



THE OLD SCHOOL  
HENSTEAD

INDEPENDENT PREPARATORY SCHOOL



# *Henstead Headlines*

Autumn Term  
28th November 2025



**It's beginning to look and sound a lot like...**

The last couple of days have brought that unmistakable shift in the air, crisp, bright mornings, hats and scarves appearing and wellies stomping happily across the field. Around the school, the signs of the season are gathering too: rehearsals for both Nativities are well underway, costumes and props are popping up in classrooms and corridors, and those magical carols we only hear at this time of year are starting to drift out of the buildings and along the paths.

The pupils are eagerly looking forward to decorating their classrooms, and the whole school is beginning to take on that special buzz and an air of preparation that December always brings.

This is genuinely my favourite time of year at Henstead, not just because of the tinsel and the lights (though they help!), but because I get to share in the children's excitement and see the festivities through their eyes. It's a wonderful reminder of how joyful this season can be.

- Mrs Sonn



## *Key Dates:*

**Monday 8th December** - Nursery nativity

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**Wednesday 10th December** - Years 1 to 4 nativity

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

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**Friday 12th December** - Christmas jumper day and last day of term

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





## *Carol Service*

You are warmly invited to our school Carol Service on Thursday 11th December, at which the school choir will be performing. The service will begin at 4.30pm at St Mary's Church, Henstead.

All heaters will be on, however the Church can be cold, so please all wrap up warm!

We look forward to celebrating Christmas with you!



## *Christmas Post*

We're excited to share that Monday 1st December is the first day our School Christmas Post Box will be open!

Pupils are welcome to bring in their Christmas cards and post them into our special school post box each morning.

Our very own Christmas Elves will collect and deliver the cards to classrooms, helping spread festive cheer throughout the school!

Happy posting!



## *Christmas Jumper Day*



Friday 12th December will be our Christmas Jumper day!

Children may come to school wearing their Christmas jumpers over their uniform.





## Nursery

### Gross-motor Fun in the School Hall!

This week, the children enjoyed a wonderful session in the school hall, where they had the chance to climb, balance and slide on the soft-play equipment. They showed great confidence as they explored the different pieces, testing out their physical skills and having lots of fun along the way.

There were also plenty of ride-on toys to zoom around on, which encouraged turn-taking, coordination and big smiles all round! It was a joyful, active afternoon and the children loved every moment.

- Miss Doughty











# Reception

The pupils have been practising their subitising skills through games, working incredibly hard on their number formation.

Phonics: The children have been working in their phonics workbooks and it's wonderful to see them growing in confidence! They also decided to create their own puppet show titled The Autumn Show. They used a selection of puppets to perform, working brilliantly together. What a fabulous performance! Earlier in the week we were excited to see a flurry of snow, if only for a few minutes!

- Mrs. Webster







## *Junior School - Mrs Dakin's Class*

This week in phonics, the children took part in an exciting and active learning challenge focused on the Phase 5 grapheme 'ou'. To help build confidence in recognising and applying this spelling pattern, we played a phonics word hunt in the classroom! The lesson began with them searching for hidden 'ou' word cards. Once a child discovered a word, their next job was to read it aloud, paying close attention to the 'ou' grapheme and the sound it makes in words like shout, round and cloud. After reading their word, they were challenged to use it in a full sentence, helping them to develop both vocabulary and sentence writing skills. To deepen their phonological awareness, the pupils then clapped out the syllables in each hidden word. It was great to see them so engaged, confident and enthusiastic about applying their phonics knowledge in a fun, meaningful way. Well done phonics superstars!

-Mrs Dakin





# *Senior School - Mrs Braidwood's Class*

**May the Force Be With You!**

This half-term in science, we have been diving into the fascinating world of forces and magnetism - and this week, what began as a simple science lesson quickly grew into one of the most exciting class discussions we've had so far.

We started by looking at Newtons, the unit we use to measure how strong a push or pull force is. The children were intrigued to learn that Sir Isaac Newton has not only shaped our understanding of gravity, but also given his name to the measurement we use every day in science. Their curiosity didn't stop there: one great question led to another, and soon we were talking about the Earth's magnetic core, how our planet acts like a giant magnet and why compasses point north.

This opened the door to an even more magical topic: the aurora borealis and aurora australis. The class was captivated as we explored how charged particles from the Sun interact with the Earth's magnetic field to produce those breathtaking lights in the skies.

In the next lesson, we carried out an experiment using Newton meters to measure the force needed to pull different objects. The pupils carefully predicted which items would require the greatest force, tested their ideas, recorded their results and compared their findings. Their conclusion? That the force needed depends on both the weight of the object and the amount of friction between the object and the surface - an impressive bit of scientific reasoning for such young learners.

At this age, one of the most important aims of science is to spark awe and wonder about the world around us. Judging by the excitement, the brilliant questions and the wide-eyed conversations so far this half-term, we've certainly achieved that - the learning has really pulled the pupils in!

-Mrs Sonn









# Senior School - Mrs Sonn's Class

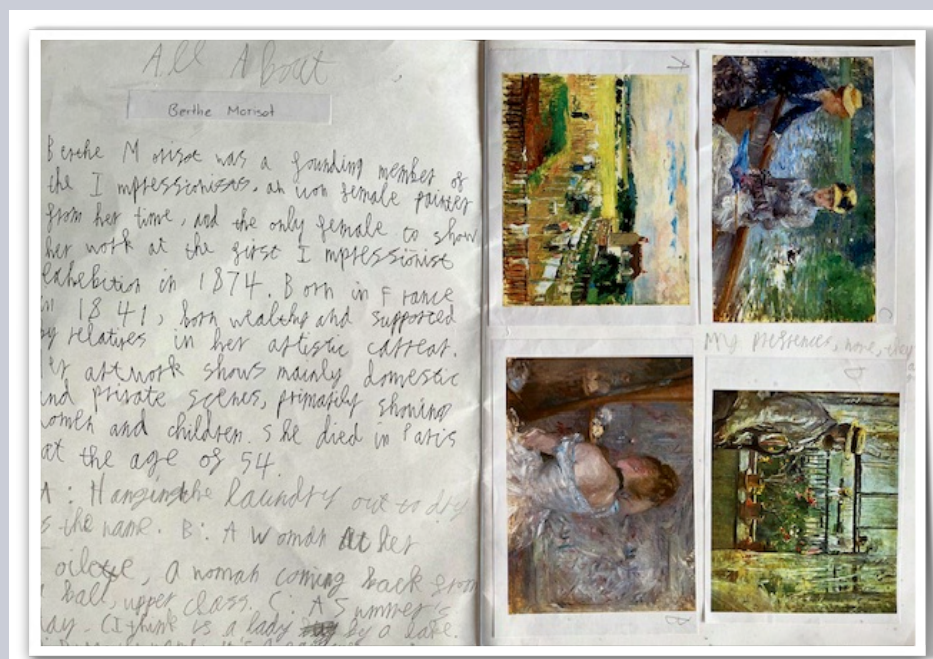
## Studying the Masters of Impressionism

This half-term in Art, the class has been exploring the vibrant world of the Impressionist movement. Each pupil has chosen an Impressionist artist to research, with popular choices including Manet, Monet, Pissarro and Cézanne.

Their research has focused on discovering what made their chosen artist unique—their life, influences and the signature techniques that helped shape the Impressionist style. From Monet's shimmering water reflections to Cézanne's bold colour blocks and Pissarro's textured brushwork, pupils have begun to recognise just how experimental and innovative these artists were.

Once their research was complete, pupils selected one artwork by their chosen artist and set about recreating it. They have been paying careful attention to colour, brushstroke techniques, composition and the overall mood of the original piece. The results are already looking fantastic, and I look forward to sharing their finished work soon.

- Mrs Sonn







# Claude Monet

He was a French painter.  
He was born on 14 November 1840 and died on 5th Dec 1926.  
He is the founder of Impressionism.  
His most well-known painting is 'Water Lilies'.  
He was a classmate of Auguste Renoir.

# FACTS ABOUT CAMILLE PISSARRO

He was born on the 10th of July 1830 and died on the 19th of November 1903, aged 73.  
He joined the Impressionist movement at the age of 51 and his paintings were featured in all 8 Impressionist exhibitions.

He was born on the island of Saint Thomas and moved to Paris in 1855.  
His dad, Eugène, was Portuguese-Jewish and his mum, Rachel, was French-Jewish.  
He was friends with Claude Monet and Edgar Degas.

# PAUL CEZANNE

Cezanne is often considered the "father" of modern art and a big influence on later artists.

His unique painting style was criticized by critics and the public.

As a young man, Cezanne he painted on the wall in his family's living room in his family's mansion.

Paul Cezanne was a Impressionist painter who was a childhood friend of the writer Emile Zola.

# About

1. Born: 14 January 1841, Bordes de France.
2. Died: March 1895, Paris, France.

Berthe Morisot was the first female member of the Impressionist group of artists in the 19th century.

She painted quickly and gave the Impression of what she was looking at.

# Berthe Morisot

She had two older sisters, Edouard, and a younger brother, Tiburce.

# CLAUDE MONET

Monet liked the sea and loved painting the coast.

Born in 1840 and died in 1926 aged 86.

He was a founder of Impressionism, known for Landscapes like water lilies and poppies.

After Sorrow became blind, he was advised to paint pictures.

Paul Cezanne was a French Impressionist painter known for his influential work that bridged Impressionism and modernism. He was a prolific artist who painted over 3,000 works, including landscapes, still lifes, and portraits. He is often called the "father of Post-Impressionism".

What is Paul Cezanne's most famous painting?

Paul Cezanne's most famous painting is 'The Card Players', which is one of his still life paintings of people playing cards.





# *Sewing Club*

## Sewing Club Creations

Our Sewing Club pupils have been busy stitching up a storm this term! Using simple materials like socks and gloves, they've created their own cuddly companions, from characterful little cats to brilliantly crafted glove bears. The children have loved learning basic sewing skills, stuffing and shaping their creations and adding unique details to bring each toy to life.

As you can see from the photo, the results are imaginative and full of personality. Well done to our young makers for their creativity and careful craftsmanship.

- Mrs  
Karliychuk







# Mascots

Last week's winners were:

**Reception-** Julius for showing great courage and resilience during and after his operation.

**Year 1/2-** Vincent for his enthusiasm and imaginative approach to creating his own planet in Science.

**Year 3/4-** Anna for her super effort in the cross country competition at Worlingham

**Year 5\6-** Lexi for some wonderfully creative writing and poetry in English.



This week's winner are:

**Reception** - Lennon for trying hard in phonics and blending his words like a superstar!

**Year 1/2** - Robert for how confidently he solved maths questions in his head during the end of term maths assessments.

**Year 3/4** - Margot for her retelling of the story 'The Uncorker of Ocean Bottles'.

**Year 5/6** - Hazel for doing lots of thoughtful jobs this week which have helped staff and other pupils.





## *House Golds*

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

Orwell - Ottilie M

Deben - Florrie

Waveney - Rose

Yare - Reuben







## *Lunch Menu - w/c 1st December*

<b>MONDAY</b>	Pesto pasta
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Homemade pitta pizza with a choice of toppings
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Roast chicken, new potatoes and seasonal vegetables
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Sausage, mash and peas
<b>FRIDAY</b>	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 8th December*

<b>MONDAY</b>	Jacket potato with cheese, beans or tuna <b>Nursery: Pesto pasta</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Roast chicken, new potatoes and seasonal vegetables
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Beef stew <b>Nursery: Sausage, mash &amp; peas</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Homemade pizza with a choice of toppings
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Christmas buffet  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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