

DECEMBER 2022 ISSUE 021

VINELINES

YOUR WEEKLY VINEHALL NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

The Spirit of Giving

In our Advent assembly on Monday, the children of the Prep school were asked whether they were ready for Christmas. It must seem an awfully long wait for children, especially this year with an early break-up. However Advent is all about the waiting ... and using the time effectively to prepare for Christmas. The John Lewis Christmas advert from 2011 was shared to whet their appetites for how exciting and rewarding it is to be ready with your gifts.

Our thanks to the Friends of Vinehall for their 'Secrets Room' on Tuesday, giving the children a marvellous opportunity to shop for a loved one. It really does bring them such joy and it remains one of our favourite FoV traditions.

From the Advent candle to the candles of Christingle; the Pre-Prep and Juniors ended their term in the Children's Chapel. There was spirit in their eyes as they treasured their oranges and gazed into their candlelight. A magical glow had spread around everyone.

*What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would give a lamb;
If I were a wise man
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him,
Give him my heart*

(From In the Bleak Mid-Winter by Christina Rossetti)



Joff Powis

Merry
Christmas

UPCOMING EVENTS

Boarders Return

Wednesday 4th January, 4.30pm

First Day of Term

Thursday 5th January

All Pre-Prep Clubs and Prep Activities start

Pre-Prep Winter Walk for Children and Parents

Friday 6th January, 9.00am



SCHOOL LIFE



Our 1st Girls' Hockey team played their last Hockey match of the season!

**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](#)

FOCUS OF THE WEEK – MUSIC

'This has been another very busy term for our Vinehall musicians and, aside from the huge volume of repertoire learned for last week's carol service, the children have participated in concerts, at school and externally, many have taken music exams and Elsie B has worked unbelievably hard in preparation for her scholarship auditions.

In class, the children have studied 'The Blues', 'Rag Time Music', 'Minimalist Music', Holst's 'The Planet Suite', 'The Ground Bass' and 'Instruments of the Orchestra'.

It is three years since the Vinehall Carol Service was last held at St Mary's Church, Salehurst. Despite coughs, colds and sore throats and my belief that the Vinehall tradition of hearty hymn singing may have been lost during the Covid years, the children's choirs stunned us all with their beautiful voices and proved that the spirit of glorious singing is still very much alive. A big thank you to the amazing staff choir and our wonderful parents for fabulous congregational singing. A happy Christmas and a peaceful new year to you all'.



BOARDING

The boarders have had a very eventful and enjoyable final couple of weeks. It all started with the famous Bluewater shopping trip, to which the children have looked forward since they arrived; it very much lived up to expectations. The boarders had an exciting Sunday participating in whacky games in the sports hall, followed by watching the World Cup, where they showed their boundless enthusiasm. Fast forward through a week of classes and the boarders had another action-packed weekend. On Saturday they made us very proud at the Carol Service at Salehurst Church, singing with gusto; we were particularly proud of Jimena, for her beautiful solo and her excellent reading, and Patrick for his delivery of the prayers. On Sunday, the children went ice skating and, despite the majority of them spending more time on the ground than actually skating, much laughter and big smiles were shared.

We wish all the boarders a wonderful holiday and we will miss them.



ACADEMIC

EAL children visit Year 3 to teach 'Imperative Verbs'

3E loved their visit from the senior EAL pupils this week. They had to follow the instructions given by the Year 8s to make a 'stained glass window' decoration. Thank you Ms Newcomb for bringing them along to our classroom. We all enjoyed singing along to 'Feliz Navidad' at the end!



Exploring Colour & Light

In Science, after their end-of-unit quiz, 3E enjoyed exploring the effect that looking through different coloured filters had on the world around them. Then they combined red, blue and green to make - white light! They are still trying to work out their own mnemonic that makes sense (!), for the colours of the rainbow.



Preparing for Christmas

3E has had a lot of fun this week, as well as reflecting on what Advent and Christmas mean for Christians.



ACADEMIC

Just So stories with Years 2 & 3

We were visited by some Year 2 elves on Thursday, and Year 3 read their own 'Just So' stories to them. Thanks for bringing them, Mrs Hawtin!



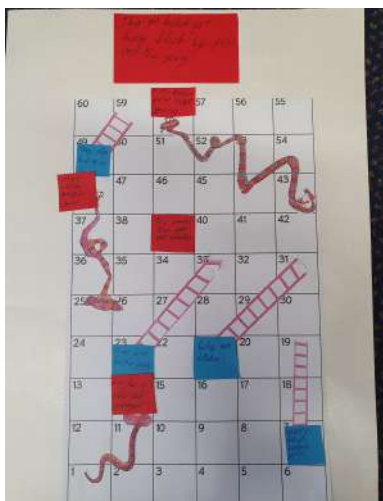
Anti-Bullying Learning Continues

Since Anti-Bullying week earlier in November, many of the children have continued learning about bullying in Life Skills. The children know and understand how to spot the difference between unkindness and bullying (neither of which is accepted at Vinehall).

Bullying is:

- repeated/ongoing;
- deliberate;
- unfair (there is an imbalance of power in some way).

5L has focused on varying forms of discrimination (judging appearances, racism, gender stereotyping, cyberbullying, homophobia and disability) and they had the fun task of creating an Anti-Bullying Snakes and Ladders game based on the listed topics. Our Life Skills lessons have been filled with meaningful conversations, equipping the children to stand up against bullying.



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Maths Week Results

After the exciting Maths Week England a few weeks ago, the results are in! The Great House Race again provided a very close competition, where three different houses were winning at different times. It was the final round that saw Rushton creep into the lead by a matter of decimal digits! Well done also to the individual winners of the daily challenges. In Years 7&8, Summer L won for the most complete explanation to a seemingly never-ending problem. In Years 5&6, Kenneth C won for the most correct answers (including tackling some of the senior questions). In Years 3&4, Albert P won for guessing the closest shapes within a shape image. The annual Primary Maths challenge saw all the Years 5&6 attempt a variety of problem-solving questions. Well done to all those who received a Bronze, Silver or Gold certificate.

A special mention to the two Year 5 Gold certificate winners, Harvey P and Kenneth C.



EVENTS

Year 8 Dinner Dance

Our Year 8 cohort looked simply stunning in their finery on Wednesday, boys in smart dinner jackets and girls in lovely flowing dresses. The Drawing Room had been decorated beautifully and, after canapes and bubbles, staff and pupils sat down to a delicious three-course meal. Polite conversation was interspersed with some serious balloon battles and streamers adorned many a fancy hair-do. The highlight of the evening for most of our pupils (and some staff) was when DJs Parkin and Sands kicked off the dancing with an impressive playlist, a giant glitter ball and some groovy disco lights. Accent Catering staff came up trumps yet again, with one staff member commenting on how lovely it was to see that the pupils are at the centre of absolutely everything Vinehall does.



Photos to follow...

EVENTS

WHOLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Huge thanks to Accent Catering for providing our children and staff with such a delicious Christmas Lunch on Thursday. Roast turkey and every trimming you could think of, served in a festive dining room, washed down with pop and finished with some delicious puddings. The noise of party poppers and whistles was deafening and the children looked fabulous in their cracker hats.



EVENTS

Dick Whittington

Thursday was Panto day - 'oh yes it was!' The three members of Hurricane Productions entertained the Prep School and Year 2 to a crazy rendition of 'Dick Whittington', dashing on and off stage in a range of ridiculous costumes. Pupils and staff were hoarse from so much audience participation and great fun was had by all.



Boo!

Hiss!

It's Behind You!

EVENTS

Christingle

It was wonderful for our Junior and Pre-Prep children to visit our beautiful school Chapel this morning to hear Joff Powis tell them the story of the Christingle. In a children's service in Marienborn in 1747, Bishop Johannes de Watteville looked for a simple way to explain the happiness that had come to people through Jesus, with the orange representing the bountiful world, the sticks being the gifts of the four seasons and the candle being the light of the Lord.



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF PRE-PREP

Music Everywhere

'Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.' – Plato

Last week the children shone brightly in their performance of "Christmas with the Aliens" and "A Wiggly Nativity." Everyone had worked incredibly hard and we were very proud of each and every child. Not only had the children managed to learn eight songs in just five weeks (some of which had three different verses to memorise!), but they delivered them with confidence and aplomb. It is difficult not to feel a tingle of excitement as the Christmas story unfolds in front of us through the medium of music.

Music is all around us; it is the soundtrack to our lives. Music connects us through people and places in our ever-changing world. It is creative, collaborative, celebratory and challenging. At Vinehall, music brings people together through the shared endeavour of whole school singing and instrumental playing and through the love of listening to friends and fellow pupils performing. The sheer joy of music-making feeds the soul of our school community, enriching each child while strengthening the sheer bonds of support and trust. Our yearly Nativity is a vital part of that.

I wish all our wonderful children and families a truly magical (and musical!) Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.



Nicky Whittaker





Countdown to Christmas at Little Vines

'Wow', 'fantastic' and 'amazing' are the words to describe all our Little Vines children as they performed their 'Wriggly Nativity' this week. Every year our youngest members of Vinehall amaze us as they shine in self-confidence, take risks when engaging in new experiences and, above all, share their wonderful Christmas spirit with us all.

Wriggly NATIVITY 2022

[View more photos](#)





Reception

Reception have had a wonderful week. On Monday morning, the classroom sprung into the festive season as the children decorated while singing Christmas songs. The Christmas Party was full of dancing, games and delicious food; it was such a lovely event for the children to share with the other Year groups. The highlight of the party was the arrival of a very special visitor who delivered some lovely presents. Dressing up as an elf never fails to disappoint and this year was no exception. Reception took part in cookie decorating, Christingle making and dancing along to Christmas songs. The final day started with a calm and beautiful Christingle service in the chapel led by Mr Powis followed by a lovely end of term assembly.



PRE-PREP



Pre-Prep Party



PRE-PREP



Year 1

As the term draws to a close we can reflect back on the fabulous progress the children have made in their learning. This week the children participated in many festivities to celebrate their amazing achievements this term. Some of the favourites included: making Christmas decorations for their families, role-playing the first nativity, a disco in the hall, a visit from Father Christmas and making Christingles.

Wishing everyone a well-deserved holiday and look forward to seeing you in 2023!



PRE-PREP



Year 2

We have had a wonderful week, filled with Christmas activities. The children made Christmas cards, calendars and a Christmas tree decoration; they enjoyed a visit from Father Christmas during the Christmas party, watched a pantomime with the rest of the Prep School and took part in a special Christingle service in our chapel. What a lovely way to end the term!



CELEBRATIONS & NOTICES

VINEHALL BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday

PRE-PREP

FLORENCE R, GEORGE F, ISABEL VG, NED E & HARRY O

PREP

JACK L, JAMIE MCK, FLO S, HELENE AB, ISLA M, ELLA F, MASA M, YUZU M, HARRIET R, & ELLIOTT C.



WE WISH YOU
Merry Christmas
& HAPPY NEW YEAR