



THE OLD SCHOOL
HENSTEAD

INDEPENDENT PREPARATORY SCHOOL

It has been a busy and productive half term across the school. This week, pupils have been completing their assessments, which help us understand how they are developing and where to focus next.

Assessments are just one part of the bigger picture, but they are a useful way for us to make sure each child is being supported and challenged appropriately. We have been very proud of the calm and positive way the pupils have approached them.

Please do check the key dates in this newsletter, as there is lots happening next week that we would love you to be part of.

We also hope to see you at our inaugural Easter Fayre on Saturday 28th March, which is shaping up to be a fantastic event.

Mrs Sonn



Henstead Headlines

Spring Term
20th March 2026



Key Dates:

Monday 23rd March – Sponsored Bikeathon

Round two of pupils versus teachers. We would be very grateful for a few pennies of sponsorship from families.

Tuesday 24th March – Inter-house Cross-country competition

Wednesday 25th March - Pupil Easter Bonnet Parade

8.45am in the Orchard. Please join us for some hat-filled hilarity.

Thursday 26th March - Junior school trip to Time & Tide Museum, Gt Yarmouth

Friday 27th March - Easter Service at St. Mary's Church, 8.40-9.20am

Families welcome.

Friday 27th March - Individual Poetry Competition (Years 3–6)

In the school hall directly after the church service. Families warmly welcome to come and support the pupils as they battle it out.

Saturday 28th March - Henstead Easter Fayre, 10am–4pm

We hope you can join us for what promises to be a fantastic day!



Nursery

This week the children were inspired to create their very own magic wands after a pupil arrived at nursery dressed as a fairy! They found sticks in the garden and decorated them with sparkly pipe cleaners, stickers and pom-poms. They demonstrated brilliant turn-taking and communication skills and used their wonderful creativity to make magic wands! This led them to discuss what their wands could do and they thought of some great and imaginative ideas.





Nursery



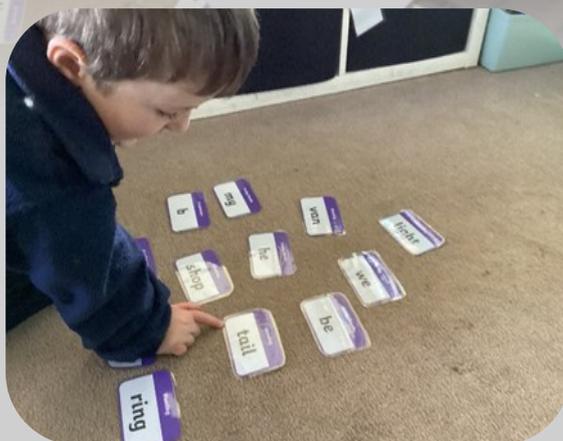


Nursery

We have had a busy and exciting two weeks in Reception!

The pupils have been exploring patterns, writing sentences in their English books about space and playing a variety of maths games to develop their addition skills. They've also been practising blending words in phonics. Alongside this they have enjoyed getting creative by making Mother's Day cards.

In construction they have worked together to build a fantastic town, showing great teamwork and imagination. Well done to them for their hard work.





Nursery





Reception & Year 2 Assembly

We were delighted to welcome parents into school for our fantastic Space Assembly, and what a mission it was! Our children truly rose to the occasion, confidently performing in front of a full hall.

Dressed as astronauts and a planet specialist, the pupils took us on a journey through our solar system, sharing their knowledge with enthusiasm and clarity. They demonstrated excellent recall, delivering their lines brilliantly and showing just how much they have learned.

Reception and Year 2 worked wonderfully together, with our youngest space cadets joining in with facts, actions and plenty of personality. The highlight was our Planet Song, which had everyone smiling.

Of course, no space adventure would be complete without a few surprises.....from an unexpected alien to some very important space essentials including snacks and pants!

Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who joined us. We hope you enjoyed our journey into space as much as we did!

Mission complete!

Mrs Dakin & Mrs Webster



Reception & Year 2 Assembly





Junior School - Mrs Dakin's Class

Year 2 has launched into our exciting new Space topic and the pupils are already reaching for the stars!

In English, we have been exploring poetry and using powerful adjectives to describe the planets. The children have created their own fantastic space poems, thinking carefully about the characteristics of each planet. The imagination and vocabulary on display has been wonderful to see.

In Science, we have been learning about the order of the planets in our solar system and exploring their different colours and features. The pupils are becoming more confident about explaining what makes each one unique. We are very excited to continue our journey through space over the coming weeks - watch this space!

Mrs Dakin





British Science Week

British Science Week: Curiosity

This year's British Science Week theme was Curiosity, and our pupils certainly showed plenty of it! Our classrooms are always full of children asking questions like *Why does that happen?* and *What would happen if we tried this?* Curiosity is such an important part of learning because it encourages children to explore, investigate and discover things for themselves.

During the week, pupils enjoyed some brilliant experiments. They designed parachutes to try to stop an egg cracking when dropped from a height, explored what milk is made of by creating colourful swirling patterns, and made elephant toothpaste – perfect if an elephant ever needs to brush its teeth!

It was a great week of questioning, experimenting and discovering.

Mrs Sonn



British Science Week







Senior School—Mrs Sonn's Class

Ready, Set...Grow!

The pupils have been busy helping to tidy and prepare the school garden so we're ready to start planting. They worked hard weeding, tidying the beds and making sure the space is ready for the next stage.

Over the coming weeks, we'll be sowing seeds and planting bulbs, and the pupils are looking forward to seeing what begins to grow. Gardening is a lovely way for children to learn about nature, patience and responsibility and it's always exciting when the first shoots start to appear.

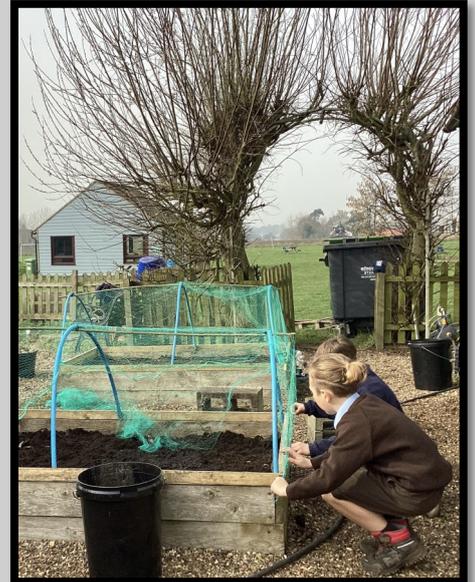
We're looking forward to seeing the garden come to life over the next few weeks.

Mrs Sonn





Senior School - Mrs Sonn's Class





Senior School—Mrs Sonn's Class

Learning about Life as a Paramedic

A huge thank you to Mr Saunders, one of our parents, who gave up his time last week to talk to our senior school pupils about his time working as a paramedic. The children enjoyed hearing about what the job involves and had lots of great questions for him.

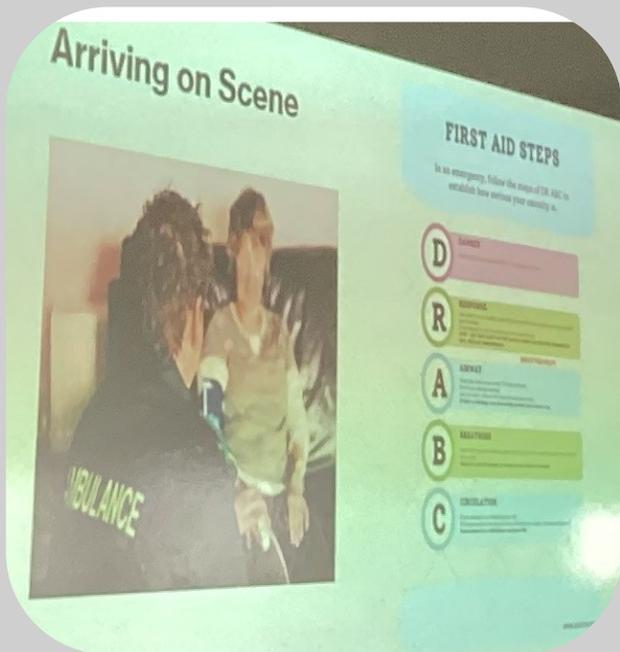
The visit came at a perfect time, as they are currently learning about the circulatory system, the skeleton and muscles, and how diet and lifestyle affect our bodies and minds in science. It was great for them to hear how this knowledge is used in real life.

If any parents would like to come in and talk to the pupils about their jobs, we'd love to hear from you. These visits are always really interesting for the children and help them see how their learning connects to the wider world.

Mrs Sonn



Senior School—Mrs Sonn's Class





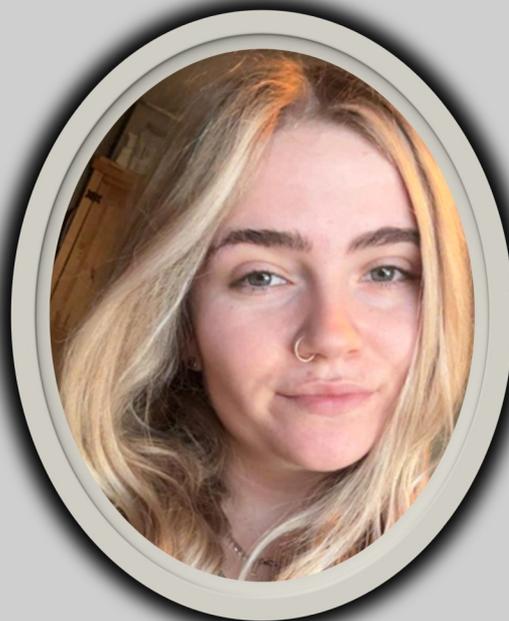
Welcome to a New Member of Staff

We are delighted to welcome Lili Brown to our team.

Lili has been helping in the Nursery for a few weeks and now joins us full-time. She holds an FdA in Child's Health, Play and Wellbeing, as well as Nursery Practitioner qualifications, and is passionate about supporting children in the Early Years through play.

Outside of work, Lili enjoys hockey, horse riding and walking her spaniel, and loves being outdoors.

We are very pleased to have her join our school community.





Bikeathon



Henstead School Council Bikeathon

Pupils and teachers will be competing against each other again to see who can bike (or scooter) the furthest distance throughout the day.

This will be round two of Teachers versus Pupils and will take place on Monday 23rd March.

Both Teachers and Pupils will have three 30 minute periods throughout the day to pedal as far as they can before all scores will be added up and we can see who has travelled the furthest distance, to become the victorious and worthy champions!

N.B: Please can you ensure that your child has a safety helmet so that they can take part.

Sponsor forms will be sent directly to you or alternatively a cash donation can be taken to the office.



Senior School—Mrs Braidwood's Class

The pupils in years three and four have been working on a multimedia project this term. We started the term by exploring printing techniques. They created monoprint self-portraits as well as screen-printed some fantastic posters with their initials on. Printmaking is always a topic that the children get stuck into and as ever, they produced some fantastic art!





Mascots

Mascot winners last week

Reception— Oskar for excellent behaviour and being a good role model to friends.

Year 2- Vincent for great analysis on animal classifications

Year 3/4 - Ayla for trying hard with her English and making excellent reading progress.

Year 5/6 - Izaak for experimenting with clay techniques in art and creating an awesome sculpture.



Mascots this week:

Reception - Henry for being dedicated to his writing and trying his best.

Year 2- Rosie for super effort in her assessments, particularly maths - thinking of methods and effectively using them to solve problems.

Year 3/4 - Margot for always being an excellent role model and striving to achieve her best.

Year 5/6 - Louiza for her confident approach to assessments this week.

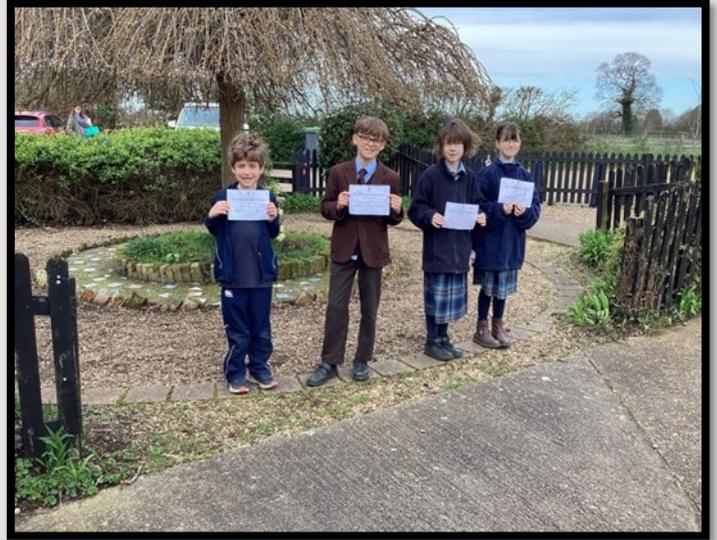




House Golds

Golds last week:

Waveney - Robert
Orwell - Johnny
Yare - Emma
Deben - Lexi



Golds this week:

Deben - Florrie
Orwell - Henry
Waveney - Margot
Yare - Lennon





A Trip to the Theatre

On Tuesday afternoon, the whole school enjoyed a trip to watch Langley's performance of Annie. It was a fantastic show, with lots of talent on display - great acting and some wonderful singing.

We were also delighted to see some former Henstead pupils in the show, including Ruby and our Head of School from last year, Layla, which made the visit even more special.

A big thank you to Langley for having us. We thoroughly enjoyed it!

Mrs Sonn





AU REVOIR

Fond Farewell

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to our Nursery Practitioner Sophie Fewtrell, who will be leaving at the end of this term. We would like to thank Sophie for all that she has done to make the Nursery such a special and nurturing place for the youngest members of our school.

We are also saying goodbye to Vikki Howard. Although her role at the school has been as a one-to-one, Vikki has supported and enriched the experience of all pupils over the past three years. She is someone of whom we are all very fond - pupils and staff alike - and her kindness, dedication, positive presence and endless patience will be greatly missed.

We are so grateful to them both for their contributions to our school community. They will be greatly missed, but we wish them every success and happiness in their future endeavours.

Mrs Sonn



News

Well done to Otilie, who came second in her ski school race, competing across both red and blue runs, and received a silver medal. What a fantastic achievement!



Congratulations to Hollie, who earned a Blue Peter Badge for trying out a new sport - golf!





Red Nose Day—20th March 2026

The children enjoyed a fun and engaging assembly all about Comic Relief, learning why it is important to help others. After the assembly, they got creative and designed their own unique red noses. We were impressed with their imagination and enthusiasm. Well done everyone!





Red Nose Day—20th March 2026





Lunch Menu :- w/c 23rd March

Monday:	Pesto pasta and garlic bread Nursery: Tomato pasta and garlic bread
Tuesday:	Chicken fillets with new potatoes and seasonal vegetables
Wednesday:	Chicken curry with rice and naan bread Nursery: sausage, mash and peas
Thursday:	Homemade pizza served with corn on the cob
Friday:	Homemade sausage rolls Nursery: Fish, chips and peas

Soup served daily

Salad/fruit bar and yoghurt

Alternatives for vegetarian, vegan and food intolerances.

Social Media

Stay up-to-date with the magic of Henstead!

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

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



Instagram – [@theoldschoolhenstead](#)



Facebook – [@theoldschoolhenstead](#)

