

FEBRUARY 2023 ISSUE 027

# VINELINES

YOUR WEEKLY VINEHALL NEWSLETTER



Vinehall  
A REPTON SCHOOL

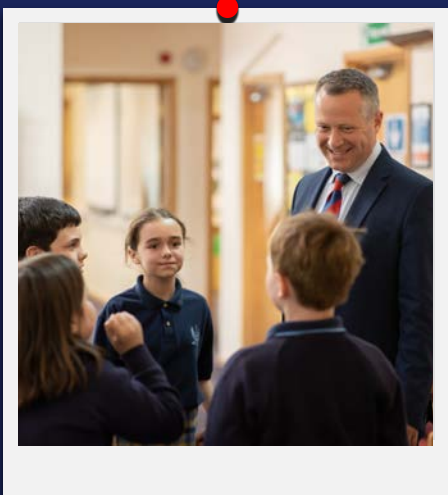


# MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

Thank you to Ally Linney who led our Lenten Friends assembly on Monday. Lenten Friends is a wonderful Vinehall tradition, centred around our value of 'Kindness' and our motto 'To do our best for the benefit of others'. I do hope your children have returned home excitedly sharing who they will secretly look out for over the coming weeks of Lent. Their mission of stealth is to show kindness, helpfulness and awareness for someone else, perhaps someone they have not known that well within the community before. The culture of respect and kindness among our children is central to the happiness that pervades the school.

The Year 8 scholarship season is well underway, and we have had much to celebrate as a school so far. Many congratulations to Elsie B who, in addition to her Academic Scholarship, has won a Music Scholarship to Mayfield. Some of you will have heard her beautiful 'Cello playing. Congratulations also to India A on her Equestrian Scholarship to Claremont. India is a fine showjumper and is also now excelling at tetrathlon.

Our thoughts also go to those children who did of their best but who were unable to manage an award on this attempt. The feedback from our senior schools on their performances were full of praise, especially commenting on the impressive way Vinehall pupils confidently yet humbly conduct themselves. As young people, they certainly stand out from the crowd.



*Joff Powis*





# SCHOOL LIFE

## Year 7 Information Evening

We would like to invite you to a Year 7 Information Evening on Tuesday 28th February at 6.30pm. Drinks and canapes will be served from 6.15pm in the Front Hall.

All current and prospective parents and children in Years 4, 5 and 6 will have the opportunity to join Joff and our Senior Team to talk through what a Vinehall Year 7 entails.

Please book your place [here](#)




## Talking Heads Educational Forum

Joff is delighted to invite all parents and friends of Vinehall to our first exciting Talking Heads Forum at Vinehall School on Thursday 9th March 6.30pm.

This is a Q&A style event and will be a unique opportunity to hear from three distinguished school leaders who will be talking about the immediate educational issues of the day. Topics will include the digital landscape, well-being and mental health, equality and diversity, university or apprenticeships, sustainable school fees and the future of the independent education sector.

Numbers will be limited; to avoid disappointment please book your FREE tickets now. Refreshments will be included.

**[HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.CO.UK/CEZW](https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CEZW)**



Vinehall  
A REPTON SCHOOL


# talking heads...

Thursday 9th March 6.30pm – 7.30pm  
In the Chaplin Theatre


Joff Powis, Head of Vinehall School, is delighted to invite all parents and friends of Vinehall, and those in our wider community, to our first Talking Heads Forum at Vinehall School.

This is a Q&A style event and will be a unique opportunity to hear from three distinguished school leaders who will be talking about the immediate educational issues of the day. Topics will include the digital landscape, wellbeing and mental health, equality and diversity, university or apprenticeships, sustainability of school fees and the future of the independent education sector.


Numbers will be limited so to avoid disappointment please book your FREE tickets now. Refreshments will be included. Please note this is not a discussion about future school choices, but a focus more on broader topics in Education. At the end of the Q&A there will be an opportunity for parents to ask questions.




Samantha Price,  
Head, Benenden



Liz Worthington,  
Acting Head,  
King's Canterbury



Colin Swainson,  
Deputy Head Pastoral,  
Tonbridge School



[trybooking.co.uk](https://www.trybooking.co.uk)

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Monday 27th February

Pre-Prep Author Visit – Philip Ardagh  
Year 7 Parents' Evening

## Tuesday 28th February

9.30am Reception Sissinghurst Castle Trip  
9.20am Year 7 Big Cat Sanctuary Trip  
6.15pm Year 7 Information Evening for parents and children in Years 4–6

## Wednesday 1st March

Boys' Hockey v Holmewood House  
SISNA Netball Tournament at Roedean  
Girls' Netball v Somerhill  
Girls' Football v Beechwood and Sacred Heart

## Thursday 2nd March

World Book Day – Dress Up  
Saxton Charity Second-Hand Book Sale  
Boys' Hockey v St Andrew's  
Girls' Football v Bede's

## Friday 3rd March

Boys' Hockey qualifiers at Wellington  
Exeat begins after school – activities and minibuses as normal

## Saturday 4th March

Exeat

## Sunday 5th March

Exeat – boarders return 7.00–8.00pm

For the latest and most accurate updates on fixtures, teams and venues for Wednesday and Thursday sports, please log-on to SOCS.



## FOCUS OF THE WEEK – MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

As the Italian film director Federico Fellini wrote, “a different language is a different vision of life.”

At Vinehall we celebrate our Global Outlook and aim to offer opportunities to widen our view of the world, introducing cultural topics whilst developing strong foundations of linguistic knowledge. All children begin to learn French and Spanish from the earliest years, with specialists teaching vocabulary through games, songs and learning activities each week. This leads to a strong level of skills based on a wide range of topics by the time children approach Common Entrance in Year 8.

### FRENCH

This term in Pre-Prep, French has been focussed on animals and how to describe them. Children have learnt a French rhyme about our Pals who represent the Vinehall Dispositions, including a simple introduction to grammatical gender and adjective patterns.



le chat  
est curieux



le singe  
est courageux



Reception class outdoors learning French animals

## FOCUS OF THE WEEK – MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Throughout the Prep years children develop French listening, speaking, reading and writing skills, learning vocabulary in varied contexts and extending their knowledge of French grammar. Where appropriate, teaching makes use of authentic materials such as maps, stories, games, audio and video recordings. We learn about life in France and other French-speaking countries and the children love learning about culture.



Year 3 children playing French games, practising counting, colours and family vocabulary.



Year 7 enjoying a French translation activity in class.

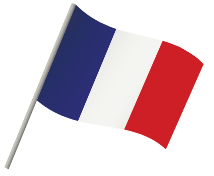








## FOCUS OF THE WEEK – MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES



The Lent term began with celebrations for “l’Epiphanie: la fête des Rois,” when a special cake “la galette des Rois” is eaten. It was wonderful to see all the photos of children cooking the French recipe at home and to hear from parents about the delicious cooking.



### Partner school and penfriends

We now have links with two schools in France, regularly exchanging letters and cards with our pen-pals. This year we have started corresponding with the école Montessori El Nido, Orgeval with younger children, as well as continuing our connection with Collège St Joseph, Brittany.





## FOCUS OF THE WEEK – MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

HELLO

BONJOUR

Year 3 enjoyed a live Teams lesson where they 'met' and introduced themselves to their French friends on the big screen in class. It was wonderful to see and speak to each other and I was impressed with the confident introduction in French by each of our children.

Our partners from El Nido are planning to visit Brighton in the Summer term, so we hope to be able to meet them in person. The children are excited about interacting with their French friends.

### Onatti Theatre Productions – "Parlez-vous français?"



We were very pleased to welcome back Onatti Theatre Productions to the Chaplin theatre at Vinehall just before half term. The whole Prep school enjoyed an entertaining, educational and very amusing play about a disastrous school ski trip to France.

I was proud to see so many Vinehall children participating in the French language play with confidence, asking and answering the actors' questions. Some were even courageous enough to join the actors on stage!





## FOCUS OF THE WEEK – MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES



### Spanish

Spanish is now introduced in Pre-Prep and is growing as an optional subject from Year 6 upwards. We have strong and increasing numbers in Spanish groups and it is lovely to hear the joyful “¡Hola!” as classes arrive for their lessons.

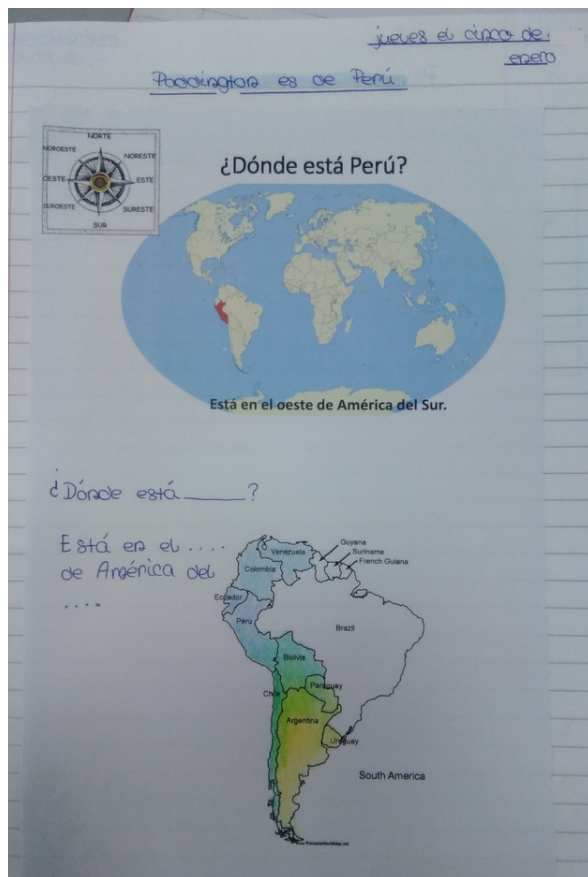
Children enjoy discovering the logical phonics system of Spanish, making connections with their previous linguistic knowledge and exploring the rich culture of the Hispanic world, such as creating altars for the Mexican day of the dead during the Michaelmas term. This term Year 6 have been learning about Peru, an example of a Latin American Spanish-speaking country.







# FOCUS OF THE WEEK – MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES



	¿Qué es?	¿De dónde es?	¿Es de qué material?
	Es una botella	Es de Cupisnique	de Cerámica
	Son aretes	Son de Chavin de Huantar	de oro.
	Es un montón funerario	Es de Paracas.	Es de algodón con lana de llama o alpaca.
	Las Líneas	Nazca	de tierra
	Es una botella	de Moche	La Cerámica
	Es una botella	Nazca	La Cerámica
	una llama	Los Incas	de oro.
	un vaso	Los Incas	de Cerámica

For those families able to visit London before Easter, I highly recommend the impressive current exhibition at the Royal Academy which displays artistic treasures from Spain and the Hispanic World. [Spain and the Hispanic World | Exhibition | Royal Academy of Arts](#)



# FOCUS OF THE WEEK – MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES



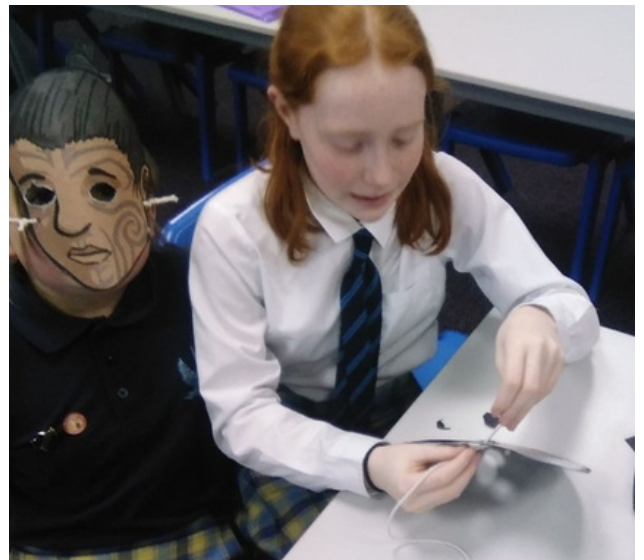
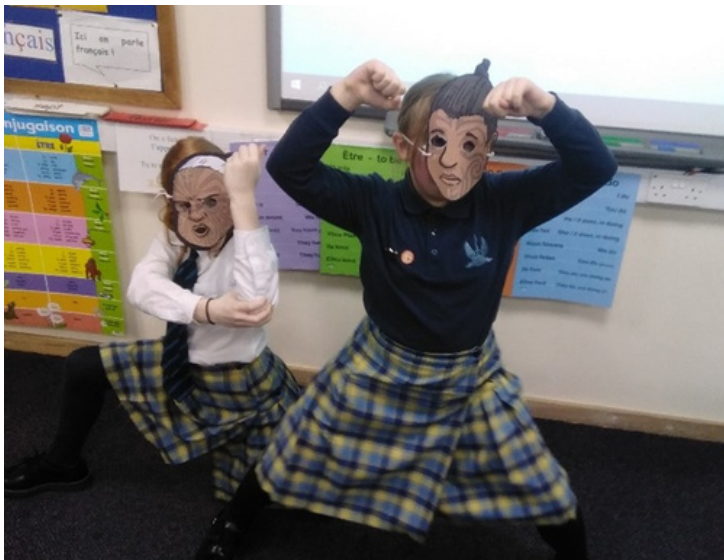
## International diversity

We know that we are incredibly lucky at Vinehall to have our community enriched by our international borders. Children interact naturally with friends from around the world, including from France, Spain and other countries. This cultural diversity sets them on the right path for a future in our connected world and they will grow up confidently interacting with others.

International Club runs on Mondays in activity time. We focus on a different country each week by learning about a festival or cultural tradition and trying a food, activity or craft from that country.

Among many experiences, we have tasted mooncakes from China; celebrated Divali by trying on Indian saris and creating rangoli; made shadow puppets from Thailand and origami from Japan; danced in masks for the Mexican Day of the Dead; tried the Scottish highland fling on Burns' Night and learned about Samba music from Brazil. Next week we will try Welsh cakes for St David's Day.

Here are some members of International Club making masks from the Maori creation story and performing the Haka from New Zealand on Waitangi Day!





# SPORTS

The start of the second half of the Lent Term saw the 1st & 2nd Team girls travel to Battle Abbey for a competitive set of fixtures. The U11 & U10 girls did brilliantly against the same opposition and, with the U11As going to the Mayfield High 5 tournament, it has been busy week for our Netballers.

The 1st Team boys travelled to Dulwich on Wednesday in what proved a tough hockey tournament. The Colts A & B travelled to Hurstpierpoint College for a long, but enjoyable, afternoon of hockey. Both Zac Atwood and Sophia McGill were extremely proud of their performances against some very strong schools. The 2nds enjoyed their two matches and the Colts C snatched a late winner at Saint Ronan's.

The U8/U9 boys and girls performed brilliantly against Claremont and Saint Ronan's on Thursday afternoon and it is wonderful to see the progress they are making in hockey.

This weekend is proving to be as busy as the rest of the week, with a group of girls competing in a Gymnastics competition on Sunday in Guildford and over 30 pupils taking part in our inaugural triathlon at school on Saturday morning.

Next week some of our girls' football teams play their first competitive matches of the season. They have worked extremely hard over the last few weeks and are ready for the challenge.



## For Match Reports

### via Mobile

Please follow these instructions - [click here](#)  
(then click sport tab > select sport >  
Select team > select the fixture > select report)

### via Desktop or Tablet

please [click here](#)



## EVENTS & TRIPS

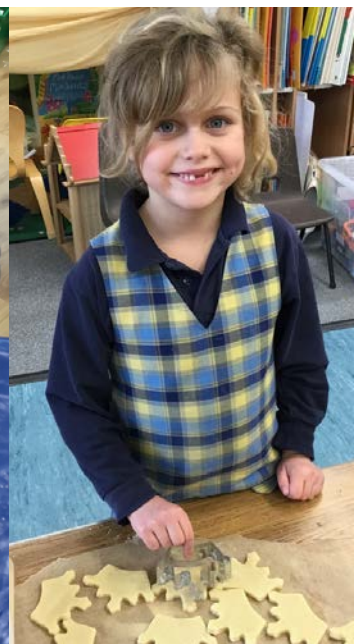


### Pre-Prep Pancake Races and Bake Off

For many of the children and parents, the Pre-Prep Pancake races were the highlight of their week. This long-standing tradition is always full of joy and laughter, which is a brilliant way to celebrate shrove Tuesday. After the races had finished the children definitely deserved their pancakes for snack time.

There were many conversations about the best toppings: fruit, chocolate spread or lemon and sugar. Although their favourite toppings may have been different, all of the children agreed that they loved pancake day!

Pre-Prep continued the theme of baking with the Great Pre-Prep Bake Off. The theme this year was 'British Afternoon Tea' in preparation for the King's coronation, so many had a royal twist. Annabel Newcombe and Gemma from Accent catering came over to judge the sweet and savoury treats. From Victoria Sponges to cheese scones, every class put in an amazing amount of effort and worked together just like Billy Bee. We look forward to announcing the winners of the Bake Off in next week's Vinelines.





# CO-CURRICULAR

## Outdoor Classroom

The Year 3 and 4s spent their first morning after half term in the outdoor classroom – a very good way to get back to school! They made angles with their bodies and with sticks and learnt the mathematical terms. They cooked toast, pancakes and baked beans on the fire and used the fire steels to light cotton wool. For their final task they were given one meter of string and had to use it to make something creative. We had all sorts of interesting things: ski lifts, chalk boards, washing lines and even musical instruments!





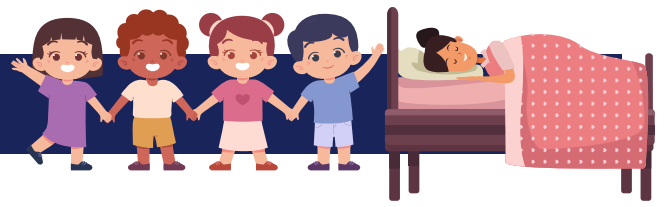
## CO-CURRICULAR

Last week, the school community came together to plant a number of heritage apple trees in the orchard as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative. We were delighted to welcome back Adrian Bidwell, who was groundsman at Vinehall in the 1990s, to help us with the planting. You can now find our picture and details of the planting we did on the interactive map. <https://queensgreencanopy.org/map-education-hub/qgc-map/#/>





# BOARDING HOUSE



On Friday 10th March the boarding team would like to invite Year 4 and their parents to come and spend an evening in the boarding house. The children would stay after school, go to dinner with the boarders, do activities and then have their shower, put on their pyjamas and have a cup of hot chocolate. They can then either stay for the night or choose to go home with their parents, who will be equally well entertained during the course of the evening. This will give parents a chance to see the boarding house and meet the staff, followed by coffee and cake before returning home. I will be sending out invitations to Year 4 parents which will contain more details about the evening. This will be a free taster.

This will be the first in a series of Bubble boarding sessions to be run over the next term and each year group will be given the opportunity to give boarding a try.

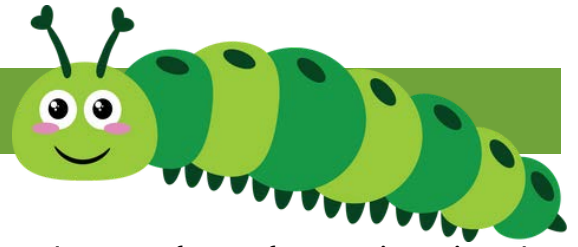
There are many benefits to boarding. Children are supervised and supported, while gaining confidence and learning responsibility away from home. Not to mention not having to get up so early in the morning for the commute.

I would like to finish with a quote from a lovely letter that I received from a parent recently ...

**"I just wanted to send a quick note to thank you for looking after my daughter this weekend at school. She had a GREAT time boarding at Vinehall over the weekend - and I think it went a huge way in introducing her to the fact that school at the weekends can actually be a bit more fun than being at home, especially when we are travelling.**

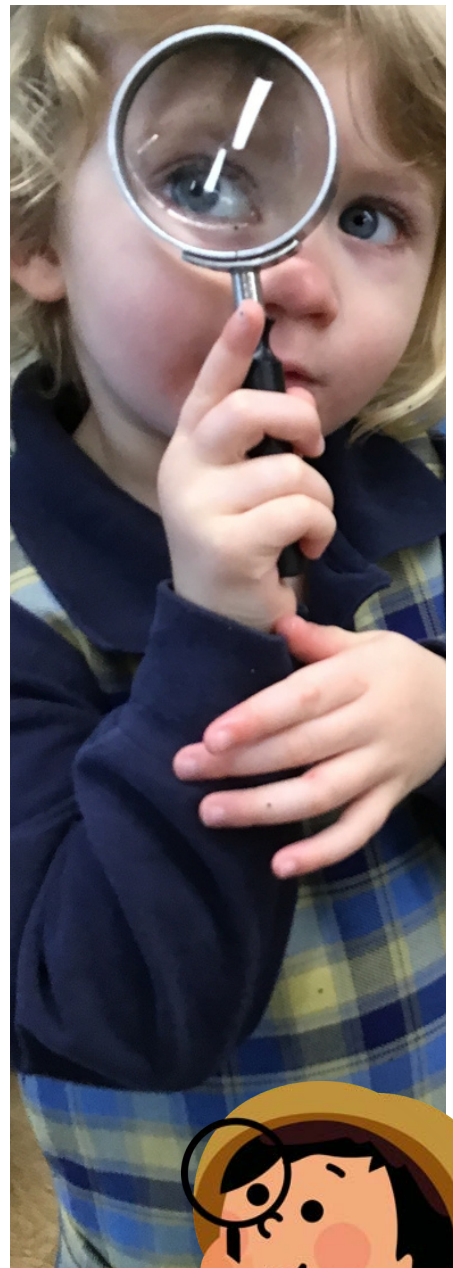
**She was full of beans when we collected her and it was very different from the usual "fine" when we ask her how her day has been. She was full of praise for you and the general atmosphere in the boarding house. Thank you so much - it makes a huge difference to know that she feels safe and cared for."**

# LITTLE VINES NURSERY



There are so many wonderful books to share and one of our favourites is 'The Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle; this has been our book of the week and linked in with our topic of 'Creepy Crawlies.'

The children have acted out the story, created caterpillars using different media and materials and developed their curiosity by using the magnifiers to explore and investigate.





# LITTLE VINES NURSERY



## People who help us in school

It has been all go in Kindergarten this week as we started our new topic 'People who help us' and we have spent time learning about people who help us in school. During the week, we have been on three exciting visits. The first adventure took us to the school kitchen where we loved meeting Gemma and her team. The second exploration took us to see Sister Kate in the dispensary. The third trip was a tour of the school to give thank you cards that we have been busy making in class. The children have been brimming with questions to ask on our visits and they have been extremely excited to explore different parts of our school community.





# LITTLE VINES NURSERY



THANK  
you

# RECEPTION

Reception have had a wonderful start to our topic.

The children have spent the week singing and taking part in a range of different activities based on nursery rhymes.

We started by creating a giant bed in the hall out of mats to roll out of and jump on as little monkeys, this was a great way to encourage the children to improve their fluency with one more and one less.



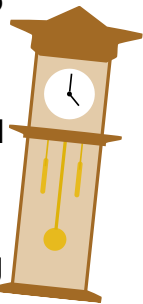
Then Incy Wincy spider popped by for a visit and the children created their own webs and spiders out of wool, perfect to improve their fine motor skills using threading.



After singing 'Heads, shoulders, knees and toes', we used the song to help us label body parts; the children came up with many more body parts to add.



Our '10 green bottles' game encouraged the children to subitise to 5 and find the patterns to 10 to knock them off the wall.



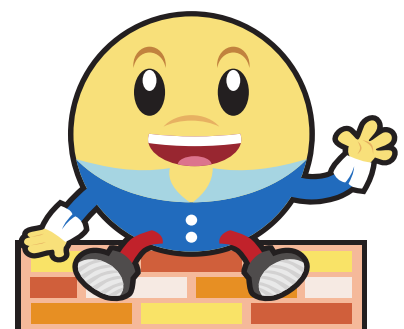
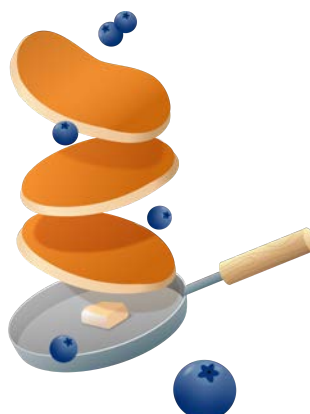
'Hickory, dickory, dock' was the base of our clock discovery and being able to use the phrase 'O'clock'.

'Old McDonald' helped us think about the sound animals make and to see if we could match the baby animals to their parents.



Our final rhyme of the week was 'Humpty Dumpty'; the children tried to build Humpty a special coat and helmet to protect him when he falls off the wall.

The children had a fabulous time at the Pancake races on Tuesday and enjoyed taking part in our afternoon tea themed bake off.





# RECEPTION





# YEAR ONE



Year 1 have had a very busy week. We have been focused on The Big Bake Off, baking mini Victoria sponge cakes to be judged. The result has yet to be announced, but we worked hard to decorate our board and present our cakes in our own Royal Castle.

In maths, we have been looking at numbers up to 50, splitting them up and really trying to understand what they mean. We have also enjoyed studying our atlases and we can now locate the continents and the five major oceans on our map. We had lots of discussion and excitement as the children located different countries and shared their exotic holidays!





## YEAR TWO



To begin our new topic 'Creepy Crawlies', Year 2 went on a minibeast hunt around the school. We had to predict what we might find, then completed a tally to show what we found and where. The children always love exploring and getting their hands dirty and there were plenty of worms, woodlice and spiders to be found.

Later in the week we took part in the Pre-Prep Bake Off. This year's theme was a tea party for the Coronation, so we made crown-shaped jammy biscuits. We worked as a team to mix and roll the dough, before everyone cut out their biscuits. This is always such a fun activity for the children and they love getting to eat the finished product!





## CELEBRATIONS

Pre-Prep

# STARS OF THE WEEK

Nursery

Ella

Kindergarten

Mayreau

Reception

Zephan

Year 1

Rose  
Thomas

Year 2

Sia



# Happy Birthday

James H

Ben O

William H

Yehor A

Thomas G

Cecily G

Rose D

Forrest S

Asa W

