



THE OLD SCHOOL  
**HENSTEAD**

INDEPENDENT PREPARATORY SCHOOL

At the moment, it can feel as though much of what we see and hear in the wider world is shaped by conflict and disagreement. That makes it all the more important that, in school, we take time to focus on fairness, equality, respect and understanding, and how to move on from difficult situations.

School is a relatively small environment, but it reflects many of the same challenges pupils will come across later in life. Disagreements happen, friendships shift and not things don't always feel fair. Learning how to deal with those moments is an important part of growing up.

We try to approach this in a straightforward way - encouraging pupils to listen properly, take responsibility where needed and find a way forward rather than getting stuck in a disagreement. These are skills that take time and practise.

In many ways, school is the best place to learn this. It gives pupils the chance to try things out, make mistakes and work things through, so that, over time, they feel more confident and better equipped to handle similar situations as they get older.

They may be small moments day-to-day, but they play an important part in shaping how pupils approach the wider world.

Mrs Sonn

# Henstead Headlines

**Summer Term**  
**1st May 2026**



## Key Dates:

### This Half Term

- 4th May - Bank Holiday - school resumes Tuesday 5th May
- 11th - 14th May - Year 5/6 School Residential in Yorkshire
- Friday 22nd May-Henstead Hike (Sponsorship details to follow)

### Next Half Term

- Monday 1st June & Tuesday 2nd June - Year 3/4 Residential to Thorpeness
- Wednesday 17th June - Sports Day & Summer Fayre



# Nursery

This week Nursery have been learning all about seeds and how to plant them, nurture them and hopefully grow into beautiful blooms.





# Nursery

The boys have been thoroughly engaged in our topic on bees and have shown great enthusiasm across all areas of learning. They have enjoyed role-playing as beekeepers, caring for their hives and learning about how honey is made. This has supported their understanding of the world while encouraging imaginative play and collaboration.

In English, the children have been developing their sentence writing by creating simple bee-themed sentences. They have worked hard to apply their phonics knowledge and are becoming increasingly confident in forming letters and writing independently.

Our Maths learning has also been centred around bees. The children have taken part in practical activities such as cutting and matching bee shapes, which has supported both their shape recognition and fine motor skills.





# Reception





## Year 2 & Reception

Reception and Year 2 had a truly unforgettable experience during our recent visit to The Time and Tide Museum, where we took part in the immersive Titanic: Honour and Glory workshop.

The children stepped back in time to become real passengers aboard the HMS Titanic. Our journey began with an encounter with renowned journalist Helen Candee. The pupils became detectives as they explored passengers suitcases, searching for clues and deciding whether they belonged to first class, second class or third class travellers, and whether they belonged to men, women, boys or girls. The children loved trying on the replica clothing!

Next, we met Able Seaman John Anderson, who introduced us to life as a White Star Line crew member. The children enjoyed trying on uniforms, cracking Morse code messages and even writing their own messages. They also experienced the duties of crew life by pretending to clean the ship and learning how to salute or curtsey respectfully as passengers walked by.

Finally, we were welcomed by Lady Strauss and her maid Ellen. As first class passengers, we experienced the luxury of life on board by helping Ellen lay the table for an elegant eight-course meal! To end our journey, the children learned and performed a traditional waltz. A truly excellent experience that all thoroughly enjoyed.

Mrs Dakin and Mrs Webster







## Junior School - Mrs Dakin's Class

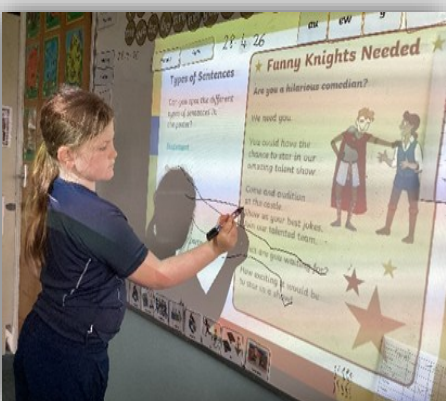
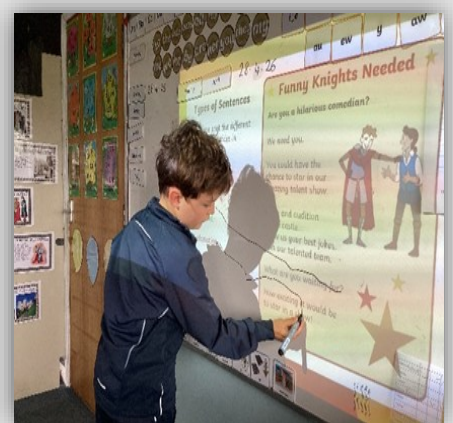
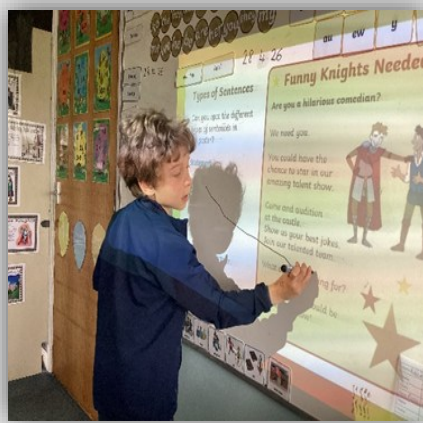
We've had a fantastic start to the summer term, with our exciting castle theme linking together our learning across English, Science and Topic work.

The children have been busy creating detailed castle pictures using a range of different materials, showing great creativity and imagination. They are also designing informative posters, carefully labelling the different parts of a castle.

In Science, we have explored the materials used to build castles, discussing why certain materials were used and how mortar was made.

Our English lessons have focused on different types of sentences, including statements, questions, commands and exclamations. The children have enjoyed applying this knowledge by creating their own persuasive posters, advertising for a dragon dancer to audition for a special castle show!

Mrs Dakin







## Senior School—Mrs Sonn's Class

In RE this half term, we're exploring the theme of peace and reconciliation, thinking about how conflicts can be resolved and how people move forward afterwards.

Pupils have been learning about Apartheid in South Africa and the role of Nelson Mandela. They discovered what life was like under apartheid and the changes that took place as the country moved towards a more equal society. They also looked at how Mandela and others chose to focus on reconciliation, rather than retaliation, at a time when tensions were understandably high.

The class have thought carefully about what can be learned from this. In discussion, they have considered how ideas like fairness, keeping a sense of perspective and listening to others might apply in everyday situations, particularly when disagreements arise.

Mrs Sonn





## Senior School—Mrs Braidwood's Class

The children in years three and four spent some time over the easter holidays researching an interesting location somewhere in the world. They created dioramas, and when they returned, they presented their findings to the group. Once again, I have been impressed with their creativity and growing autonomy when completing projects. Well done, team!







# Outdoor Education

It has been a busy 2 weeks in the garden area during everyone's Outdoor Ed lessons, Reception have planted their potatoes, Year 2 took a trip to the local garden centre to buy the vegetables that we would be growing this year, Year 3 & 4 have planted the veggies in the raised beds in our garden area and the polytunnel, deciding what bed to plant each different type of food in has been a group decision, whilst years 5/6 have been busy making 2 new scarecrows to keep the birds away!

Happy growing.





# Mascots & House Golds

## House Golds this week:

Waveney - Robert

Yare : Reuben

Orwell: Anna

Deben: Vincent

## Mascots this 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 and his





## Egg (Breaking) News

Our chickens have been busy laying eggs, we are selling them from the Egg stand out the front of school for £1.50.





## Lunch Menu :- w/c 5th May

**Tuesday:** Pulled pork with coleslaw and corn on the cob.

**Nursery:** pasta with tomato sauce and 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**

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Soup served daily

Salad/fruit bar and yoghurt



## Lunch Menu :- w/c 11th May

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

### Dessert of the week

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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](#)

