

FEBRUARY 2023 ISSUE 025

# VINELINES

YOUR WEEKLY VINEHALL NEWSLETTER



Vinehall  
A REPTON SCHOOL



# MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

## A pinch and a punch

I was met with a commotion as the Boarders descended to breakfast on Wednesday: 'A pinch and a punch for the first of the month' and others rapidly declaring, 'White Rabbit!'. Such a lovely tradition, especially when shared with our multi-national boarding house, and we can always hope that these superstitious sayings will bring our children good luck in the month ahead.

Another treasured tradition to highlight this week has been our acclaimed Match Teas; certainly a classic and timeless charm of the Prep School World that Vinehall does particularly well. Delightful cakes, sausage rolls and sandwiches aside, the Drawing Room was alive with friends and extended families coming together in the warmest of atmospheres. In today's fast-paced world, taking a moment to slow down and enjoy the company of others is more important than ever. My thanks to you all for such great company and of course to Chef Gemma and her catering team for meeting the highest of expectations.

This warmth, this welcome, this personable approach is drawing continuous wonder from visitors. I look forward to sharing with you the outstanding review from Muddy Stilettoes following their time with us and with your children last Friday. Still in draft form, I have pinched a morsel for you – ***'Pupils feel valued and respected at Vinehall, and have plenty of opportunities to have their say and get involved. They love the family feel and supportive setup and, unsurprisingly, they also love the open space and the freedom to play.'***



Jeff 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 24 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](mailto:headspa@vinehallschool.com)



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Monday 6 February

**Year 5 Primary Maths Challenge at Mayfield**

**8.30am – 3.00pm (selected children)**

**Year 6 and Year 7 Mid-Year tests begin**

**Year 8 Mock French Oral Exams**

## Tuesday 7 February

**Year 2 Shipwreck Museum Hastings – 9.30am – 1.30pm**

**Year 1 Dinosaur Museum for Parents 2.30pm**

**Girls' Swimming V Mayfield U13, U12**

## Wednesday 8 February

**Safer Internet Day with lifeskills talk for parents**

**Girls' Netball v Dulwich Prep 1st, 2nd, 3rd, U11AB, U10**

**Boys' Hockey v Bede's 1st, 2nd, Colts ABC**

## Thursday 9 February

**Boys' Hockey v Bede's U8, U9**

## Friday 10 February

**Food Bank Friday**

**Years 3–8 Onatti Theatre Company French Play performance, Chaplin Theatre**

**Pre Prep Valentines  
Disco 3.15 – 4.00pm**



**Half term begins after school  
No activities (Except EMC & ASC)**





# FOCUS OF THE WEEK – ENGLISH

## Story time in the English Department

"There's always room for a story that can transport people to another place," declared JK Rowling. Just so, and Year 3 and 4 were lucky enough this week to receive a visit from our Director of Drama, Mary Alderson, to mark National Storytelling Week.

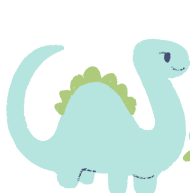
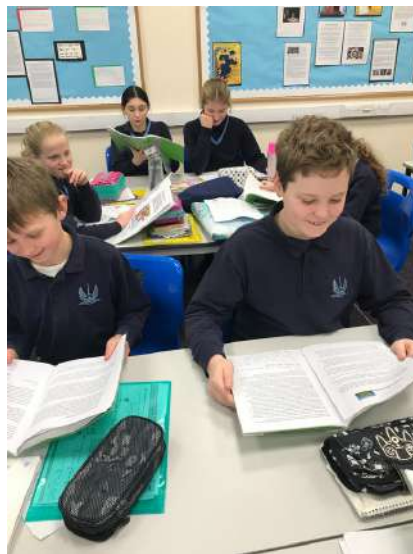


Imaginations in Year 4 have also been sparked by the story of Hiccup Horrendous Haddock the Third in 'How to Train your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell. Fun and games in the classroom have included playing Dragon Top Trumps and creating friendly (or fearsome!) dragon character profiles.

Year 3 have explored Shape Poems before having a go at creating their own Calligrams. They are now enjoying planning their own stories based on Michael Foreman's 'I'll take you to Mrs Cole'. Imaginations are running riot as they think of all the naughty things they could be up to at home, and all the scary things that could be awaiting them at 'Mrs Cole's'!



Year 6 pupils have been writing their own stories inspired by the title: 'Journey into the Unknown.' This has resulted in a range of stories; some set in a future landscape, others moving through time and space, deep in underwater kingdoms or out onto WWI battlefields. There were dinosaurs, aliens, soldiers, mermaids and hobbits in a glorious assortment of characters, settings and plots. Pupils enjoyed the magic of a group storytelling hour once all the stories had been drafted, rewritten and polished to perfection.



There was also one very special piece written by Tymofii L, in which he shared a first-hand account of his family's experience of the outbreak of war in Ukraine. The class was spellbound as Tymofii recalled (in faultless prose) those first few days nearly a year ago when war broke out, and, in his words: 'My life changed forever'. Having been chosen to captain his school basketball team one day at school, to finding himself in the back of the family car the very next day leaving his home, his friends and his country, Tymofii took us through his experiences.

This helped to underline the importance, value and power of storytelling as it allowed children to wonder, imagine and reflect.



Year 8 have been exploring stories of a different kind. First, in the National Gallery, where pupils stood before the magnificent painting 'The Execution of Lady Jane Grey' by Paul Delaroche, noting the juxtaposition of Lady Jane Grey's snow-white satin petticoat and pale face against the forbidding dark backdrop of the executioner's block.



This set the tone for our trip to the Fortune Theatre, in Covent Garden, where we watched a thrilling performance of 'The Woman in Black', a Gothic horror story based on Susan Hill's novel about the haunting of young solicitor, Arthur Kipps.

Our Year 8 pupils were intrigued to hear that, when the play was first staged, the directors were apparently so short of cash that they could only afford to engage two actors (in addition, of course, to the Woman in Black) to play all the characters in the cast list.

In writing their reviews of the play, Year 8 pupils reflected on the range of tricks deployed in the production, such as lighting, props and special effects. This has enabled them to learn more about stagecraft and to reflect on how a story (and, in particular, a ghost story) can be told to best effect.

In her review, Elsie B (8PW) wrote: 'I thought the set was really intriguing; the fact that it was so simple. It was clever how the different scenes were created with just a few props. There was good contrast between the simple main stage and the detailed nursery behind the semi-transparent curtain and each scene was highlighted with some very atmospheric lighting, I particularly liked the silhouettes.

I thought the actor playing the old Arthur Kipps character was very versatile, chopping and changing between his different roles. The 'actor' character was great at portraying the emotion of the scenes and The Woman in Black was very creepy!

My favourite part of the play was when everybody screamed at the Woman in Black appearing. A particularly spine-tingling moment was when she rocked in her rocking chair at high speed – the sound it made was so scary, but I loved it. Even thinking about it now makes me shiver!

I would definitely go and see this play again if I had the chance. It is such a shame that it is closing soon and no longer able to share its fantastic horrors with other people. I feel incredibly lucky to have seen it.'



# ACADEMIC

## General Knowledge Quiz

Lent term brings the return of the hotly awaited General Knowledge Quiz and for the first time we took part in the Quiz Club national inter-school championships. The top scorer of the first round of class quizzes in Year 3 to 6 came together to compete in the regional round against 29 other schools. Well done to Albert M, Rhian E, Sam L and Arya E who steadily rose on the scoreboard through the hour long online competition. They should be very proud of their final placing of 16 out of 30.



## Year 3

### Mary Anning visits Year 3

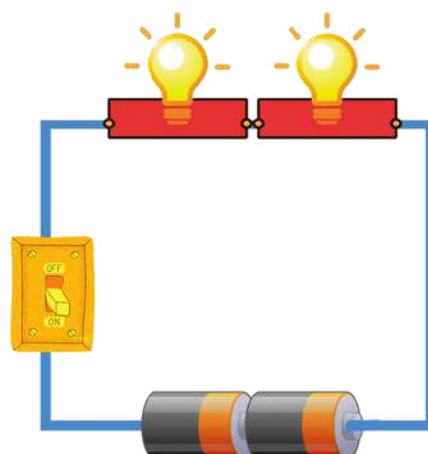
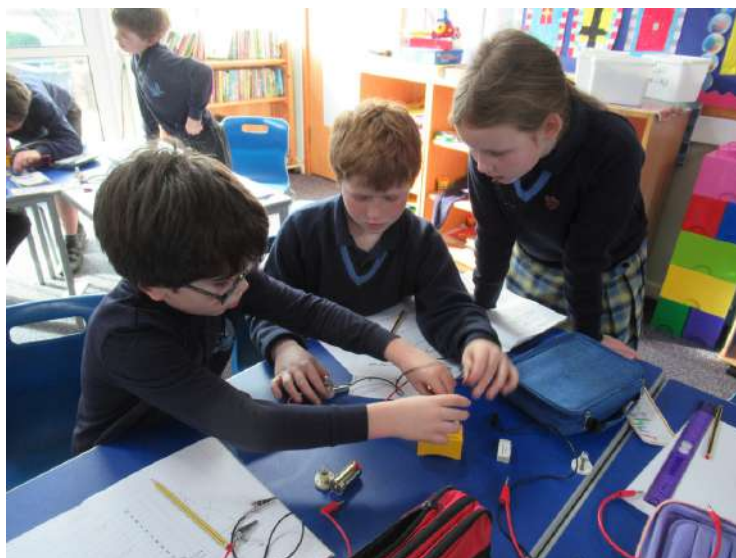
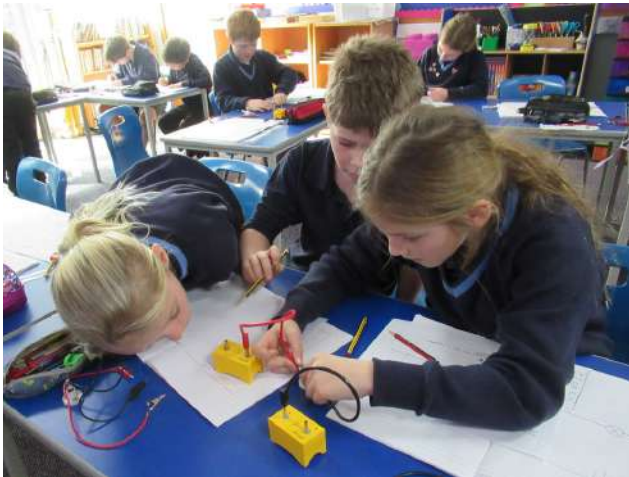
As part of their 'Rocks and Topics' topic, Year 3 have been learning about fossil formation. Mary Anning (aka Mary Alderson!) came to visit and the children had to think of questions to ask her about her life and the fossils she had discovered back in the 1800s. All of us loved the visit; thank you to both 'Marys'!



# ACADEMIC

## Year 4

Y4 explored the electrical equipment in their lesson this week. They were great at investigating which circuits would and wouldn't work from pictures. They could then write rules showing what they had found out.





# SPORTS



On Tuesday the U13 & U11 girls travelled to Eastbourne College to compete in the regional round of the IAPS National swimming championships. Over 4,500 children are taken part all over the country, with the 20 best in each event going to the finals in June at the Olympic pool Stratford, London.

The girls swam their hearts out, producing their best times. We now have to wait until mid-April to see if anyone has qualified.

The Netball and Hockey teams continued their good start to the season with a good set of fixtures against St Andrew's, whilst the boys took on Claremont. The boys did a brilliant job considering it was their first outing of the term, with the Colts producing some wonderful hockey with three wins and a draw from their four games.

Next week sees the Year 7 & 8 girls' swimming team travel to Mayfield school, with the netballers taking on Dulwich and the boys Bede's in the last set of matches before half term.

If you have not done so already, please do sign up your child for the school Triathlon on 25th February.



## 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 5 Trip to Kent Life

Year 5 had a wonderful time at Kent Life. We explored the farm, looked for hidden tractors, stroked the animals, played in the play areas, watched a lamb being born and spent some time in a Victorian classroom. What a wonderful day. To top it off I had three members of the public coming up to me and telling me how lovely the children were towards their small children. It made my day.





# EVENTS & TRIPS

## Big Schools' Birdwatch

Last Friday the Juniors took part in the RSPB's annual Big Schools' Birdwatch. They very patiently counted the birds that visited the feeders, some of which they had made themselves, in the De Beer courtyard over the space of an hour.

We recorded a total of 26 birds from 9 different species. The children also produced some lovely avian artwork to put up on display.





# LITTLE VINES NURSERY

## National Story Telling Week

'This week is National Storytelling Week. Reading ignites creativity, sparks curiosity, and stimulates the imagination in our youngest members of Vinehall.

Each week at Little Vines we ask parents to come and share our Story Time. This provides an enriching opportunity for our parents to be involved in their children's learning and enhances our positive relationships between ourselves and our wider family community.

The children are just so excited when their parent shares a favourite story and we are very proud of all the children as they sit, focussing, imagining and ask curious questions. Oh the joy and magic of Story Time!



## Kindergarten Sand Writing

This week in kindergarten we've had great fun writing our names with sand. We all loved the feeling of the sand trickling through our fingers as we made marks in it. We then wrote our names on large pieces of card and covered our name with glue. Last of all we sprinkled sand over our name and were amazed to see our names appear. We were just like Terry Tortoise - even when we found a letter tricky, we tried and tried and never gave up.





# RECEPTION

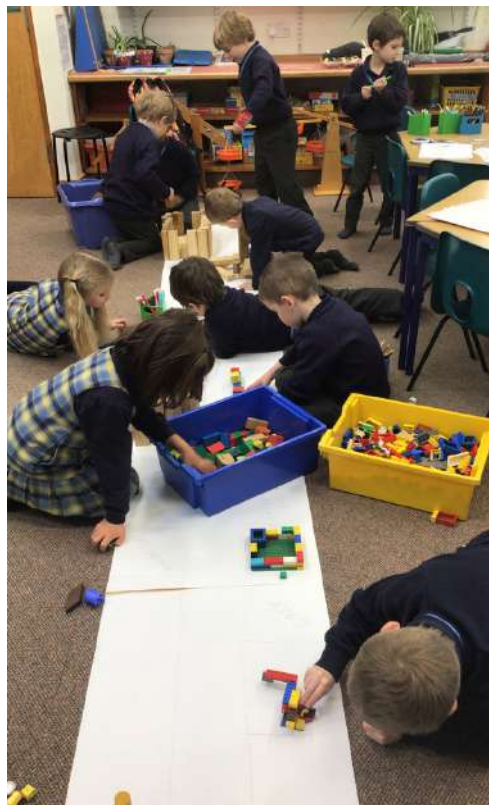


## A week full of adventure

Reception have had a very busy week full of adventure. Our book for this week has been 'Superworm' by Julia Donaldson; the children all created their own super worms out of socks and then wrote stories about them rescuing other creatures.



We were lucky with the weather for our trip on Tuesday. We walked up Battle high street and looked at the different services and shops. We even stopped at the green grocers and bakery for our morning snack.



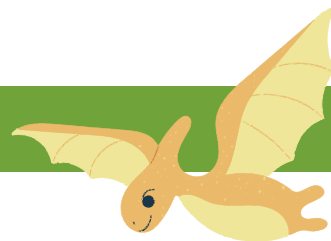
When we got back to class the children used different construction materials to create their own High Street through the middle of the classrooms.

They could remember many of the shops we had seen and how they could help us.





# YEAR ONE



## Poetry filled year 1

Poetry filled the Year 1 classroom this week. The children thought of interesting ways to move their bodies as they practised learning our class dinosaur poem. We worked together like Billy Bee and thought of rhyming strings to create rhyming poetry to enhance our Year 1 display board in the corridor. Come and have a look at our amazing work!





# YEAR TWO



## Year 2 Shipwreck drama workshop

There was great excitement on Thursday when Year 2 went to the theatre to take part in a shipwreck drama workshop.

They had to carry out various duties aboard the ship, before their ship sank after being caught in a storm. Once they had swum to a desert island they had to imagine what they would do and went off in search of food and shelter.

Everyone loved taking part and there was some great improvisation. After the workshop we went back to the classroom to use various instruments, as well as our voices, to create the sound of a storm as it got closer and closer.

What a great morning!



## CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday

Elizabeth-Rose G

Matilda B

Max P

Anouk L

Aelphaba F

Quinn S

Jackson G



Pre-Prep 

## STARS OF THE WEEK

Nursery

Harry

Kindergarten

Rey

Anna

Reception

Victoria

Elizabeth-Rose

Year 1

Tashfeen

Jesse

Year 2

George

Monty

