



THE OLD SCHOOL
HENSTEAD

INDEPENDENT PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Henstead Headlines

This half term, our school values are *Teamwork* and *Thinker* - two qualities that have already shone brightly across the school. Teamwork was certainly evident during the Seniors residential trip to Yorkshire, where pupils supported and encouraged one another throughout the week, and it can also be seen as children across the school work together to prepare for the summer show, helping one another to practise, perform and give their very best.

The summer term is perhaps one of the loveliest times of year at Henstead (although Christmas here is always rather magical too!). As the weather warms, lunch moves alfresco onto the field, Sports Day preparations begin in earnest with pupils practising running, hurdles, long jump and high jump, and daisies are transformed into necklaces and floral crowns proudly worn atop heads.

There is something wonderfully timeless about summer at Henstead. It is a place where childhood is protected, imaginations are nurtured and children are given the freedom to grow, explore, laugh and simply be children.

Mrs Sonn



Summer Term
15th May 2026



Key Dates:

This Half Term

- Friday 22nd May- Henstead Hike (Sponsorship details to follow)

Next Half Term

- Monday 1st June & Tuesday 2nd June - Year 3/4 residential trip
- Wednesday 10th June - LAMDA pupils performance assembly
- Tuesday 16th June - Move-up morning
- Wednesday 17th June - Sports Day & Summer Fair
- Friday 19th June - Instrumental pupils performance assembly
- 1st and 2nd July - Summer show at the Seagull Theatre (evening)
- 3rd July - Speech Day and end-of-term



Nursery

We have been learning about rainbows this week and all the colours of the rainbow





Reception

In Reception, the pupils have been very busy across all areas of learning. In PSED lessons, they have enjoyed exploring our new Reception garden, de-podding French beans, planting sunflowers, peppers, pumpkins and tomatoes and learning about how potatoes grow.

In Spanish, they have had lots of fun playing bingo to help them learn the name of colours. We also looked at counting up to 20.

During Phonics, we have been exploring the lifecycle of bees and practising sentence writing skills.

In Maths, we have been learning about more challenging 2D shapes, including pentagons, ovals and octagons, and discussing how many sides each shape has.

At summer show rehearsals, the class has been practising a new song and actions to go along with it.

A great two weeks of learning!





Reception





Junior School - Mrs Dakin's Class

We have continued our castle theme by exploring the different jobs people had in a castle. We learnt about roles such as a Watchman, Marshal and Herald, to name just a few.

The children then took part in their own castle job interviews! They had to explain which job they were applying for and why they wanted it. They also answered questions about why they would be good at the role, any experience they had, the qualities they could bring and why they should be chosen. I was very impressed with their thoughtful answers. One applicant explained that they had excellent eyesight, making them perfect for the role of Watchman, while another, applying for the gardener's job, assured me they had lots of experience planting seeds and looking after plants, and also described themselves as hardworking and reliable.

Well done to all of the successful applicants, even those who admitted they can sometimes be late but only by a few seconds!

Mrs Dakin





Senior School—Mrs Sonn's Class

Mrs Sonn's class had a fantastic time on their residential trip to the Yorkshire Dales. From mountain walking to rock climbing and abseiling, they threw themselves into every challenge with enthusiasm and determination.

As well as the adventurous activities, the pupils also mucked in at the accommodation - making their own beds, helping with the washing up (parents, take note!) and learning to be a little more independent.

It has been wonderful to see the children developing confidence, teamwork, leadership skills and resilience throughout the trip, while also supporting and encouraging one another. Most importantly of all, they've had a huge amount of fun and made memories that will stay with them for a very long time.

Mr Hunter and Mrs Braidwood





Trip to Yorkshire





Trip to Yorkshire





Senior School—Mrs Braidwood's Class

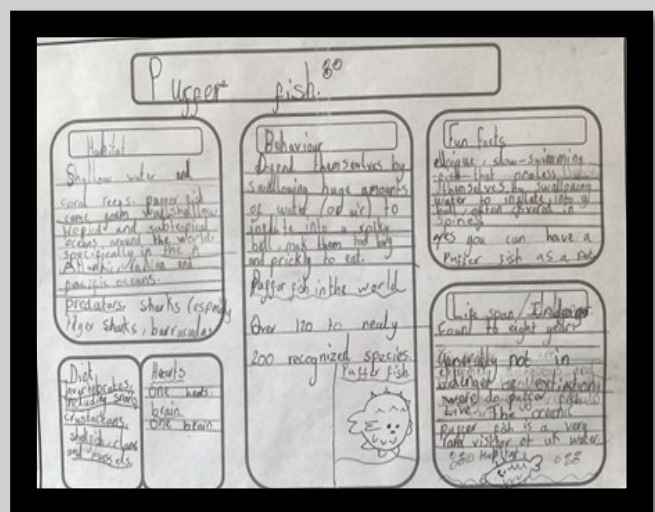
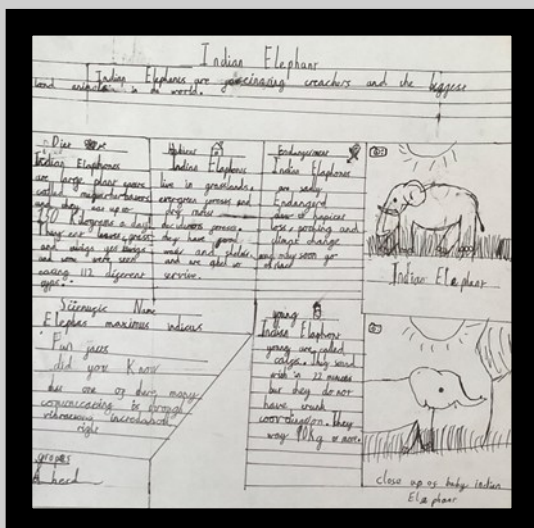
The class has been busy researching and writing non-chronological reports about animals they are fascinated by. We've had everything from king cobras to spider monkeys, and from octopuses to tasselled wobbegongs. It was a wild, weird and wonderfully fascinating mix of creatures!

Pupils used the internet to research their chosen animals and we spent time discussing how important it is to find reliable sources of information online. We also talked about the fact that AI can sometimes "hallucinate" and give incorrect information, so it's always best to cross-check facts and use trustworthy websites.

The children worked hard to organise their information into clear sections and include features such as sub-headings, technical vocabulary and bullet points. It was lovely to see so much enthusiasm for learning, with many pupils going above and beyond to discover unusual and interesting facts about their chosen animals.

The finished reports were informative, creative and beautifully presented, and it was clear how much pride the pupils took in their work.

Mrs Sonn





11 Angly angler fish

Angler fish uses its light on the seafloor to see because it's dark. Angler fish are in danger because people are catching too much and they are dying in the net they are dead when rising up in the ocean.

Fun Facts

- Scientists believe angler fish first appeared a very long time ago possibly during the Cretaceous period, which when dinosaurs roamed the earth. The oldest angler fish fossils found are from about 56 to 34 million years ago in Italy. There are over 200 species of deep sea angler fish.

How heavy?
Angler fish's wait up to 1100 pounds up to 4 feet (1.2 m)

Diet
Angler fish are carnivore they eat small shrimp and other fish.

Picture
Angler fish's what is a angler fish? It's a angler looking deep sea creature that wait on the seafloor to catch it through the sea.

Scientific name
Cophiiformes

Did you know?
The name angler fish comes from a unique hunting method. Prey: goblin shark, large squid.

Fulvous Foxes are Funny

Diet
They hunt small mammals like field mice, rabbits, and birds.

Habitat
Most Foxes like big areas including woodlands, parklands and wetlands habitats.

Population
There are 258,000 Foxes.

Reproduction
1 litter consists 4-5 cubs.

Red Foxes
Some Red Foxes are also golden, silver or even black.

Beika
They weigh three times like a dog with their brains.

Fun Fact
They are endangered in some countries but in some they are wild in some parts.

1. Misnomers: Octopuses

Diet
Octopuses love to eat shrimp and fish. They also like plastic 'Ouch'!

Types
There are thousands of types of octopus so there are only a few that I have listed:

- Greater Blue-Ringed Octopus
- Blanket Octopus
- Dumbo Octopus
- Common Octopus

 All types are very intelligent. They can even survive on land for up to an hour.

Did you know?
Octopuses are the closest thing we have to intelligent alien life on Earth.

Habitat
Octopuses like to live in cracks in rocks or coral. They can also be their home!

Survival

Hiding!

King Cobras

Scientific Name is: Ophiophagus

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Reptilia
Order: Squamata
Family: Elapidae
Genus: Ophiophagus
Species: ophiophagus

Diet
Carnivore that means they eat animals and eat small mammals, birds and insects.

King Cobras are in danger!

Fun Fact
King Cobras are the only snakes known to build a nest.

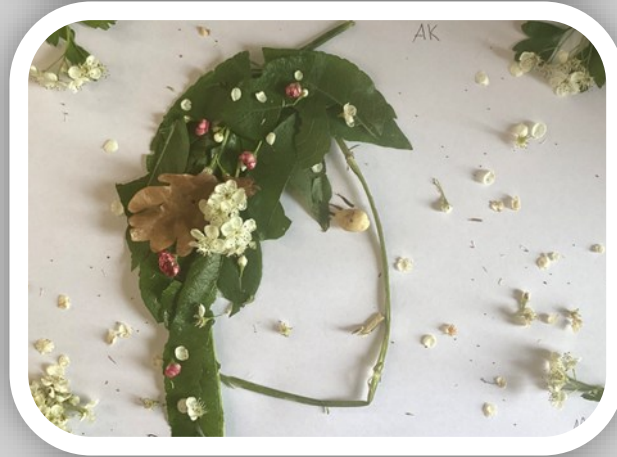
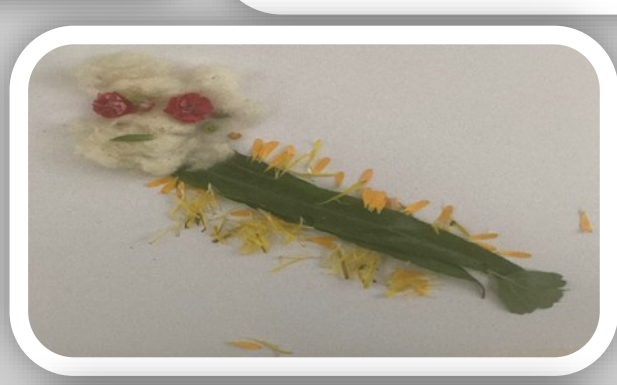
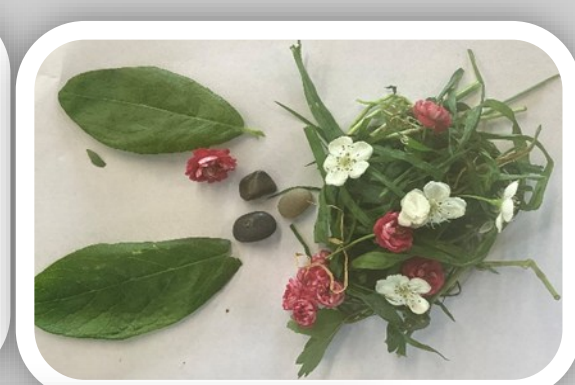
Fun Fact
They can end up on the dinner menu - the King cobra is a favorite meal of the mongoose.

They are not currently endangered but are at high risk of becoming so with their population decreasing due to habitat loss and poaching.



Nature's Weírd and Wonderful Faces

Pupils had a wonderful time collecting natural materials from the field, before using them to create these beautiful, bizarre and brilliant creatures. Leaves, petals, feathers, grass, blossom and seed heads were transformed into wild hair styles, funny expressions and wonderfully strange woodland characters.





Mascots & House Golds

House Golds last week:

Waveney - Robert

Yare : Reuben

Orwell: Anna

Deben: Vincent



Mascots last week:

Reception- Julius for his curiosity about bees and for producing some amazing writing.

Year 2- Vincent for putting such effort into his writing and his neat handwriting.

Year 3/4- Alex for confidently settling into life at Henstead.

Year 5//6 - Izaak for his fantastic attitude to his learning as well as great focus.





News

Congratulations to Julius for completing his season at Southwold Rugby Club. He's proudly showing off his certificate and medal.





New Member of Staff

We are delighted to welcome Chloe to the Henstead family. She is the new childcare practitioner in our Nursery and has worked in childcare for eight years, caring for and educating children from six months to four years.

She is passionate about supporting children as they learn, develop and grow through education and care, and loves providing a wide range of enriching activities for them to enjoy, with sensory and creative activities being her favourites.

We are thrilled to have Chloe joining the team and know she will be a wonderful addition to our warm and nurturing environment.

Mrs Sonn





Lunch Menu :- w/c 5th May

Monday: Pesto Pasta with garlic bread.

Tuesday: Pulled Pork with coleslaw and corn on the Cob.

Nursery: Pasta with tomato sauce served with garlic bread.

Wednesday: Butter chicken curry with rice and naan bread.

Nursery: sausage, mash and peas

Thursday: Jacket Potato with beans and cheese

Friday: Homemade sausage rolls with potato wedges

Nursery: Fish, chips and peas

Dessert of the week

Soup served daily

Salad/fruit bar and yoghurt



Lunch Menu :- w/c 11th May

Monday:	Homemade quiche Nursery: Tomato pasta
Tuesday:	Chicken fillets with new potatoes and seasonal vegetables
Wednesday:	Pesto pasta and garlic bread Nursery: sausage, mash and peas
Thursday:	Jacket potato with beans and cheese
Friday:	Homemade pizza Nursery: Fish, chips and peas

Dessert of the week

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](#)

