



THE OLD SCHOOL  
**HENSTEAD**

INDEPENDENT PREPARATORY SCHOOL



The daffodils are out and it really does feel as though spring has sprung, although I can certainly remember other years when March brought snow to the field rather than sunshine. Perhaps I shouldn't speak too soon!

This time of year is always full, with much happening across the school, and we look forward to welcoming many parents and grandparents to the events ahead.

Alongside the extra-curricular activities, learning continues with focus and purpose. End-of-term assessments are fast approaching, and pupils are working hard to build on all they have learned this term.

We look forward to a happy and fulfilling few weeks ahead.

Dana



# Henstead Headlines

**Spring Term**  
**6th March 2026**



## Key Dates:

Tuesday 17th March - Junior School Assembly in the hall, 8.45am  
Parents and grandparents of pupils in these classes most welcome.

Friday 20th March - Red Nose Day  
Children can wear something red. We kindly ask for a £1 donation.

Friday 20th March, 4–6pm - PTFA Bingo Evening  
A fun-filled event for the whole family. Bring grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, neighbours and friends!

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!



We're really looking forward to our Easter Fayre on Saturday 28th March and hope you can join us for what promises to be a lovely day for our whole school community and beyond.

Events like this are a wonderful way to come together and support the school, and we truly appreciate your support.

Please do spread the word to family and friends - the more the merrier!



We can't wait to see you there.

Mrs Sonn.

**A FUN, FAMILY-FRIENDLY EASTER DAY OUT!**

**EASTER FAYRE**

**SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**  
**10AM-4PM**

**THE OLD SCHOOL,  
TOAD ROW,  
HENSTEAD NR34 7LG  
NR BECCLES**

Easter egg hunt, bouncy castles, face-painting, craft stalls, food and drink stalls, raffle and much more!

**FREE ENTRY!**



JOIN US FOR OUR

# Easter Bonnet Parade

**Wednesday 25th March 2025**

**8:45 am in the Orchard**

Children are invited to take part in this year's Easter Bonnet Parade! Please create an easter bonnet to wear in the parade at the end of term.

**THERE WILL BE PRIZES FOR THE:**

The most detailed

The most creative

The tallest





*Hop on over for our*

# **EASTER** *Bingo!*

*Join us on*

**March 20th at 4pm**

*for some egg-citing fun in  
the school hall!*

Three games of Bingo with  
Easter egg prizes!

Hotdogs, crisps, tea, coffee and soft  
drinks available

**CASH ONLY**



Please purchase tickets online

**£8 With Food £5 Without Food**



## Nursery

This week at nursery the children enjoyed exploring the kinetic sand that we made together. They moulded and shaped it with their hands before using tools to create ice creams and castles. It was lovely to see their creativity as they experimented.

Den building was also very popular. The children worked together to build a large den that everyone could fit inside, then used our open-ended resources to create a pretend campfire and gather around it. Their teamwork and imaginative play were wonderful to see.

We also spent time in the garden enjoying the sunshine while exploring powder paints. The children began by painting the fence with brushes, but soon started painting their hands and writing their names. It turned into a wonderfully messy activity, and by the end the children were pretending to be minions, proudly showing off their colourful hands and faces!

Miss Johnson



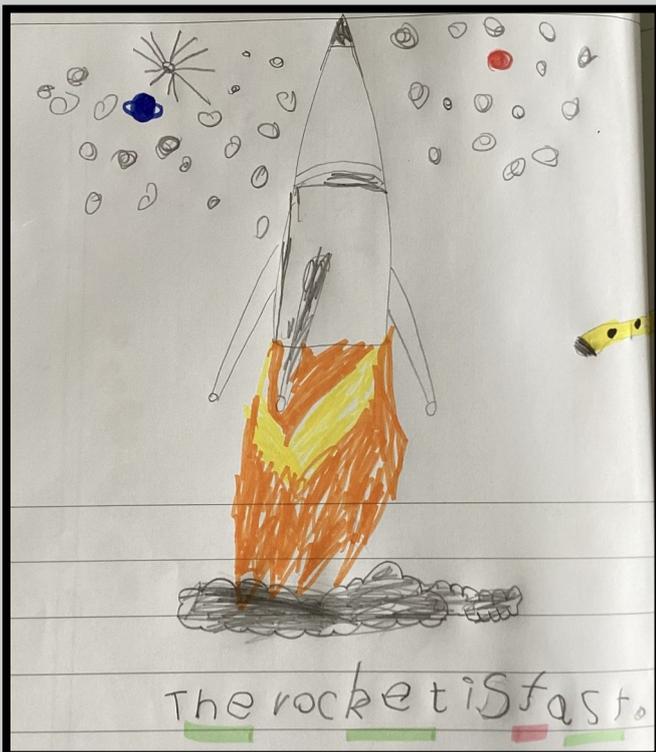
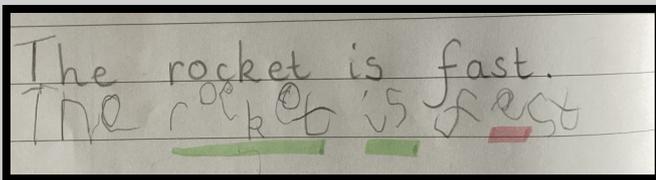


## Junior school - Mrs Webster's Class

We have started exploring the different planets in our solar system, learning their names, colours and sizes. The children have been fascinated to discover that Jupiter is the biggest planet, and that Earth is the planet we call home!



Through stories, discussions and creative activities, the pupils are developing their understanding of space while building new vocabulary and curiosity about the world beyond our planet.





## Junior School - Mrs Webster's Class

We have been busy practising the phonics sounds ch and ng, and taking turns matching the sounds to the correct pictures. In art, the pupils have loved creating their own penguins using clay, carefully modelling each body part and patiently waiting for them to dry so they could be painted.

They also brought in some t-shirts to learn how to do some tie-dye! They carefully added the elastic bands, chose their colours and took their time applying the dye. I can't wait to see them proudly wearing their creations!

In Maths, the pupils have been practising number formation in their maths books.

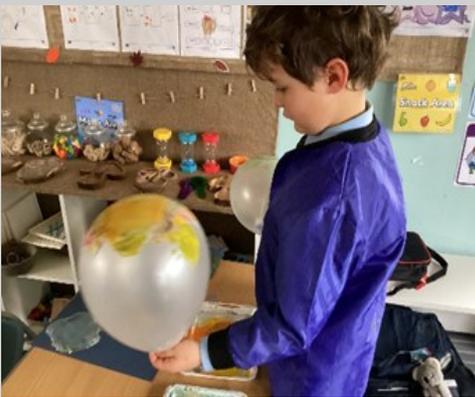
Well done!  
Mrs Webster





## Junior School

The children have been learning about space, and worked together to create planets using balloons, paint and glitter. They explored different colours and textures while thinking about the features of each planet. It was a great opportunity for both classes to collaborate and bring our solar system to life.





## Junior School - Mrs Dakin's Class

Our recent science sessions have been full of excitement, curiosity and lots of “wow” moments!

### Exploring Heat We Can't See

This investigation focused on heat and how we know it is there, even though we cannot see it.

We used special black thermal sheets and placed our hands onto them. The children observed the colours that appeared and noticed how different parts of their hands showed different shades such as red, green and blue. We discussed how these colours represent heat energy coming from our bodies.

Warmer areas showed brighter colours, while cooler areas appeared darker.

The pupils loved comparing the shapes and colours that appeared, and talked about why some areas were warmer than others.





## Colourful Milk Magic

This experiment explored what happens when milk, food colouring and washing up liquid are combined. Milk was poured into a shallow dish and droppers were used to carefully add food colourings.

Then, using a cotton bud dipped in a small amount of washing up liquid, the surface was gently touched. Instantly the colours burst into movement, swirling and spreading across the dish. The children were amazed by the dramatic patterns.

We talked about how washing up liquid breaks down the fat in the milk - it was a fantastic way to see how substances can react with each other. It was lovely to see the children so engaged, curious and eager to explain what they thought was happening. Science is definitely becoming the favourite part of our week!





## Senior School - Mrs Braidwood's Class

Over the half-term holiday, the children in years three and four completed some research on what the term 'limnology' means (The study of inland bodies of water). They had to find out information about a local body of water to present to the class.

We enjoyed presentations about Benacre Broad, Carlton Marshes, The River Waveney, Fen Park, Oulton Broad and even someone's pond!

Once again, I could not be more proud of the confidence and enthusiasm of our Henstead pupils and their ability to rise to any task they are given. Well done, team!





# Senior School - Mrs Braidwood's Class





## Senior School - Mrs Sonn's Class

### Science in Action: Modelling the Circulatory System

Last week in Science, the class took part in a hands-on practical lesson to deepen their understanding of the circulatory system and the components of blood.

Using yellow-coloured water to represent plasma, marshmallows for white blood cells, raisins for platelets and cereal hoops dyed red for red blood cells, the pupils created interactive models of blood. As the red blood cells were added, the mixture gradually turned red - a powerful visual reminder of how they give blood its colour and carry oxygen around the body.

The pupils confidently explained each component using accurate scientific vocabulary and explored how blood helps to heal cuts.

And of course, no lesson involving marshmallows would be complete without enjoying the leftovers at the end!

Mrs Sonn





# Senior School—Mrs Sonn's Class





## Lego Club

This week's Lego club has been super-busy. The children were on a mission to build the tallest tower. There was some fantastic building going on!





# Bikeathon

Round 2 of teachers v's the pupils.

This time it's a bikeathon, on Monday 23rd March pupils can bring in their bikes or scooters from home and they will compete against the staff to see who can bike (or scooter) the furthest distance throughout the day.

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 and comes out victorious in this 2nd instalment of the battle to become overall champions!

Please can you ensure that your child has a cycle helmet to take part.

Sponsorship forms will be sent out very soon.

It's set to be a wheelie fun day.





Join THE OLD SCHOOL HENSTEAD

PTFA



Now would be a great time  
to get involved!



It's a fantastic way to make a **big a difference**  
to the school without taking on a time-consuming role.

Lending a hand at events makes a huge **difference**,  
and we'd love to have your help running stalls at our  
**Easter Fayre**. It doesn't need to be  
all day, but every little counts. 

For more information email [l.webster@theoldschoolhenstead.co.uk](mailto:l.webster@theoldschoolhenstead.co.uk)





## Senior School—Mrs Braidwood's Class

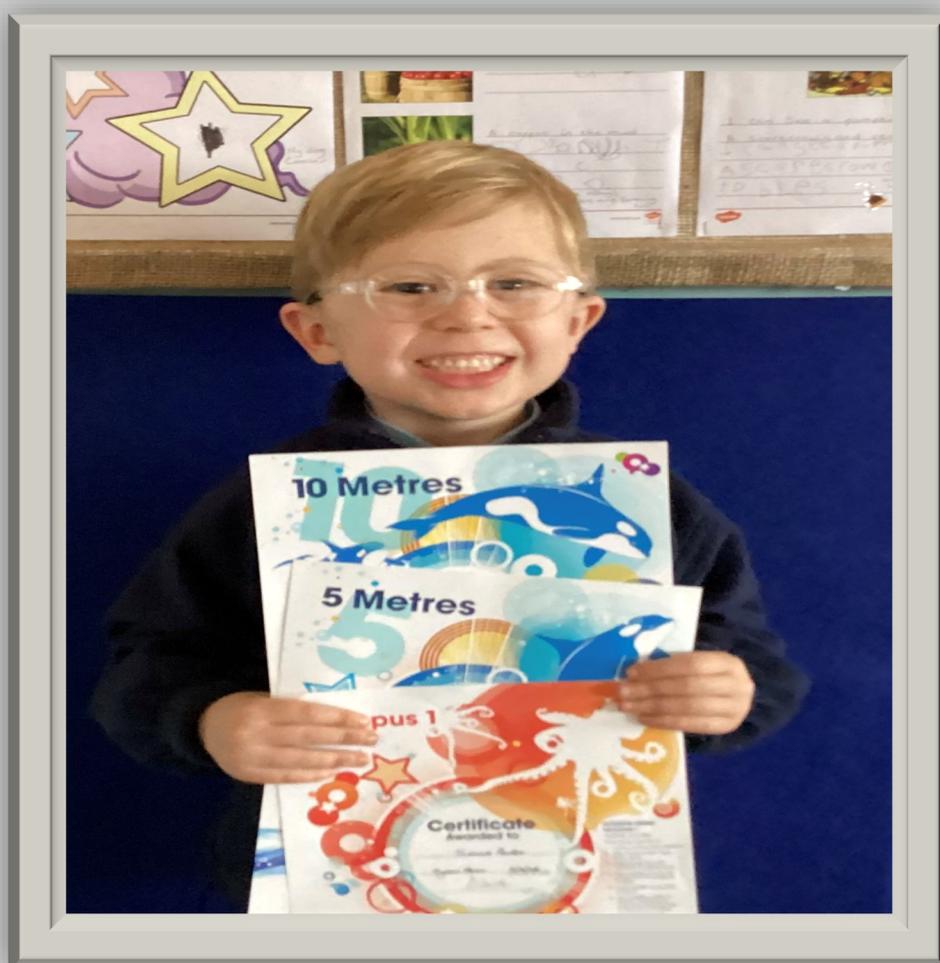
**A huge congratulations to Otilie for achieving her Angelfish 1 swimming certificate and the incredible achievement of swimming 400 metres.**

**Well done!**





Well done Julius! Those swimming certificates are something to be really proud of!



# Mascots

## Mascot winners—2 weeks ago

Reception - Lennon for being creative in his drawing.

Year 2- Rosie for her amazing space poetry.

Year 3/4 - Rose for making excellent progress with her reading and growing confidence in Maths.

Year 5/6 Emma for making excellent progress across all her learning.



## Mascots - Last weeks winners were

Reception - Julius for his great reading progress.

Year 2- Robert for his amazing improvement in reading, particularly with his tricky words.

Year 3/4 - Amy for the fantastic use of emotive language in her Acrostic and Haiku poems.

Year 5/6 - Hazel for her great analysis and teaching skills in maths.





## House Golds

### Golds last week:

Waveney - Margot

Yare - Izaak

Deben - Louiza

Orwell Sophia



## Reading in the most unique place - Winners

Ayla & Johnny won the World Book Day competition to find the most unusual and unique place to read!





# World Book Day





# World Book Day





# World Book Day





## Lunch Menu :- w/c 9th March

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

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Soup served daily

Salad/fruit bar and yoghurt

*Alternatives for vegetarian, vegan and food intolerances.*



## Lunch Menu :- w/c 16th March

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Monday:</b>    | <b>Homemade quiche<br/>Nursery: Tomato pasta</b>   |
| <b>Tuesday:</b>   | <b>Chicken fillets with new potatoes and<br/>seasonal vegetables</b>                         |
| <b>Wednesday:</b> | <b>Pesto pasta and garlic bread</b>  |
| <b>Thursday:</b>  | <b>Jacket potato with beans and cheese<br/>Nursery: Homemade pizza</b>                       |
| <b>Friday:</b>    | <b>Hot dogs with corn on the cob and potato<br/>wedges<br/>Nursery: Fish, chips and peas</b> |

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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](#)

