



Issue 10 - March 2021

Henlow Heart

Dear parents and carers

I am writing this as we prepare for our virtual Easter assembly this afternoon. We are making the most of the digital opportunities available to us but we are also hopeful of a return to whole school gatherings in the sports hall to celebrate these occasions together. Today's assembly has a very special opening as the new theatre is unveiled! A glimpse of this can be seen later in the newsletter but standing in it is the only way to appreciate its splendour. After Easter there'll be an opportunity for all pupils to see how this 'old gymnasium' has been transformed.....

The SEND lodge is now open, the new classrooms are mid-build with the second storey in evidence, the new MUGA is emerging from below the heavy machinery and the theatre's opening night is with us as soon as we can have an audience! We have advertised the key teaching roles required for September and we have had a very positive response. In addition to School Action Group our Year 8 ambassadors will be part of interviewing and ultimately welcoming these new members to our community. A high number of Year 8 pupils have formally accepted their place at Henlow Academy to continue their educational journey throughout years 9,10 and 11.

Miss Chalkley has returned in recent weeks following adoption leave and pupils have been keen to welcome her back and sent their best wishes to her daughter. Mrs Rimmer has just started her maternity leave and we are waiting eagerly for news from her in the next few days. As members of her year 6 form group will be aware, Mrs Murphy will be joining Derwent Lower (one of our feeder schools) in September 2021 as it prepares to become a primary school. During this summer term she will be remaining at Henlow Academy for half of each week and beginning her new role in Year 4/5 for the other two and a half days.

Photography, baking and reading were certainly high profile this term and these pursuits are well represented in this edition of the newsletter. Since a full return to school became possible, attendance has been high and pupils have enjoyed the opportunity to engage with their learning alongside their peers. The atmosphere in lessons is positive and we are so proud of the way in which pupils are focussing on their work across the curriculum.

HONESTY - ENTHUSIASM - NURTURE - LOVE - ORIGINALITY - WISDOM

Community is always at the forefront at Henlow Academy and many of the awards we have given, including places on the Roll of Honour, are there because pupils have focussed on the needs of others. Throughout this complex era so many adjustments have been required such that society can be as safe as possible and our youngsters have understood what this has meant for those who are more vulnerable. On Tuesday we joined the national day of reflection and I thought it would be fitting to end this newsletter with the final words of a poem written by Emily I in Year 8:

‘But it still holds in its heart the hazy prospect of warm summers free of shut doors
and blaring sirens and void shops and crammed hospitals.

It still has hope.’

Yours



Caren Earp



Roll of Honour



Parum S 6JF

Demonstrating our school values by collecting over 530 hand creams and giving them to NHS and Key workers.

Harry Y 7CW

Attending every School Action Group meeting throughout the Spring term.

Joshua S 5NS

Attending every School Action Group meeting throughout the Spring term.

Kieran A 5IL

Achieving Chief Scout Silver Award.

Toby B 5IL

Achieving Chief Scout Silver Award.

Ella P 7SP

Fundraising for Diabetes Charity.

Noah M 5NC

For excellent effort put into his reading group.

Amber H 6AW

For excellent effort put into her reading group.

Jayne D 7SP

For excellent effort put into his reading group.

Scarlett L 7BW

For excellent effort put into her reading group.

Roll of Honour



Phoebe B 7SP

Attending every School Action Group meeting throughout the Spring term.

Ethan B 7JH

For excellent effort put into his reading group.

Gracie D 8NC

National Certificate of First Dan Black Belt in Karate.

Nathan L 7JH

Achieved 3rd place in the Rye House Drivers Championship.

Lyla H 5RR

For excellent effort put into her reading group.

Will C 8LC

For excellent effort put into his reading group.

Sophie H 7JU

For consistently giving her best for every lesson during lockdown.

Aimee A 7JU

Fantastic positive attitude and willingness to take part in all Y7 creative activities.

Jacob K 7JU

Overcoming challenges and continuing to demonstrate a fantastic attitude to learning.

Charlie P 7JU

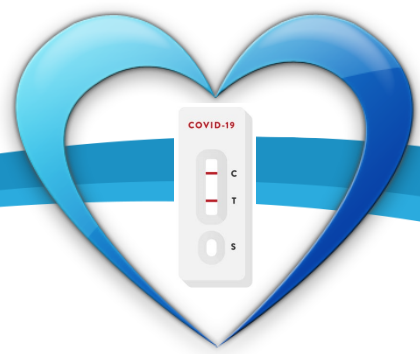
Excellent approach to work and a really positive attitude.

Alfie R 7JU

Excellent organisation and positive attitude.

HONESTY - ENTHUSIASM - NURTURE - LOVE - ORIGINALITY - WISDOM

Asymptomatic Testing



We have been conducting Lateral Flow Testing in school since our return to school in January. This included testing KS3 key worker pupils twice upon their return as well as twice weekly testing of staff. We then tested the returning Key Stage 3 pupils in March. During this term we have carried out over 2000 tests in school!



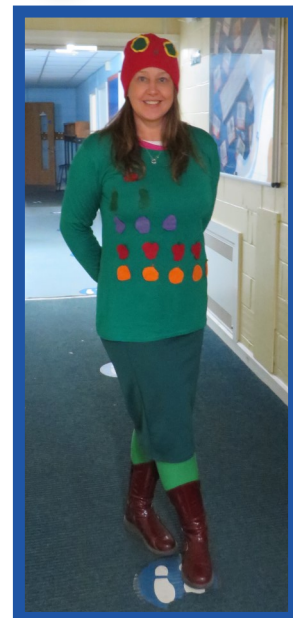
Now that in school testing has been completed, all pupils have been provided with three home test kits (totalling 9 tests) to use twice weekly at home. Parents are required to report the results (both positive and negative) to the NHS. They are also required to report the result to the school. We have created and circulated a google form for this purpose. This week we have provided more tests to the pupils to ensure pupils have enough for the first week of the Summer term whilst we await further guidance from the Government.



We would like to thank the team of staff who volunteered to run our testing facility. They did an amazing job setting up the centre and carrying out so many tests, so smoothly.

World Book Day

WORLD
BOOK
DAY



On Thursday 4th March we held World Book Day celebrations in school and online. Pupils dressed up as book characters and book related activities were carried out. Check out our Facebook page to view our book throwing video and The Great Henlow Story Mash Up.

HONESTY - ENTHUSIASM - NURTURE - LOVE - ORIGINALITY - WISDOM

School Action Group



School Action Group have been busy this half term despite the current restrictions. Pupils have been logging on every Tuesday after school to get involved in all aspects of school life.

5 members of School Action Group interviewed the candidates for our new art teacher position. They did a fantastic job and as always got to feed back to Mrs Earp with their recommendations. School Action Group interview all new staff where possible. We like to consider it the toughest part of the recruitment process!!



Autism Awareness

Super 7 Challenge

Monday 27th March

To

Sunday 4th April

Individual Challenge

Set yourself a challenge based around the number 7 or multiples of 7. It could be something to do with fitness, creativity, reading or any idea that you have.

Send your pictures to
SAG@henlowacademy.org.uk

Whole School Challenge

We are aiming to cover the distance of 7000 miles as a school. This could be walking, running, cycling or scooting. Log your distance and how you did it on the Google Form in the School Action Group Google Classroom.

**RED
NOISE
DAY**

We raised
an amazing
£633.70 for
Comic Relief

We have been running a competition for pupils to design a logo for School Action Group. We received so many designs that School Action Group couldn't decide on one single winner so we are going to be combining 3 different designs for our new logo! Well done to Anwen J, Andrew S and Joshua S for your winning designs.

HONESTY - ENTHUSIASM - NURTURE - LOVE - ORIGINALITY - WISDOM

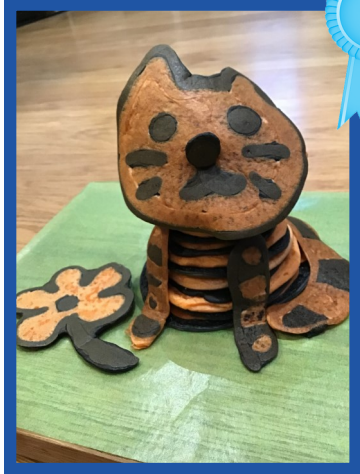
School Action Group



School Action Group ran a pancake competition over the February half term.

We had so many amazing designs that we had to break the winners down into 4 categories.

3D Pancakes



Holly W Year 6

Animal Pancakes



Paige W Year 6

Faces Pancakes



Harry Y Year 7

Miscellaneous Pancakes



Emily S Year 5



Hari C Year 5



Isabel H Year 5



Samuel B Year 7



Iris G Year 5



Emily B Year 6

Year 9 Update



We are entering a really exciting time for Henlow Academy as we prepare to have our first cohort of Year 9's in September 2021.

We have started to recruit more staff ready for our move to be an extended secondary school. We are currently recruiting Head's of Department for English, Computing, Design Technology and History due to promotions and staff retirements. This week we employed another Art teacher to join us in September to increase our capacity in our creative subjects. In the following 2 pages you will see how our current building work is coming along. Our Year 9's will be the first to use our 4 new state of the art science labs in September 2021. Over half term the wall separating Art Room 1 and Art Room 2 was taken down creating a large art area suitable for secondary pupils. Plans are well under way for a brand new food technology room, dedicated graphics room and textile room. The plans also include a huge new computer room and a relocated library/resource centre. These should hopefully be up and running July 2022 ready for the Year 9's to move into their Key Stage 4 journey. It really is a very exciting time at Henlow Academy!

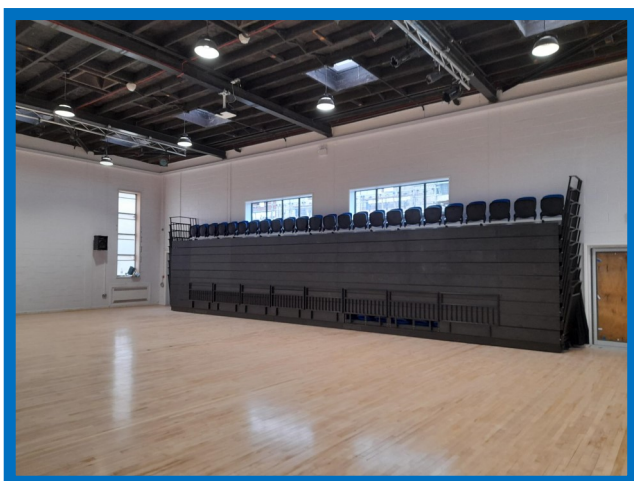
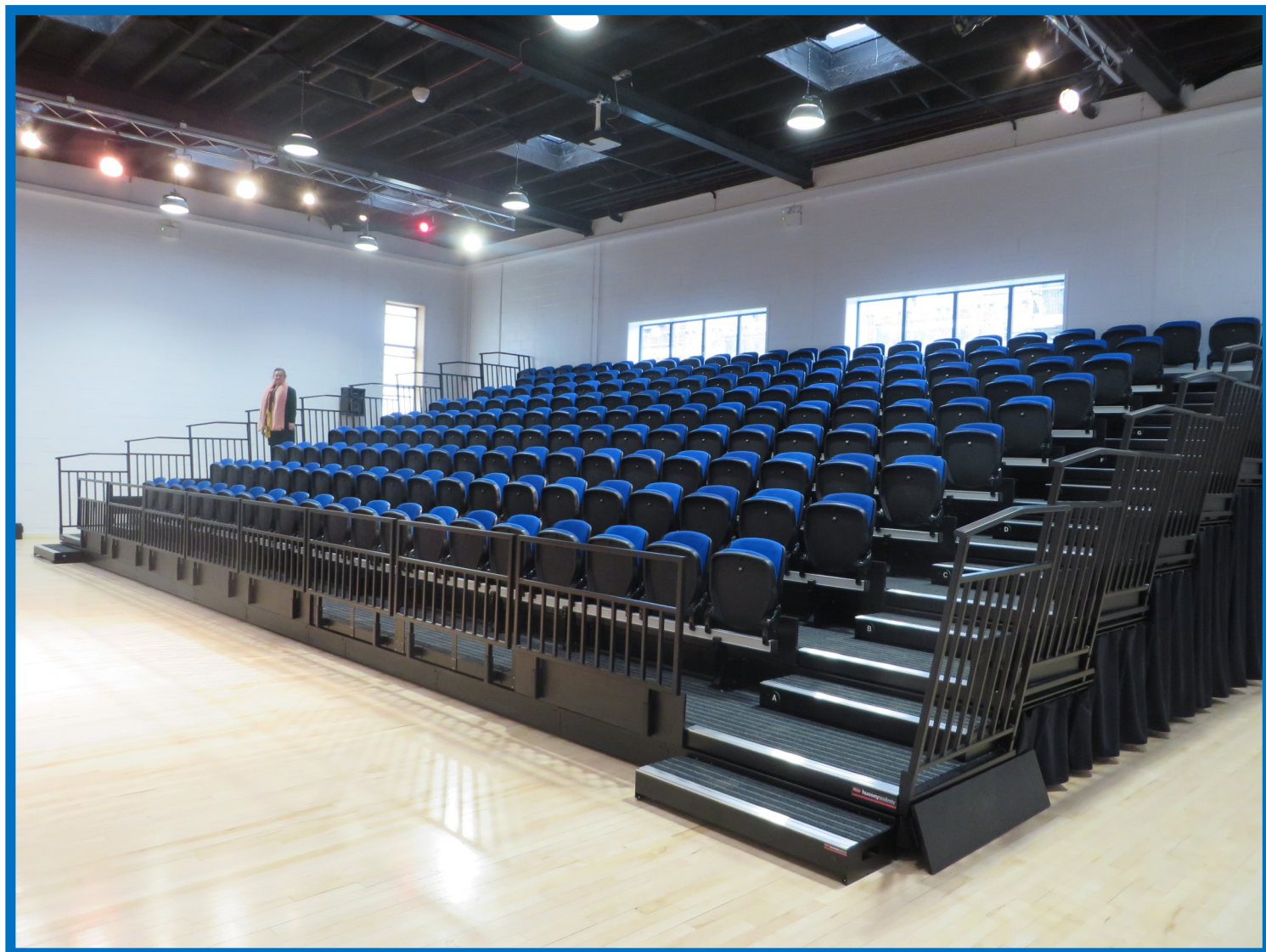
After Easter we will be unveiling our new uniform for Year 9 pupils which our Key Stage 4 Ambassadors have been involved in choosing. Mia and Rosa, two of our Key Stage 4 ambassadors said:

'Over the past few months we have had several meetings with Mr Baxter and even Mrs Earp, discussing our opinions and what to look forward to in Year 9. We have made decisions about uniforms for the coming years and also the placement of lockers and their bright colours. Since Henlow is extending a new building is being built, and we've had the opportunity to step onto the building site and look at the foundations before Henlow changes for the better. We got to put on hi vis jackets and hard helmets, some of us even got to put the spade into the ground ! Before every meeting, we would ask our class for their ideas and then we would request those ideas to Mr Baxter and the team, to see if they could become a reality.'

Exciting News



We are so excited to reveal our gym conversion to a theatre and drama studio. We now have a 184 seats available for performances and assemblies. Soon we will have new tables and seating that can be pulled out at lunchtimes to provide additional space for dining.



HONESTY - ENTHUSIASM - NURTURE - LOVE - ORIGINALITY - WISDOM

Build Update



It's been a busy few week on site. The new classrooms are starting to take shape on the ground floor and the second floor in starting to appear. The Old MUGA's have been cleared ready for our new state of the art 2G flood lit MUGA.

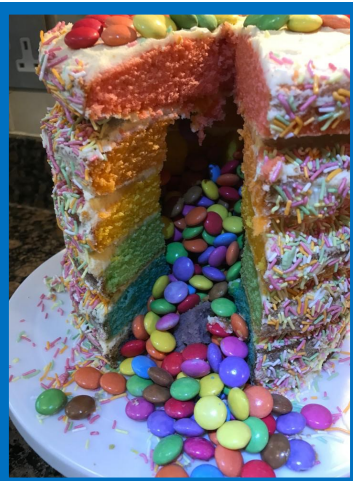
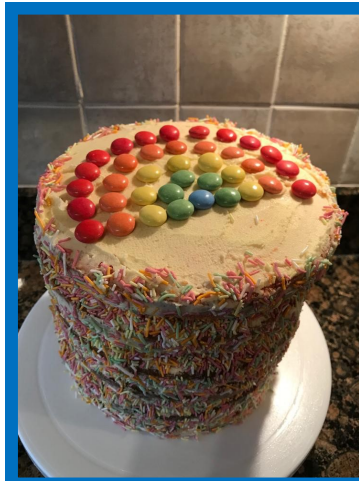


HONESTY - ENTHUSIASM - NURTURE - LOVE - ORIGINALITY - WISDOM

Year 6 Half Term Activities



Year 6 have been sharing what they got up to in half term (it involved a lot of cake!).



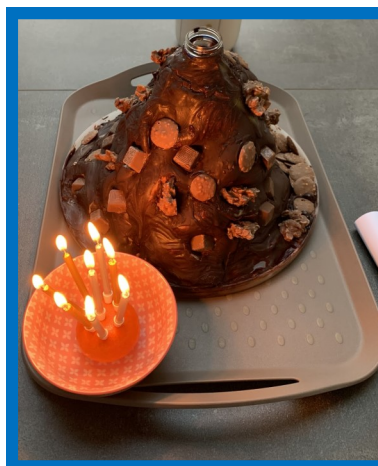
Emily B created an amazing rainbow cake with a surprise when you cut into it!



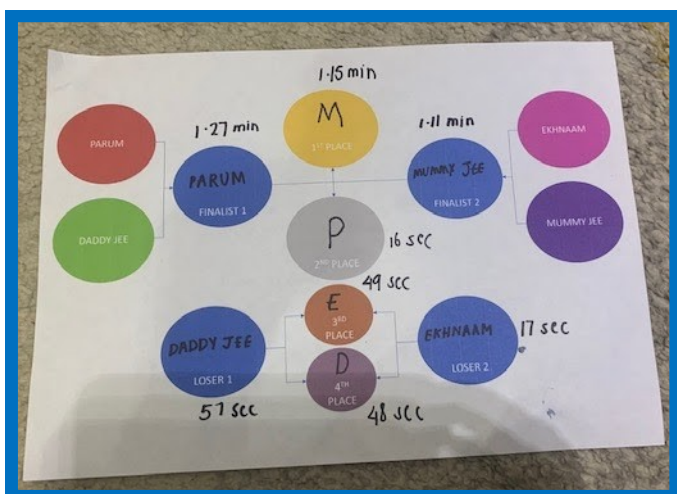
Holly W went on many adventures through the holidays.



Paige W was very busy baking all sorts of cakes!



Amber R made an incredible exploding volcano Cake



Parum S and his family held a skipping tournament.

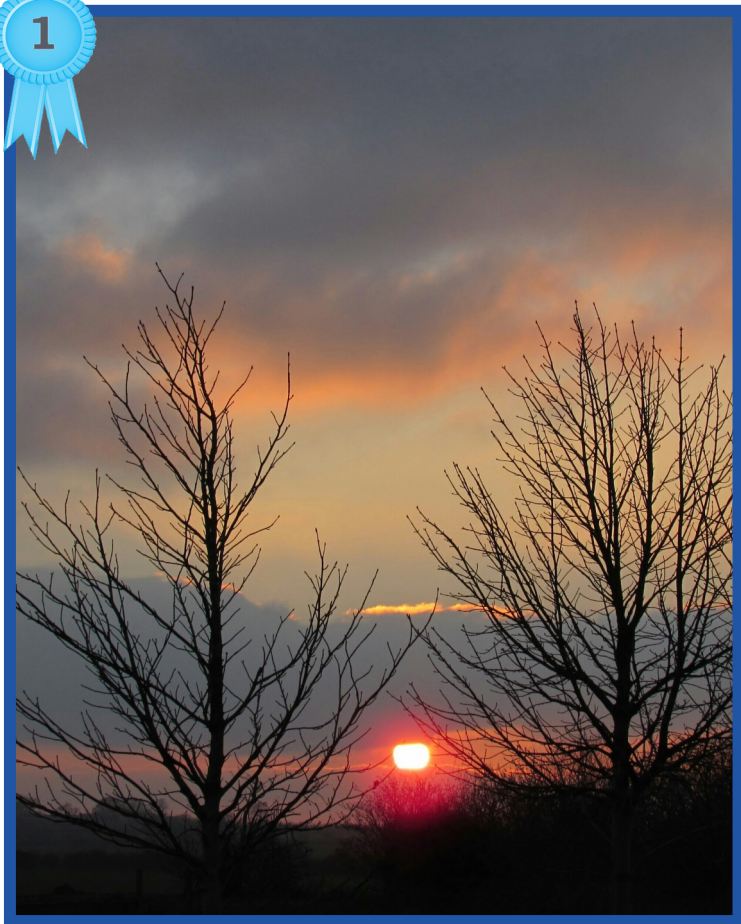


Lauren S made some very yummy flapjacks.

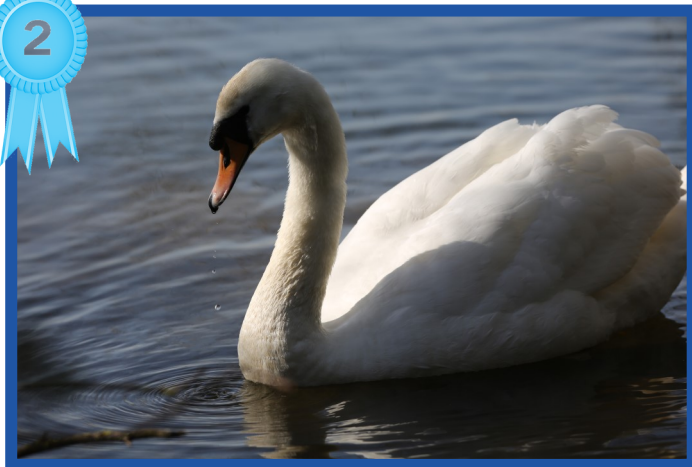
Photography Competition



This half term we have received some beautiful photos for our photography competition. This half terms guest judge was Mr Bergh who has a passion for photography. He was impressed with the quality of the photos that we received. The theme for next half terms photography competition is 'Spring'. Pupils can send their photographs to Mrs Westcar at hwestcar@henlowacademy.org.uk. Next half term our guest judge will be Mrs Goward.



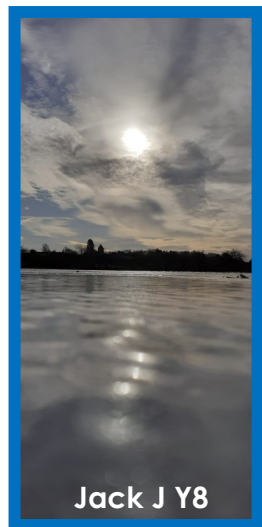
Ella B, Year 8



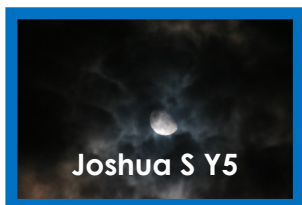
Tommie B, Year 5



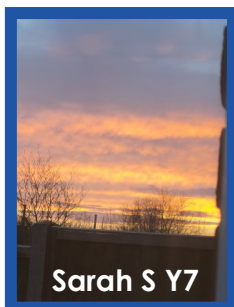
Mrs Jando



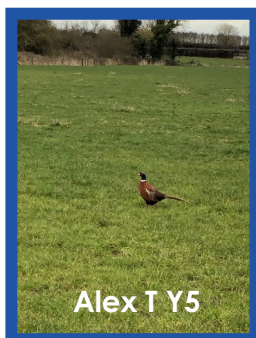
Jack J Y8



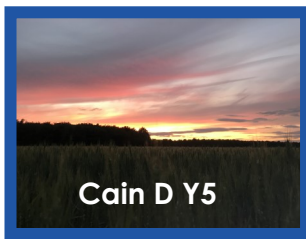
Joshua S Y5



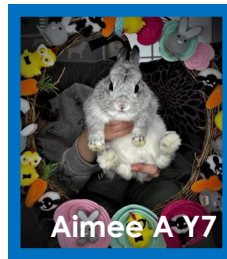
Sarah S Y7



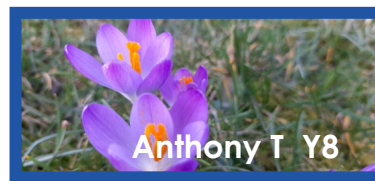
Alex T Y5



Cain D Y5



Aimee A Y7



Anthony T Y8

HONESTY - ENTHUSIASM - NURTURE - LOVE - ORIGINALITY - WISDOM

National Day of Reflection



On Tuesday we took part in the National Day of Reflection to think about those people we are grateful for or that we have lost during the pandemic.

Students had the opportunity for quiet reflection whilst they created daffodil art for display in school, to help us focus on the brighter future we look forward to whilst remembering those we have lost.

If your family has been touched by grief during the pandemic there are various resources signposted from Marie-Curie as part of the National Day of Reflection.

Child Bereavement UK - Helpline 0800 02 888 40 www.childbereavementuk.org

Childhood Bereavement Network - www.childhoodbereavementnetwork.org.uk

Childline - Helpline 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk

Grief Encounter - Helpline 0208 371 8455 www.griefencounter.org.uk

Hope Again - Helpline 0808 808 1677 www.hopeagain.org.uk

Sibling Support - Helpline 0800 028 8840 www.siblingsupport.co.uk

Winston's Wish - Helpline 0808 802 0021 www.winstonswish.org.uk

Please remember we are here to help your child(ren). If you think your child would benefit from some help, please contact their form tutor in the first instance so we can arrange support.

A large yellow daffodil graphic with multiple petals, serving as a background for the text.

National Day of
Reflection
23 March

HONESTY - ENTHUSIASM - NURTURE - LOVE - ORIGINALITY - WISDOM

Library News



We have been unable to open the library to our school community during break and lunchtimes this term. However, after the Easter break, all classes will be timetabled to visit the library once a fortnight.

Click and Deliver

Our 'click and deliver' service is operating once again so that pupils can continue to borrow school library resources and this will continue in the summer term. Pupils can reserve books via our reading cloud system and when resources become available, they will be delivered to pupils. The link to the system is below and pupils have access to this on the library google classroom.

<https://www.readingcloud.net/?refresh=09:29:46>



Pupils do need their login details to access their own accounts. They can obtain these from their form teachers or by emailing Mrs White. Reserving books is quite simple. Here is a useful guide for parents, carers and pupils which explains how to search and reserve:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tQpt0Wt9jEGLsKNqlpmM2GR4H0k0QnaZ/view?usp=sharing>

In addition to the 'click and deliver' service, pupils can still request any information they require whether this is for school work or personal interests.

Returning library books: There are 2 containers outside the library and some classes have boxes where books can be placed.

We are always grateful for good quality books suitable for primary and secondary school children. Please drop these off at the front office.

Competitions for children

Here are some links for writing and book related competitions for all ages!

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/competitions-for-children/childrens-writing-competitions/>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/competitions/>

<https://www.worldbookday.com/play-and-win/competitions/>

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/competitions>

Useful links for book/reading related websites

<https://www.thenational.academy/>

<https://www.bl.uk/childrens-books>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/>

If you need any assistance please
email Mrs White

cwhite@henlowacademy.org.uk

HONESTY - ENTHUSIASM - NURTURE - LOVE - ORIGINALITY - WISDOM

Information Updates



Exciting Update Coming

When we return from the Easter break we will have an important announcement to make.



Referrals to The Need Project

A reminder that if you need some support during this difficult time, we can arrange to have a food parcel delivered to you at home from The Need Project. If you feel this is something your family would benefit from and would like to be referred, please email kjando@henlowacademy.org.uk

We also have a collection basket located in the reception area if you would like to donate items for these collections. More information on The Need Project can be found as <https://www.theneedproject.co.uk>

Our School Website

Have you checked our school website recently? There is lots of information on the website that may be of help to you. [Click here](#) to look at all the pastoral support information with ways to support your child's social and emotional mental health. [Click here](#) to look at virtual family support sessions that are being run by Central Bedfordshire council, SNAP Parent & Carer Forum and CHUMS. We also have all our current vacancies on there if you know of someone who would love to join Henlow Academy at this exciting time.

Big Pedal



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Win prizes by taking part in the UK's biggest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting competition.

Join in whether you're learning at school or at home.

Are you taking part?

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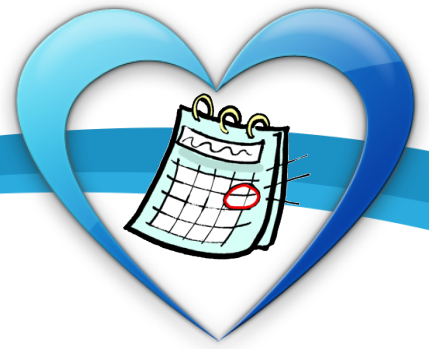
FUSION EXTREME **cyclehoop** **loffi.** **m-ero** **broxap** **plume labs** **FOG**

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HONESTY - ENTHUSIASM - NURTURE - LOVE - ORIGINALITY - WISDOM

Coming Up...



**We look forward to
welcoming all pupils
back on Monday 12th
April.**

**If a member of your household tests positive for
COVID-19 over the Easter holidays, please
email the Covid team
on covid@henlowacademy.org.uk
with the details. We will then be able to take
any and all necessary actions.
Similarly, if your child tests positive term and is
required to self isolate after Easter, please
email the Covid team.**