

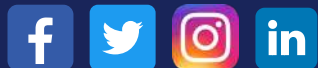
FEBRUARY 2023 ISSUE 026

VINELINES

YOUR WEEKLY VINEHALL NEWSLETTER



Vinehall
A REPTON SCHOOL



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

A muddy stamp of approval

‘A friendly, outdoorsy prep, with smart facilities in a super location in stunning High Weald countryside, and a holistic and forward-thinking ethos that puts pupils at the heart.’

As promised, I am delighted to be able to share with you the recent review for the Muddy Stilettos Best Schools Guide. I am thrilled for our staff and for your children that such recognition has been given for the exceptional school environment that we have here.

‘The school has a strong focus on academic innovation, recognising that in an age of Google, knowledge is only ever a search bar away and it’s the skills and qualities of resilience, collaboration, courage, reflection and inquiry that form the basis of real learning.’

Wowed by the children at lunch, the vastly experienced school appraiser made a point to comment on her way out how genuinely impressed she was and how naturally engaged she had been when spending time with the children she had met.

‘Children who love the outdoors and like getting stuck in. They’ll be allowed to be kids, but they won’t be bubble-wrapped.’

I know you will help us to shout from the rooftops about what an incredible school we are. Please read on by using this link to the Muddy Stilettos website.

Have a wonderful rest with your children over half term.



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.

All current and prospective parents and children in Year 5 and Year 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](#)



FOV Curry and Quiz Night – Tickets are now live

Friends of Vinehall would like to invite all parents and your friends to come along to our Curry and Quiz Night at School on Friday 24th February from 7.30pm. Tickets include curry and a drink. Numbers are limited!

To book your tickets, [click here](#)

Drinks with Dan Lewis

Dan Lewis, Chair of Governors, will be hosting a social event at the School on Tuesday 21st March 2023 from 5.30–7.00pm before the Year 3&4 production of 'Tam Lin'. He would be delighted if you can attend.

Please RSVP to Mary Alderson at headspa@vinehallschool.com



UPCOMING EVENTS



Monday 20 February

Lenten Friends Assembly
Outdoor Classroom Morning

Tuesday 21 February

Shrove Tuesday
Year 8 Mocks Start
9am Pre-Prep Pancake Races

Wednesday 22 February

Girls' Netball v Battle Abbey 1st, 2nd, U11A, U10
Boys' Hockey tournament at Hurstpierpoint Colts AB
Boys' Hockey Tournament at Dulwich Prep 1st
Boys' Hockey v Saint Ronan's 2nd, Colts C
Early Years Parent Talk "The Importance of Good Routines", 6.30pm-7.30pm
Forest School for Reception 1pm-3pm

Thursday 23 February

Pre-Prep Bake Off
Boys' Hockey v Saint Ronan's U8, U9
Girls' Hockey v Claremont U8, U9
Year 3 & 4 Parents' Evening

Friday 24 February

Pre-Prep Bake Off
Girls' U11 Netball Tournament at Mayfield
FOV Curry & Quiz Night - All welcome



Saturday 25 February

Vinehall Children's Triathlon
Years 3-8 Spectators welcome

Sunday 26 February

10 am Chapel Service
SGA 4 Piece National Championships, Tormead School
Boarders' Activity: Herstmonceux Castle

FOCUS OF THE WEEK – MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

It's Children's Mental Health Week! This week, we have enjoyed quality time exploring our expansive grounds, got up close and personal with some very old trees and found new ways to connect in our House Meetings. Ask Paxton about their Pancake Race. Ask Ashton about their time outside. Ask Saxton about their tree-hugging. And, please be sure to ask Rushton about the zipwire! We celebrated our connections, shared smiles and laughter, and warmed hearts on a chilly Wednesday morning.



We have also spent Form Time thinking about the meaningful connections we have in our lives and how we are connected here in school. In Life Skills, we have looked at more useful strategies for our Wellbeing Toolkits, as we have practised mindfulness in new ways. Breathing in deeply, with shoulders rising/clenching, followed by a sharp and loud exhalation (HA!) has been a favourite amongst the seniors. We hope the children have learnt a few more practical skills that they will take with them throughout life.



FOCUS OF THE WEEK – MENTAL HEALTH WEEK



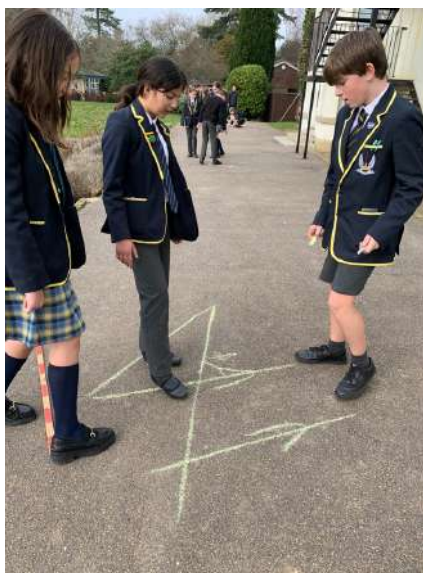
FOCUS OF THE WEEK – MATHS

Alongside children's mental health week, Years 5, 7 and 8 have taken some of their learning outside. The beautifully crisp mornings lent themselves to a spot of running for the Year 8s, who were investigating the speed they could run, then finding the average speed of their group.



They had to determine the distance, and even extend it to get a wider variance in their group's results. They discovered you needed the total distances and times, rather than averaging the final speeds.

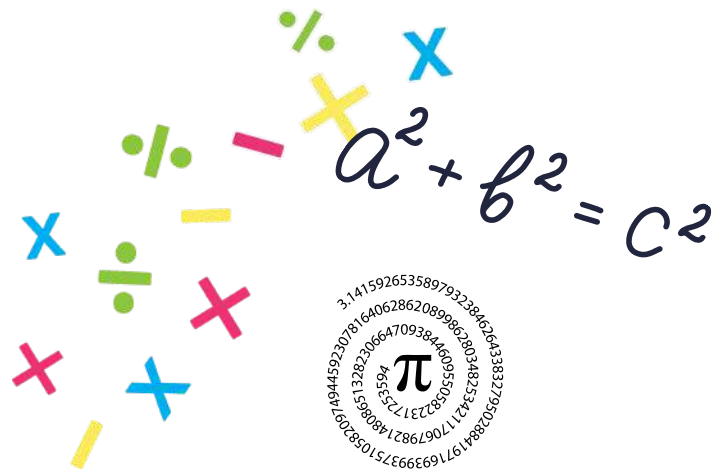
To break up the exam week for some of the Year 7s, they revised their angles in parallel lines and in triangles on the Terrace, creating missing angle questions for other groups. They did a great job at explaining their reasoning and what calculations were needed. One group even realising that more information was needed in order to label all the angles show.



FOCUS OF THE WEEK – MATHS

The Year 5s also took to nature for some ratio problem-solving. All enjoyed the change of scenery to encourage thinking outside the box.

Four Year 5s also had the exciting opportunity to venture off to Mayfield with Steph Robinson to take part in their Primary Maths challenge against 15 other schools. They tackled a variety of different types of challenges, some in fours and some pairing off in twos, including the frantic relay round!

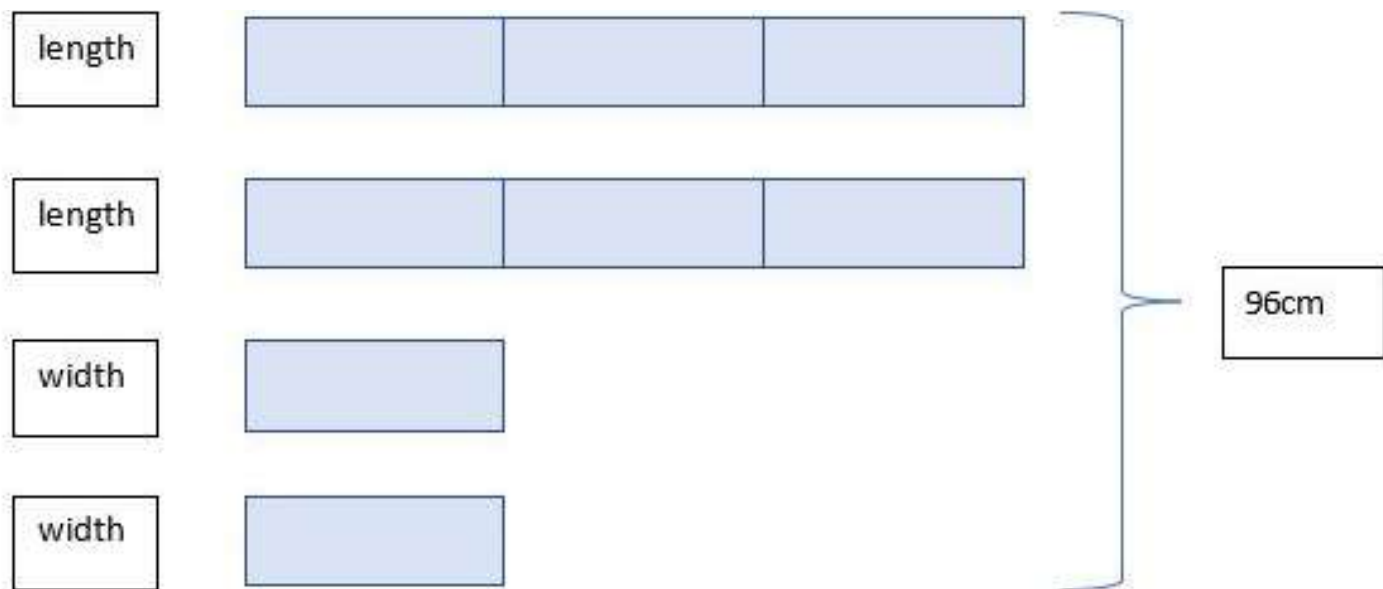


The team were challenged with a variety of questions that encouraged problem-solving. Try one similar to those the children attempted without the use of trial and improvement or algebra first.

The perimeter of a rectangle is 96cm and the longer side is three times the length of the shorter side. What is the area of the rectangle?

FOCUS OF THE WEEK – MATHS

Seemingly complicated and needing either trial and improvement or algebra; however, with the use of visual bar-modelling with which the children are familiar, it becomes much easier and accessible to children earlier in their mathematical journey.



Using the idea of one unit, the problem can be split into bar models. Splitting the 96 by the 8 bars, gives the width of 12cm and the length or 36cm, so an area of 432cm².

Congratulations to Masa M, Kenneth C, Jamie M and Harvey P, who came fourth out of the 15 schools.



ACADEMIC

Year 3

Let's Connect – 3E

Year 3 had an interesting Life Skills lesson thinking about their 'wants' and their 'needs'. This led onto a discussion of the United Nations 'Rights of the Child'. Lots of thought and reflection on how lucky we all are in many ways. Later in the afternoon I discovered some Ancient Egyptians singing outside 3E, in their pyjamas! Love it in the De Beer block!



Soil Detectives in Year 3

Year 3 spent time investigating different soil types this week. They had to think about how their test would be fair (for the soil types, as well as for them!) when asked to find the best 'soaker' and 'drainer'. All worked well collaboratively and did their best to record their findings.



Hierarchy in 3E

Even though Mrs E explained to 3E that she was actually at the top of their Year 3 social pyramid, followed closely by Miss E, Ayra was still delighted to be placed at the top of the Ancient Egyptian hierarchy for the lesson!



ACADEMIC

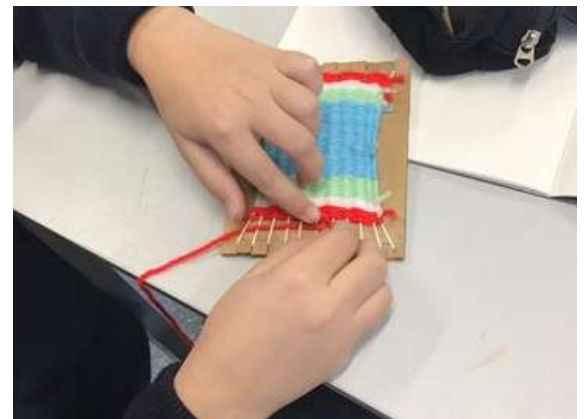
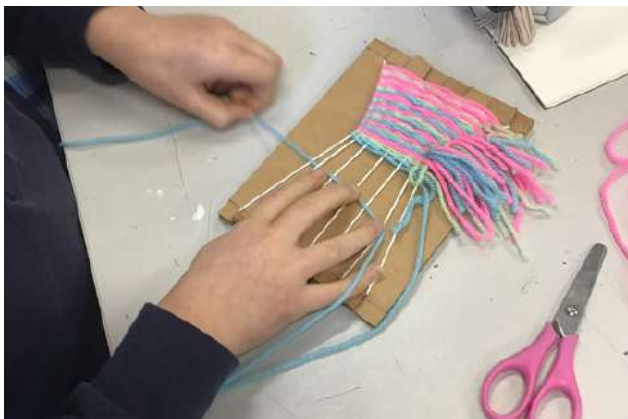
Year 5

Year 5 discovered more about Hinduism by learning about some of the different symbols that are important to the Hindu faith. Then they spent some quiet time colouring the Sri Yantra, often used as a focus in meditation by Hindus. Many of 5L said they love colouring patterns as relaxation.



Using Our Fine Motor Skills

Our Year 5 pupils have been using their fine motor skills to produce some woven textiles. Their pieces are colourful and strong.



Year 6

Year 6 have been learning about the Islamic faith and had ten minutes colouring at the end of their lesson today; the patterns were taken from Islamic art. many children said they find colouring patterns very relaxing – especially in a week of assessments!



ACADEMIC

Year 8

Revolution! Year 8 Revolutionaries

The Year 8 pupils have been challenging the notion of Art and asking the question, 'What exactly is Art?' We concluded that Art is different for everyone and cannot be quantified. It is what the viewer sees.

The pupils studied the work produced by the anti-establishment DADA movement and the Surrealists. Both taking the revolutionary path and challenging the idea of Art. With the use of photography, printmaking and introducing the effective use of typography, the Year 8s mixed media artists were encouraged to think beyond what is presented to them and to positively challenge established ideas. To become revolutionaries.



SPORTS

The last week of this half term has proved to be as busy as the rest, with a swimming gala on Tuesday, followed by netball fixtures against Dulwich Prep on Wednesday and hockey against Bede's.

The senior girls' swim squad travelled to Mayfield for what was a very relaxed and friendly match. Mayfield narrowly won, with a score of 54-45, but Derek Guy was very pleased with the effort shown by all.

The Senior Netballers did very well against Dulwich, with some very close matches going in our favour. Although the U11 and U10's afternoon was a little disjointed, they all played very well and the staff are very happy with the progress they are making. The senior boys had a tough start to their afternoons but rallied brilliantly to finish on a high. The Colts A hockey team's good form continued, with an exciting 4-2 win, and the Bs and Cs were unlucky not to come away with a positive result in their closely fought matches. The U8 and U9 boys did a brilliant job at Bede's Prep in Eastbourne on Thursday, after which they enjoyed what must have been the healthiest match teas ever served!

If you have not done so already, please sign your child up to the school triathlon we are hosting on the morning of Saturday 25th February. If your son/daughter has any queries, please do get in touch. I want to see as many pupils take part in what I hope will be a relaxed and enjoyable first event at Vinehall. To sign up please [click here](#)

Date for the diary: On the afternoon of Friday 10th March we will be hosting the House Cross-Country event at school. All the pupils will take part in what will be an exciting afternoon of running. I would like to invite as many parents as possible to spectate. More details and timings to follow after half term.



SPORTS



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](#)

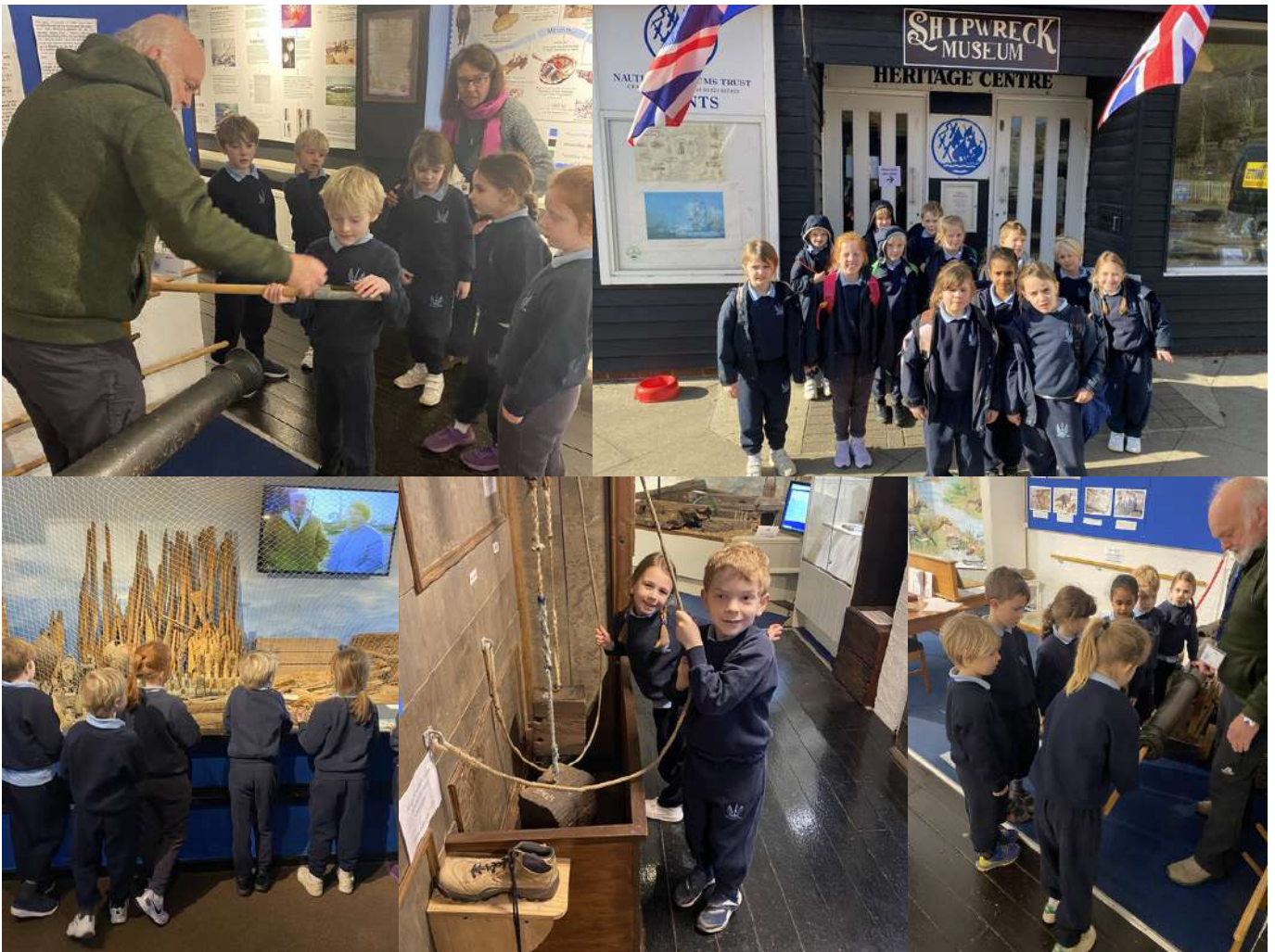
EVENTS & TRIPS

Year 2

Year 2 abandoned ship this week and left the classroom to spend an enjoyable morning at the Shipwreck Museum in Hastings.

Whilst there, the children had a go at cleaning and preparing a cannon before pretending to fire it. They also found out about different pulleys and how effective they are at lifting heavy objects, as well as looking at maps to show how many shipwrecks there are in the English Channel ... there are a lot!

They were amazed to see how much has been salvaged from different shipwrecks, including muskets, wine bottles and pieces of eight. We finished the morning by having lunch in the sunshine on the beach. Back at school we were also treated to a talk by Annabel's dad, who has visited many shipwrecks himself. What a great way to conclude our Shipwreck topic.



EVENTS & TRIPS

Paxton Charity Event - Pyjama Day

Last Friday the whole school arrived in their pyjamas. This was a fundraiser event for MSF (Medicine Sans Frontiers).



BOARDING HOUSE

The boarders had a very busy and enjoyable weekend. On Saturday we were joined by some day pupils at Urban Jump in Heathfield and managed to burn off some excess energy before returning for a quiet evening watching 'Shrek' and eating chocolate brownies made by the boarders earlier in the week.

On Sunday we had lunch out in Tunbridge Wells and then went to see 'Puss in Boots' at the cinema. It is finally staying light a little later, so we had a good run around outside before dinner.

A few weeks ago, we went pottery painting in Hawkhurst and on Tuesday our creations were ready for collection. The children could not believe that the colours that were so dull before firing could be so vibrant and were thrilled with their pieces.

We have started a Birthday Golden Ticket in the boarding house. A golden ticket will be given to the birthday boy or girl and they will be allowed to present this to a day pupil friend who would like to try a night's boarding. This will be a gift and will not be charged. We look forward to seeing a few new faces in boarding.

Finally, it has been a lovely half term and we look forward to warmer, sunnier days next term.



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF PRE-PREP

I have so enjoyed the last week of this half term as the children have concluded their learning in a variety of wonderful ways. On Tuesday afternoon Year 1 presented a truly brilliant interactive dinosaur museum to their parents, and it was inspirational to see such a high level of engagement from all the children. Everyone had created a clay dinosaur in its own diorama, together with a model of its teeth, a salt dough fossil and a beautifully presented report containing a wealth of information. It was clear to see how the cross-curricular approach used at Vinehall brings about meaningful learning, and it was also clear that all of the children had become dinosaur experts!

We celebrated Safer Internet Day in assembly, which we had planned to coincide with the end of an IT unit in which the children have been learning about cyberbullying and how to keep themselves safe online. I was very impressed at the knowledge the children had amassed and were able to share with me as we worked together to keep Smartie the penguin safe online; but it's really important to chat with your children on an ongoing basis and check in with them that they have remembered what is safe and what is not safe to share online.

I wanted to say a huge thank you to all the parents who joined us last Friday afternoon as we celebrated the end of National Storytelling Week with a story sharing session in our pyjamas. It was fantastic for the children to have so many role models reading and sharing stories with them, and sends a powerful message about how we can connect through reading and stories.

I look forward to welcoming the children back to another action-packed half term on Monday, 20th February and wish you a happy and relaxing half term holiday.



Nicky Whittaker



LITTLE VINES NURSERY

Mental Health Week

As children's emotions develop there are many ups and downs for all of us here at Little Vines and for you as parents.

Using our Zones Of Regulation each day during our circle time supports the children's understanding of how to express their emotions. Visual aids are used and shared with the children and staff model and use language to express how they feel. The children become very aware of their feelings and learn each day different strategies to support them to feel green, which is the colour for which we are all aiming. To be in the colour green means that we feel happy, calm, focussed and ready to learn!



Maths in Kindergarten

For our maths focus this week we have been investigating the wonderful world of squares and rectangles. We played games and created shapes from a variety of different materials.

A real highlight was exploring the school grounds to see how many different squares and rectangles we could find. We all enjoyed using the iPads to take photos of the shapes we spotted.



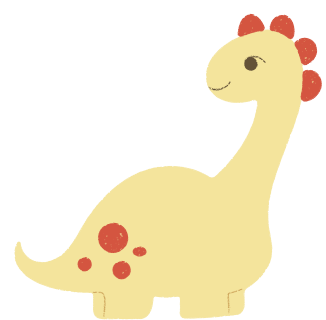
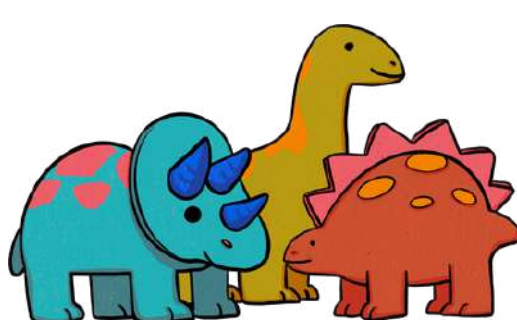
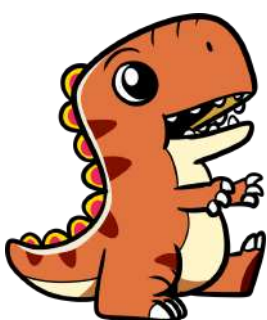
RECEPTION

The sun shone brightly on our first Forest school session with Sally King this week. The children had to find the woollen worms hiding around the woods; they then created dens for their dinosaurs. We have been utilising our Reception garden to explore chalk, water and sand. The children then experimented with different brush sizes in our art session, focusing on water colours for the first time. They all had a marvellous time at our Valentines disco and are ready for a relaxing half term.



YEAR ONE

What a wonderful way to end our 'Dinosaur Discovery' topic this week by having the children perform their 'Dinosaur Museum' to such a large audience! Thank you parents and grandparents for coming to watch our show! The children sung and played their hearts out and recited their fact-files with great confidence. It has been so lovely watching the children take such an interest in their learning this term! Well done Year 1 - you were brilliant!



CELEBRATIONS

Pre-Prep

STARS OF THE WEEK

Nursery

Iris

Kindergarten

Shree

Reception

Freddie

Ezra

Year 1

Henry SC

Adeline

Year 2

Barnaby

Isabel

THANK YOU

Thank you to all our wonderful families who donated to Dom's Food Mission. Here is Dom saying 'thank you'!

