

# Henlow Heart

Dear Parents and Carers

This edition of Henlow Heart celebrates the full range of pursuits and activities Henlow Academy pupils engaged in during the Spring term. For our secondary pupils Careers Day in March was a particular highlight with pupils having the opportunity to meet representatives from a wide range of businesses. All of the 'thank you' messages we wish to extend are given in full on page 7. The day confirmed that inspiring our young people is one of the most rewarding aspects of all our roles both in school and in the wider world.

World Book Day costumes, castle projects and Shakespearean projects adorn the following pages and reflect the engagement with learning that our pupils display on a regular basis. Projects often begin as a creative idea that are enhanced through the support of others at home - sometimes a little paint, photograph of a piece of material and sometimes a word of encouragement. Thank you for working alongside us in these endeavours.

School Action Group strive onwards in a range of ways and have shown real determination in raising our awareness of various charities organising our community response. The pictures and totals on page 5. Reveal the success of their approach in engaging us all.

Entering the Bedfordshire County Dance competition was a new venture for us at Henlow. The moves were all choreographed by the pupils themselves and the result of 1st place a reward indeed for all of their skill and determination.

And finally, for this front page, we offer our congratulations to the Gregory family on the birth of their healthy twin girls. Mrs Gregory had promised to send us a few lines on their progress for our next edition.

Yours



Caren Earp  
Headteacher

# Extraordinary Times



## Our Pupils Home Activities

We are absolutely loving receiving messages about the work that our pupils are getting up to at home. Thank you to everyone who are sharing the brilliant projects they are completing at home. Keep them coming and we will be able to fill our next newsletter with all your amazing work!



Kacy from 7LC followed a tutorial from The Paint Republic on Facebook. Everyday they go through a different painting theme. Beautiful work Kacy.



Issy N has been extremely busy baking. She made cupcakes for her Grandad's 70th birthday which they were able to deliver to his doorstep. We think Issy needs to enter the Junior Great British Bakeoff!



George of 5JF has been busy making a side table from an old beer keg and piece of oak worktop. With some help he cut out the wood into a circle and then George sanded the top and edges. He painted the keg with primer and then he spray painted it grey.



Jakub, Emily and Flora in Year 5 have been doing Tudor portraits carrying on from the topic they have been studying in class.

# Extraordinary Times



Take Mr Carrington's 10 day challenge!  
Pick something that you can't do now but would like to learn.  
Everyday, for 10 days, keep working at your challenge.

We would love to see you practicing and your day 10 results. Upload them to Google Classroom or you can get an adult to put them on Henlow's Facebook page.

Visit <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/> for different activities everyday including stories being read by their authors, draw-a-longs and quizzes.

Grab a hot chocolate, log on to Google Classroom and snuggle in an armchair to enjoy Mrs Bowskill reading a chapter of Moonlocket everyday!

Can you solve the riddles Miss Cave posts on Google classroom?

**We may not get to see you at school but we are still thinking up all sorts of activities that you can do whilst you are home.**

Log on to <https://www.familydaystriedandtested.com/free-virtual-tours-of-world-museums-educational-sites-galleries-for-children/> and take a tour of a range of museums all around the world!

Hello Everyone!

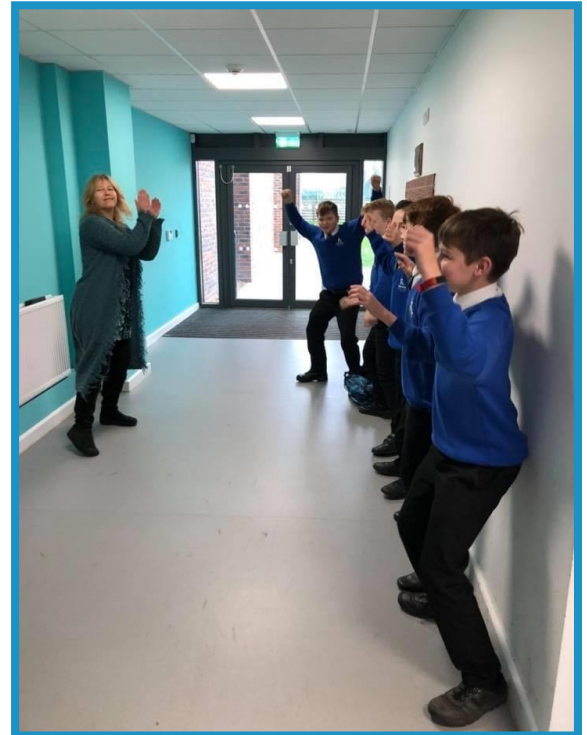
We are living through history at the moment - these times will be remembered for many years to come. Their significance and consequence will be discussed in future history lessons around the world! How about keeping your own journal or diary of these weeks: what is happening in the world, how do you feel, what are you doing every day? What about your grandparents, parents, siblings and friends? Include photos and drawings or even video. Save your work - ideally on paper AND digitally - and keep it very safe. In the years to come, this will be an amazing primary source of evidence YOU can share with your own children and grandchildren when they learn about it in their history lessons. Mrs Goward

Have you been on YouTube and checked out Science with Mrs C?

Mrs Chambers has been carrying out all sorts of experiments at home, why not go and try them yourselves!

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWOXUE\\_ENnl-xqxfNo0DiOw/videos?view=0&sort=dd&shelf\\_id=0](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWOXUE_ENnl-xqxfNo0DiOw/videos?view=0&sort=dd&shelf_id=0)

# Extraordinary Times



During the last week of school we dealt with the uncertainty the true Henlow way! Led by our resident DJ Church, we had parties on the patio every lunchtime, held welcoming cheers for pupils who had to temporarily move into other classes and held 'Just Dance' sessions to name just a few of our activities. Those living around Henlow even got to hear the sounds of Henlow pupils singing at their hearts out at lunchtime!

Anyone who would like to listen to DJ Church's playlist can find it here on Spotify  
<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/73wkleoMC71cephCaRi2Ya>

# School Action Group



As ever this half term has been exceptionally busy for members of School Action Group. We have organised whole school events, taken part in the school staff interviews, raised awareness of important causes and provided feedback on issues that effect pupils at Henlow.



During our one of our regular meetings we met with representatives of our lunch time catering company. We gave our feedback about what works well at the moment, then we had a sneak preview of a proposed new menu, offering our feedback on what sounds excitingly delicious. Watch out for a new menu arriving soon.

## Sport Relief Muffi Day

**£360.29** raised by wearing **red** and dressing as our favourite sports stars.



# School Action Group News

## Beat Beethoven 5K Team Relay Challenge

This was an awesome challenge: 30 teams ran a total of 148.1 km and raised an impressive **£159.10**

On Monday 16th March, six children interviewed for a new school receptionist. All members of SAG had the opportunity to work on the questions, and as ever they were a challenging set. Sophie said, 'It was a really interesting process and I really enjoyed feeding back to Mrs Earp at the end.'



Arthur in 6SG lead us in holding an awareness day for Down's Day. He attended a SAG meeting with his proposal, wrote a set of slides to share with the school and then on Friday 20th we all wore different socks to recognise the differences people with Down's Syndrome have. We raised a total of **£93.16**

# Sport @ Henlow



## Bedfordshire County Dance Competition 1st place

Henlow haven't entered this competition before and we decided to give it a try. The plan was to go and see what it was like and gain some experience ready for next year. However, the girls performed such a high standard dance, which was based on the theme of 'Dream, believe and achieve' that they won the entire competition! The dance was entirely choreographed by the pupils and they performed with fantastic emotion and technical ability. We are extremely proud of them! Well done girls.



Year 7&8 Girls Cricket team won their preliminary round tonight and will go through to the county finals: Great bowling today girls!



Well done to the girls football team who are through to the next round of the county cup.

# Careers Day



On Friday 13th March, Henlow Academy's third annual Careers Fair took place. The year 7 and 8 pupils were all off timetable and had a day exploring a range of career activities: the most exciting one being a visit to the careers fair. The pupils were given the option to 'dress for success' and it was great to see so many looking incredibly smart and making the most of the opportunity. They also had to create rubbish pen holders - made from rubbish - which was all about them working as a team. The pupils had a great day and had their eyes opened to a range of exciting careers out there. We would like to send a big thank you to all of the people who were involved with making the fair such a success:

Representatives from Shefford Vets

John McBurney - Living Life Magazine

Tes Shaw - Physiotherapist

Scott Butler - Easyjet Pilot

Chloe Edge - Easyjet Flight Attendant

Sara Plant-Military Intelligence Analyst

Miles Needham - Insolvency Practitioner

Mel Lawrence - Solicitor

Emma Dalton - Representing the University of Bedfordshire

Tracy Molyneux - Accountant

Caroline Lester - Representative of MCP

Rae-Anna Wright - Whole Health and Fitness Limited

Collette Connor and Karen Bose - Borderforce

Mark Boulton - Retired Forensic Laboratory Manager

Mat Jones - Managing Director of Read Audio

Andrew Knight - Pt21 & Fleet Engineer Structures

Emma and Melanie - Representatives from Adept Living Foundation

Dan Yellop - Discount Brands

Amy Smith - Community Midwife

Melissa Davis - Deputy Head of Midwifery

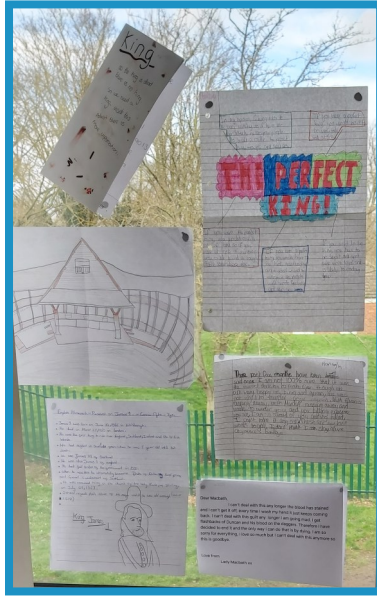
Louise Redman - Practice Development Midwife

Claire Evans - Practice Education Facilitator Mid-

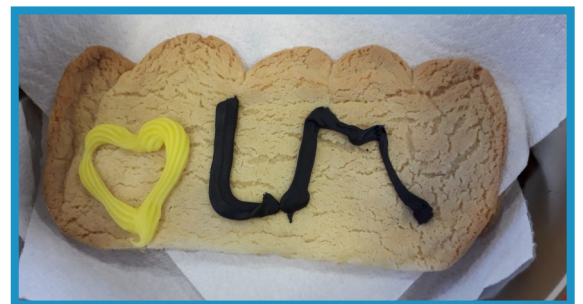
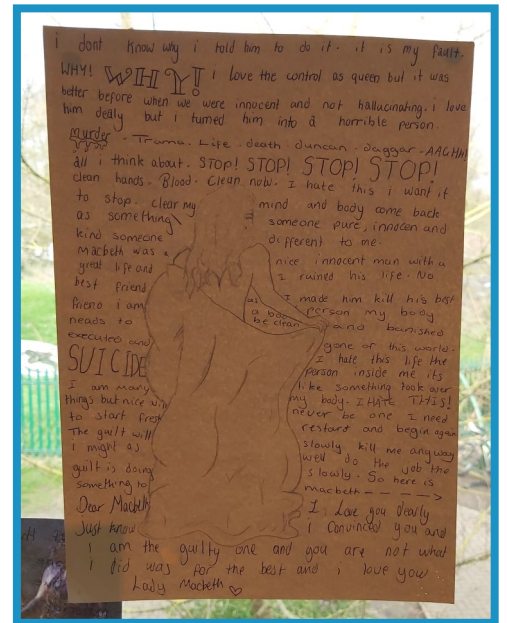
Reverend Shaun Speller - Vicar



# Amazing Work



Year 7 having been working on projects about Shakespeare and Macbeth. Mrs Rimmer was thrilled with all the different ways the pupils chose to present their work. Well done Year 7!





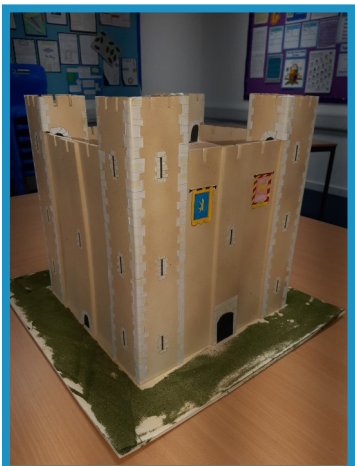
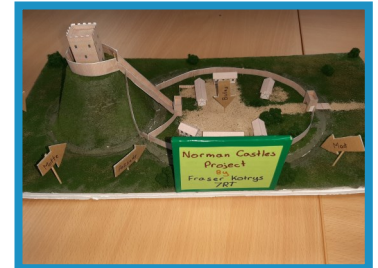
# Amazing Work



## Castle Projects

Some of Year 7 have been producing some amazing castles projects! This has been as part of their work investigating how the Normans established control of England, following their victory at the Battle of Hastings. We have had models made out of all sorts of materials, including cake! Some pupils have visited real castles or ruins and there have also been some fantastic posters, booklets and PowerPoints. I have been incredibly impressed by the hard work, effort and thought that has gone into these and am very proud of everyone's work!

Mrs Goward





# Library News



## World Book Day

At Henlow we love celebrating World Book Day! We held various book related activities through the week, ending with our annual dress up day and Reading Café. We were delighted to see a record number of people joining us to share books with our pupils over a bit of cake and a cuppa. Thank you to everyone for supporting this event.



# The Travels Of Henry Henlow



Just like everyone else, Henry's travels have been put on hold for now.

Instead Henry is enjoying his daily walk in the countryside whilst staying at home with Mrs Goward.

# The Learning Centre



Bernard has been busy planning activities for The Learning Centre and posting work on their Class Dojo page. He is currently being trained by Mrs Carrington to become a new Teaching Assistant for The Learning Centre. Mrs Jones has said that he needs to reduce the number of daytime naps he is taking if he is going to make the grade!

# Pastoral Support



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**Call 0300 303 6666**



Provided by



# Education Update



## Curriculum Matters: Educational Update

Over the last few weeks, we have shared our thoughts on how you can support learning at this very challenging time. It is important to note that parents and carers are not expected to 'teach' their child/ren. Instead, as a community let's continue to embrace this as an opportunity for a really varied curriculum, much more time as a tight family unit, reading together, sharing, laughing and talking. It has been heartening to see so many posts on our school Facebook page of all the challenges and projects you have been carrying out with your children. While this is great, we also appreciate there are many families where parents are trying to work at home and have their own pressures and deadlines. We have no expectations on the amount or type of work that is completed at this very unprecedented time and urge parents to not place too much pressure on themselves to 'keep up with the Jones'.

That said, there are some very useful principles that will help your child to feel better at this time. We all like structure and are motivated by a purpose to our day.

### Top tips

- 1) **Add structure to your day** - Provide a wake up time, a rough plan of what to achieve in the day. Ideally you could discuss the plan with your child/ren so they can take ownership for what they hope to achieve.
- 2) **Encourage variety** - Try to limit screen time daily. Encourage an opportunity to be active: this may be gardening, artwork (creative time), cooking or exercise in the garden.
- 3) **Reading for pleasure** - Reading is an essential skill and there is nothing better than getting absorbed into a good book. If you are struggling to motivate your child, download some of the free books from Audible and listen to Mrs Bowskills reading of MoonLocket on the English Google classroom.
- 4) **Eat well and drink lots of water** - When we are bored we all eat more. Possibly plan a week of meals together as a family and keep to a schedule so that meals are interspersed throughout the day.
- 5) **Independence** - Don't be afraid to leave your child to their own devices for a few hours. Once they are engrossed in a project or creative task it is amazing how much time they can sit and concentrate on it and more importantly want too.

# Education Update



6) **Collaboration** - Sharing and collaborating ideas through Google classroom is incredibly easy and all the children know how to share their work. It is also possible to organise a Google Hangout with other classmates. While we encourage this opportunity for learning and socialising, please ensure your child is safeguarded: making sure they are fully clothed (not in their pyjamas) and hanging out in a public room in your house.

7) **Check in, check up, check out** - Across a week, at Henlow, Tutors speak to their tutees three times a week during PL time to 'check in, check up and check out'. This is an opportunity for the children to share their feelings. It would be great if you could do this during a meal time throughout the week. Ultimately you could ask, "How are you feeling today? What have you learnt about today? Tell me the most exciting thing you did today? What surprised you about what you read/learned today? What would you do differently tomorrow?"

8) **Praise** - Find a reason to praise your child. Ordinarily, while at school, children would be awarded immediate feedback in lessons, every time they ask or answer a question, once they've shown an example of their work or when they have helped someone else. Would it be possible and appropriate for you or them to create a kind of 'Praise Chart'? They could come up with their own success criteria for the week and you could touch base with them on how well they are achieving their goals - you could even award merits! If you think it is deserving of a Head of Year Award, Deputy Head Teacher Award or Head Teacher Award, we would love to hear from you as I am sure we will be able to send virtual stickers!

Please continue to share what you are doing at home and encourage your child to access their various Google Classrooms and Hangouts to keep in touch. We really value what you are achieving at home and look forward to seeing more examples of new skills developed.

Stay safe,

Naomi Chalkley

Deputy Headteacher

# Message From Mrs Earp



I am very proud of the way in which our school community is responding to the difficult circumstances we are all coping with this Easter. I'm sure you are aware that schools are closed indefinitely and no date has yet been hinted at with regard to our return. I hope we will safely be allowed to return in the near future and I know that many of our pupils are missing the day to day contact with their peers and their teachers in addition, of course, to their learning. During term time we have adapted to the situation and set pupils work primarily through Google classroom but also kept in touch via Google hangouts and emails as new possibilities have emerged. Once term time begins again on April 20th we will resume this way of working.

During the final two weeks of the Spring term a small number of pupils remained in school - those who meet the government's criteria of vulnerability and children of key workers. Thank you for understanding that home is deemed to be the safest place for your child where this is possible. Now that term has ended a few pupils are remaining in school and as the lead school in a family of schools we have offered places to others. Again, the numbers remain very small. I appreciate that some parents and carers may need to access the arrangements after April 20th if their situation has changed. For example, if you have changed role and become a key worker or as a key worker throughout this time you now need to access child care. Please contact us if this is the case.

You may be aware that Mrs Coster has been ill recently and she wishes me to let you all know that she is now on the road to recovery. It is likely that she had Coronavirus but was not hospitalised and is looking forward to connecting with pupils next term over the internet. I can confirm that Mrs Coster has not been one of the very small teams of staff in school since we 'closed'.



# Message From Mrs Earp



You may have heard that Mr Lee, on behalf of Henlow Academy, has been designing and making visors for Wymondley Nursing Home, Chase Care Home and Luton Critical Care Team.



It is likely that this project will be extended and as we receive more materials more visors will be made and donated to others in need of them. We are all humbled by this effort.

I have been teaching for more than 30 years and at no time have I ever thought that this kind of situation would emerge. Now that it has, I am more acutely aware than ever that the mental well-being of our pupils should be central to everything we do during this time. Learning is, of course, a part of this and whilst it is vital to ensure that educational opportunities remain possible, ensuring our young people feel supported with warmth and understanding is paramount. Henlow Academy's ethos is shining through as we take each day as it comes.

Please contact us if you need to.

Yours

Caren Earp