 11th December - Carol service at St Mary's Church, Henstead

Friday 12th December - Last day of term

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



Nursery

The children had a fantastic start to the week as they celebrated World Science Day with a fun “Will It Float or Sink?” experiment on Monday, predicting and testing how different objects will behave in the water. They also explored colour through mixing paints in the tuff tray, experimenting with shades and predicting what new colours will be made. Towards the end of the week, we enjoyed a range of Pudsey-themed activities for Children in Need, including baking and decorating Pudsey biscuits, creating their own colourful Pudsey masks, and taking part in finger-painting activities that supported the development of their fine motor skills. We would also like to warmly welcome our new practitioner, Jasmine to the team!

-Miss Johnson







Reception

Last week was all about bonfire and fireworks night!

The children loved creating their own bonfire art piece using lots of different mediums in art with Mrs Braidwood. They have also enjoyed mark-making fireworks on holographic scratch paper.

We talked about why we have bonfire and fireworks night, they also had fun reciting the poem "Remember, remember the 5th of November"

In Maths the pupils have been practising their adding and subtracting skills using bead strings and showing fantastic counting.

In Spanish, they played a fun game listening to the colours in Spanish and standing next to the colour. demonstrating listening and language skills. They also coloured in a rainbow using the colours they have learnt in lessons.

- Mrs. Webster



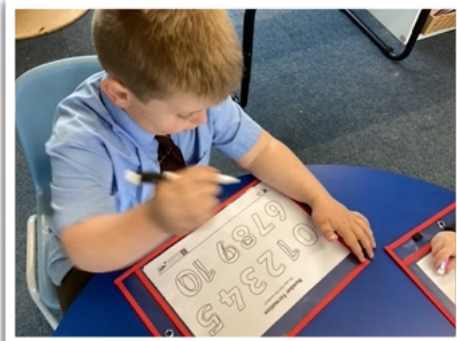


This week in Reception, we have been learning all about Remembrance Day. The children created their own beautiful poppy pictures using their handprints and tissue paper. In maths we explored subtraction using confers and numicon and the children have been practising writing their numbers carefully.

English, we focused on cvc words and the children wrote them beautifully in their books adding wonderful matching pictures to show their understanding.

We also sat and discussed different emotions and the children took part in an activity where they had to sort picture cards into the right categories happy, sad, angry.

- Mrs. Webster





Reception Art

This week, the boys in reception have been working on some topical artwork! They used kitchen towel rolls to make stamps and chalk to create building outlines to create their very own firework displays. They all focused incredibly well and I particularly enjoyed the sound effects that came with each stamp they made.

- Mrs Braidwood





Junior School - Mrs Dakin's Class

Testing Our Reflexes

The pupils became scientists as they explored how quick their reflexes are. Working in pairs, one held a ruler while the other had to catch it as quickly as possible when it was dropped - no touching it early!

They recorded their results to see who had the fastest reactions and thought about what might affect how quickly we respond. The activity led to some brilliant discussions as pupils discovered just how amazing - and sometimes surprising - our bodies can be.

- Mrs Sonn





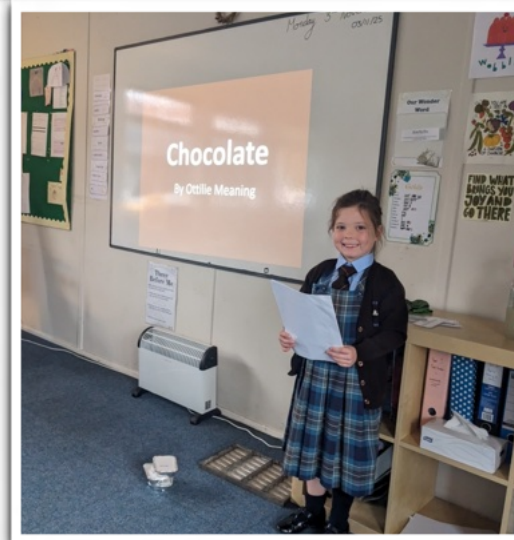
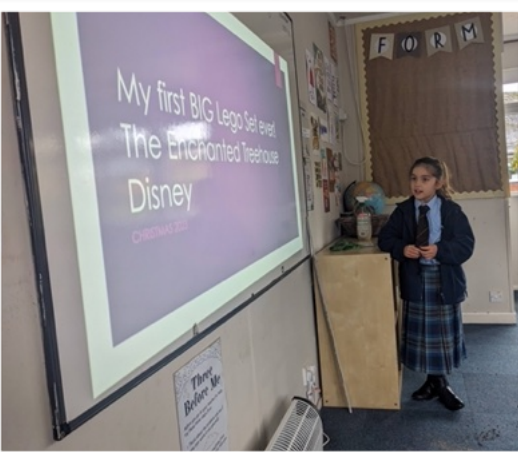
Senior School - Mrs Braidwood's Class

Over the half-term holidays, I asked the children in my class to research and put together a presentation. They could choose whatever topic they wanted as long as they could come in and teach us about what they had learnt. What I enjoy most about this project is that the children all choose to present their work in such interesting ways. Some children created films or PowerPoint presentations, while others made display boards or bought a collection of images to talk about. Each presentation was unique and extremely interesting.

They covered topics such as mushrooms, Dorothy Hodgkin, Exmoor ponies, chocolate, Lego, a leprosy island, how to look after dogs and Queen Mary's Bower at Chatsworth. The pupils all did a fantastic job and presented with authority and confidence. I am so proud of them all and I know that they all feel proud of what they have achieved too!

- Mrs Braidwood







Senior School - Mrs Sonn's Class

Exploring LOB and the Legend of the Green Man

Have you heard of The Green Man, the ancient symbol of nature and renewal? This half-term, pupils have been exploring LOB, a captivating story inspired by this legend. Through visualisation and annotation work, they imagined the mysterious woodland world of LOB and examined the rich language and imagery that bring the tale to life. The boys and girls have shown great creativity and insight, producing thoughtful interpretations of this atmospheric and thought-provoking story. They are really enjoying the book, and it's wonderful to see them engaging with the text so enthusiastically.

- Mrs Sonn





Science

Vikings, Science and Homemade Butter!

This week, pupils discovered how the Vikings used science to make their food last longer, and they even had a go at making their own butter. Using jam jars and double cream, the children shook their mixtures until the butterfat and buttermilk separated. After sieving, washing and adding a pinch of salt, they wrapped their homemade butter, ready to chill. There was lots of vigorous shaking (and tired arms!) as pupils took turns to churn, and everyone was amazed by how a simple ingredient could turn into something so delicious. It was a brilliant, hands-on way to bring science, history and food technology together

- Mrs Sonn





Worlingham Cross-country

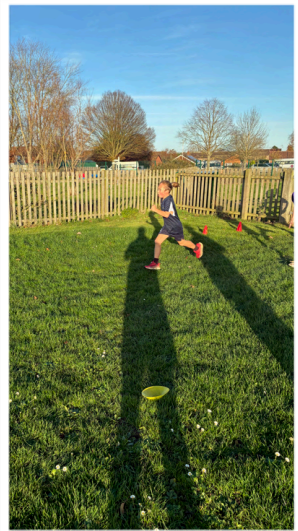
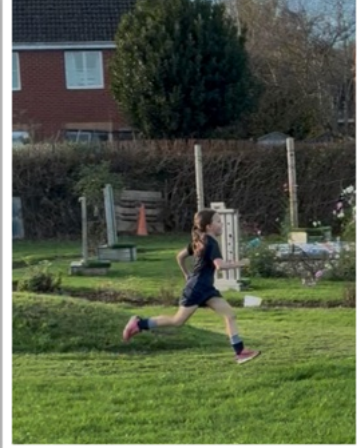
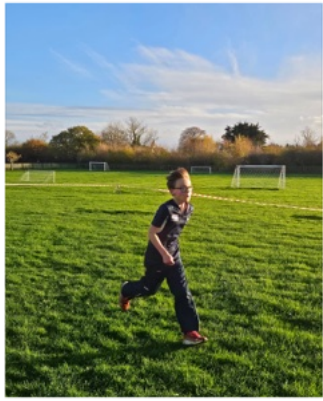
Our pupils took part in the Worlingham Cross Country Competition this week and gave an outstanding performance! Everyone showed great determination, enthusiasm and teamwork throughout the event.

The Under 9 Girls team ran brilliantly, finishing 1st overall, with Florrie coming 2nd, Anna 3rd, Margot 5th and Ottilie P 6th. Reuben also ran with great effort.

The Under 11 Girls team achieved an excellent 3rd place overall, and all of our runners represented the school with pride and energy, supporting one another from start to finish.

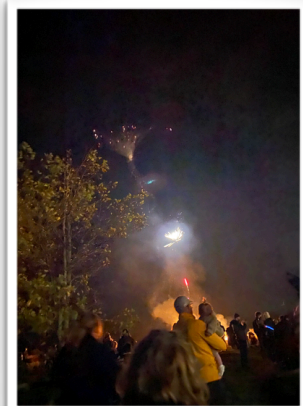
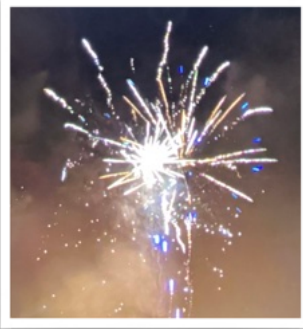
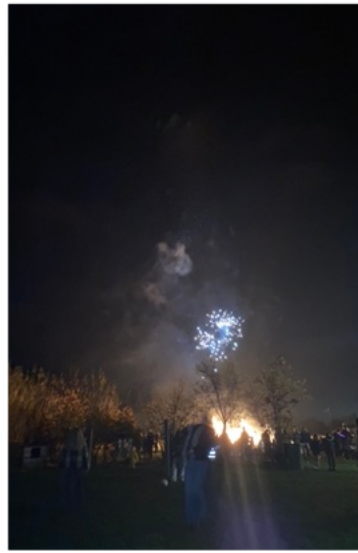
We are incredibly proud of every pupil who took part - a fantastic team effort all round!







Bonfire and Fireworks Night





Remembrance Service





ISA Awards

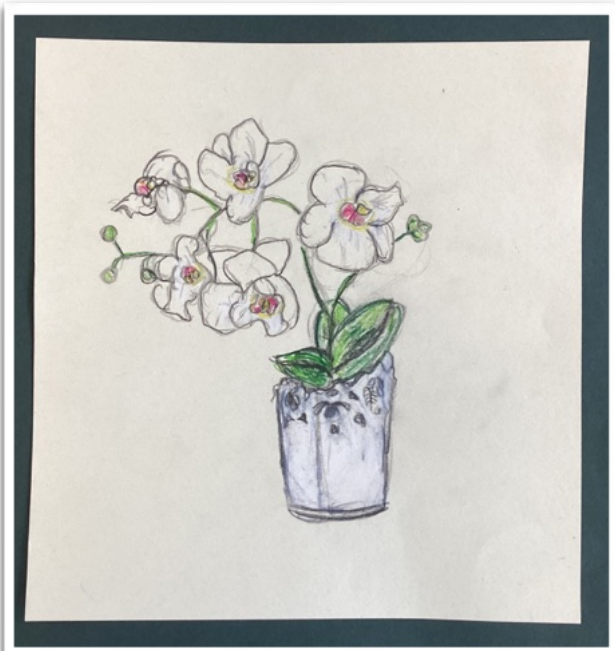
We are incredibly thrilled to announce that we have placed for the second year in a row at the ISA EAST regional art competition. The children's art at Henstead is going from strength to strength and we couldn't be prouder of our pupils.

Hazel - 1st place for her 'Book Burger' sculpture in the 3D Art category.

Emma - 2nd place for her 'Portrait of an orchid' drawing in the drawing category.

Margot - 2nd place for her beautiful 'Pink Vibrations' in the photography category.

- Mrs Braidwood





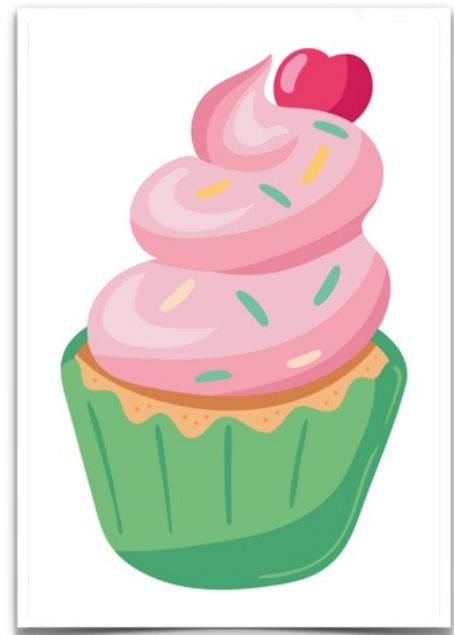
School Council Cake Sale & Bonfire Night

A big thank you to all the parents and families who baked, donated and bought cakes at our Bonfire Night event, and to all those that attended. Thanks to your generosity, the School Council raised an amazing £135 through cake sales. The Council is now discussing how to spend the money to benefit the school community, and we'll share their plans soon.

Overall, we raised £1322 from the event, which will go towards resources that directly benefit the pupils.

Your support really makes a difference - thank you!

- Mr Hunter



Welcome Back, Julius!

We're delighted to have Julius back after his operation. It's great to see him settled back into school with his friends.





Mascots

Last week's winners were:

Reception - Henry for showing great kindness and compassion to his friends.

Year 1/2 - Robert who has back to school this term with fantastic attitude.

Year 3/4 - Amy for her enthusiasm towards her self project and for the initiative to start her own club.

Year 5/6 - Johnny for settling in so well at Henstead.



This week's winner are:

Reception - Oskar for his determination and neat handwriting in English.

Year 1/2 - Rosie for her enthusiasm in maths and her great work with number bonds.

Year 3/4 - Ayla for her effort and great results in her end-of-unit maths assessments.

Year 5/6 - Emma for her focus and determination in maths this term.



House Golds

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

Deben - Florrie

Orwell - Anna

Waveney - Rose

Yare - Rosie



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

Orwell - Beatrix

Yare - Hazel

Deben - Lexi

Waveney - Margot



Children in Need



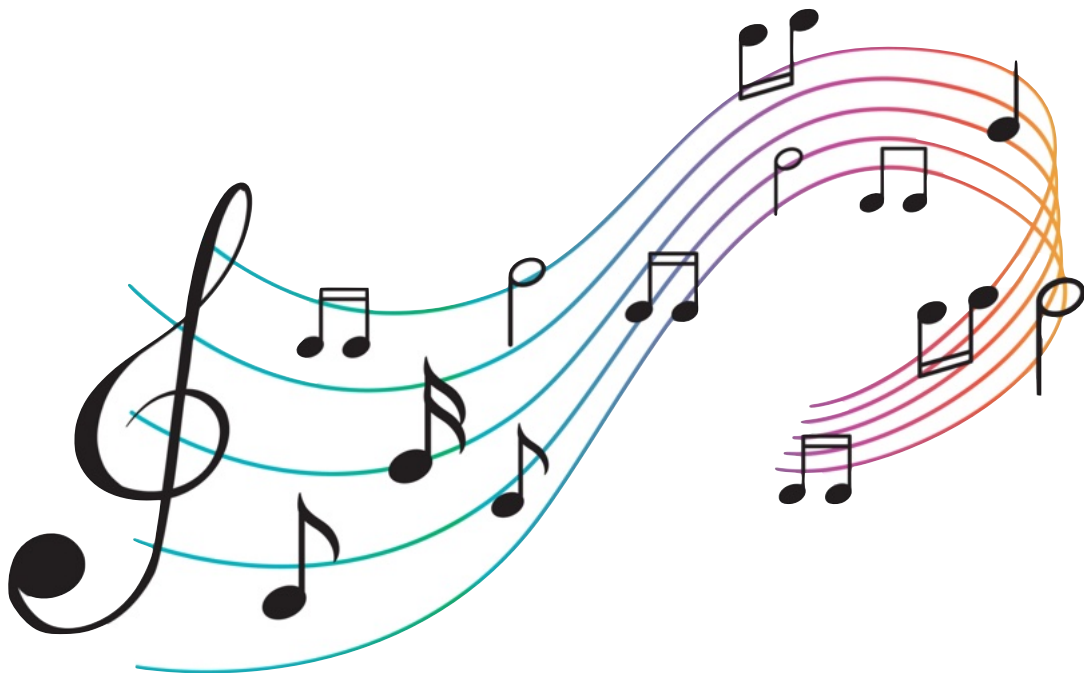


Music Lessons with Mrs George-Broom

Our music teacher, Mrs Rebecca George-Broom, offers one-to-one lessons in piano, recorder, flute, saxophone, and clarinet.

Lessons are fun, confidence-building, and open to all abilities, and pupils are welcome to try a taster session before committing.

If your child is interested, please contact the school office for more details.





Lunch Menu - w/c 17th November

MONDAY	Pesto pasta Nursery: Lasagne & garlic bread
TUESDAY	Cottage pie with seasonal vegetables
WEDNESDAY	Roast chicken, boiled potatoes and seasonal vegetables
THURSDAY	Sausage, mash & peas
FRIDAY	Homemade sausage roll & potato wedges Dessert of the week

Soup served daily
Salad/fruit bar and yoghurt

Alternatives for vegetarian, vegan and food intolerances.



Lunch Menu - w/c 24th November

MONDAY	Jacket potato with cheese, beans or tuna Nursery: Lasagne & garlic bread
TUESDAY	Lasagne served with broccoli Nursery: Cottage pie and seasonal vegetables
WEDNESDAY	Beef stew Nursery: Sausage, mash & peas
THURSDAY	Homemade pizza with a choice of toppings
FRIDAY	Hot dogs Dessert of the week

Soup served daily
Salad/fruit bar and yoghurt

Alternatives for vegetarian, vegan and food intolerances.



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](https://www.instagram.com/theoldschoolhenstead)



Facebook – [@theoldschoolhenstead](https://www.facebook.com/theoldschoolhenstead)





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