

DECEMBER 2022 ISSUE 020

# VINELINES

YOUR WEEKLY VINEHALL NEWSLETTER



Vinehall  
A REPTON SCHOOL





# MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER



December is here, the first windows on the Advent calendars have been opened and it has been full steam ahead on the Vinehall Christmas celebrations front.

Pre-Prep have certainly kicked proceedings off spectacularly, with their exceptional Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 play and the Santa's Workshop for toddlers on Tuesday. Our thanks to Father Christmas and his Elves; the magic reflected in the toddlers' eyes is a reminder to us all of the wonder of childhood. We also look forward to the Nursery and Kindergarten Nativity next Tuesday.

Our choirs have been busily rehearsing for the School Carol Service tomorrow. Every Prep child will be involved, as is Vinehall tradition, and I am sure that your homes are already humming to 'Joy to the World' by now! Thank you to the senior Chamber Choir for singing so beautifully at the Santa's Workshop ... twenty voices singing so naturally as one.

My great thanks to all within our community who are going above and beyond to create such a spirit of joy at Vinehall this year.



Joff Powis

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **Carol Service**

Saturday 3rd December, Salehurst Church, 3.00pm

## **Vinehall Concert Series – European Union Chamber Orchestra**

Sunday 4th December, 3.00pm start

To book tickets: email: [geoffreywhitehead@vinehallschool.com](mailto:geoffreywhitehead@vinehallschool.com)

## **Boarders' Parents Evening (On-Line)**

Monday 5th December

## **Nursery & Kindergarten Nativity**

Tuesday 6th December, 9.00am

## **Secrets Room**

Tuesday 6th December - £2.00

## **House Winner' Treat**

Tuesday 6th December



## **Pre-Prep Christmas Party**

Wednesday 7th December

## **Year 8 Dinner and Dance**

Wednesday 7th December, 6.45-10.00pm

## **Dress as an Elf or Christmas Jumper and Christmas Lunch**

Thursday 8th December

## **End of Term**

Friday 9th December, 12.30pm



# TRIP – BLETCHLEY PARK

## Ebenezer and The Enigma – Drama Mixed with History

*Written by Charlie P, Chloe F, Carlos G, Ines A, India A and other members of Year 8.*

Last Thursday, Year 7 & 8 pupils gathered in the Front Hall ready for their eagerly anticipated two-day residential trip to Stratford-upon-Avon and Bletchley Park.

We arrived at Stratford around midday where the cold, crisp and chilly air hit us as we got out of our over-heated coach. We were very impressed by the broad-paved areas around the theatre and the lovely river walkways.

After a quick break for lunch, we set off for our drama workshops run by Royal Shakespeare Company actors, Sam and Hannah. We enjoyed some fast-paced warm-up games before studying script extracts from 'A Christmas Carol'.

During the production itself, we didn't only learn about the story, we had the chance to discover how Victorians lived, dressed and behaved. We were amazed when the stage opened out at the start of the play, gaining masses of extra space and showing us lots of different acting areas. In Scrooge's office, we could see him behaving arrogantly, being 'sharp as a flint', not showing any mercy towards his clerk Bob Cratchit, and shouting at his nephew and two charity workers.

As well as brilliant acting, there was singing, dancing and lots of superb special effects, although when Scrooge's four-poster bed got stuck up in the air, we realised that even in professional theatres, things go wrong sometimes.

Eventually, we returned to our hostel, which was better on the inside than on the outside. We had nice, warm rooms and the breakfast next morning was incredibly good.

Once we had collected our packed lunches, we climbed back on the coach and set off for Bletchley Park, the top-secret home of the World War Two Codebreakers. The area was enormous, with lots of small huts set around a huge mansion in acres of parkland. Soon we separated into two groups, with some of us taking a tour around the whole area while others went straight into a decoding workshop where we were allowed to touch a real WW2 Enigma machine. We had to work on decoding using signals, signs, numbers and Morse Code. We couldn't believe how the people who worked there could stand the stress of the Morse Code beeps all day long.





## TRIP – BLETCHLEY PARK (CONTINUED)

During WW2 around 9,000 people (mainly women) worked at Bletchley Park which operated twenty-four hours a day. It was a secret mansion, hidden in the countryside between Oxford and Cambridge, so it was less likely to be bombed by enemy planes. Some of us decided that being a motorbike dispatch driver would probably be the best wartime job at Bletchley Park, although others thought they'd prefer to be involved in the code-breaking tasks. Our guide told us that workers were totally forbidden to talk about their work to others from different sections of the organisation, so that if they were caught, people would not be able to tell the enemy much at all. Many people died without ever revealing to their families that they had worked at Bletchley Park.

After visiting the main mansion house and various huts, we went into the Intelligence Factory. Here we saw an interactive map of the whole of the Bletchley Park estate as well as a statue of Alan Turing. He was the famous mathematician who invented the Bombe machine which helped speed up the chances of cracking the Enigma code.

Then the teachers realised we were running late, so we all had to rush back to the coach, missing our chance to visit the gift shop which made us a bit fed-up. However, we soon forgot all about that and settled down for the long ride home. It was a great trip which we all enjoyed!





# SCHOOL LIFE

"Mrs Powis, is Good Copy break a Powis tradition?" asked one of the children this morning as he sat with all the Good Copy break children tucking into pancakes, chocolate sauce and ice cream.

"No, Henry," I explained, "Good Copy Break is a very long-standing Vinehall tradition which has been running for decades. In fact, your Daddy probably came to the Melon Garden when he was a little boy (thirty something years ago) and Mrs Chaplin, who was the Headmaster's wife at the time, would have served him Good Copy Tea, just like we are doing today."

It is always a pleasure to welcome your children to the Melon Garden each Friday morning. Protecting these wonderful traditions is central to our values and helps to create the magic of school life at Vinehall.



## Anti-bullying

Further to all the amazing initiatives in school as part of Anti-Bullying Week, please enjoy our inspirational video.

And **'BE KIND!'**

[Click here to view our Anti-bullying Video](#)



# ACADEMIC

## Year 3

### Investigating Shadows

In Science, 3E completed a table of measurements to see if there was any correlation between the size of a shadow created by an object and the distance the object is from a light source. It got us all thinking. The object we chose was a donkey from the nativity set. Before the calculations began, the children enjoyed exploring, using their own hands! Miss E was close by, ready to catch them (!), as they waved their hands in front of the light source while standing on a table! The children also decided Miss E's light on her phone was a much more powerful source than their torches! Mrs E was impressed with the observations the children made.



## Drama – Pandemonium Video

Our video of our successful Pandemonium production is complete!

[Click here to view](#)





# FOCUS OF THE WEEK – GAMES

## Michaelmas Round-Up

The Michaelmas Term is always an extremely busy one on the sports pitches at Vinehall and this term has proved no different. As a department our aim is participation, with our dispositions at the forefront of everything we do. Yes, we want to win but, as in life, this is not always possible and we encourage every pupil to represent their team to the best of their abilities.



### Girls' Hockey

69 matches played, against 14 different schools. With four senior teams, the girls have competed brilliantly, with all the teams playing attractive hockey each week. The 1st team can be particularly pleased with their efforts, with only three losses so far this term; a great achievement considering the strong standard of all the teams they have faced.

The U10 and U11 teams may not have achieved the results for which they were hoping, but they have made a huge amount of progress which will stand them in good stead as they enter the senior ranks next year.



### Girls' Netball

The U8 & U9 girls played 4/5-a-side Netball this term. The girls impressed Laura Percy-White with their endeavour, picking up the rules of the game quickly. They played 14 matches this term, with all the pupils playing in various positions on court, in line with England Netball's new Bee netball scheme.



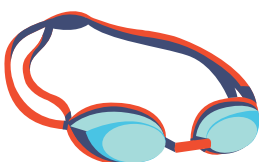
### Girls' Football

There has been a huge push for girls' football to be included in the games programme in schools over the last few years. Vinehall has acknowledged this by introducing all the girls in the school to football. These sessions, led by Jon Newman, took place on Friday afternoons in September and October. They proved hugely popular, and I cannot wait to see the girls in action again next term. For those who may have already had a look at the sporting calendar on SOCS, you will see that the girls in Years 5 to 8 will play a mixture of Netball and Football matches, with the Year 3 & 4s doing a mix of Hockey and Football.



### Gymnastics

The Gymnastics in the school continues to go from strength to strength, with a sizeable number of girls taking part in individual and squad sessions each week. The squad have entered two very tough and competitive competitions. The results may not have gone our way at the recent IAPS event at Kent College, but at the ISGA National 2 Piece Gymnastics Championships the U13 team won gold in the team event, with Rosie D placing 1st and Elizabeth H 2nd overall.



### Swimming

Every pupil from Reception to Year 6 has swum this term Popular as ever, the swim squad have taken part in five galas at various age groups. For many it has been their first experience of competitive racing. Derek Guy and Katie Walker have been impressed with the attitude from all the swimmers and I look forward to their continued success in the Lent term.



# FOCUS OF THE WEEK – GAMES



## Boys' Football

With over 50 matches this term, the boys can be incredibly pleased with their efforts. Never easy having to go into competitive matches after the long summer break, the teams were strengthened by the arrival of some overseas talent and performed well week in week out. A highlight for the coaches this term was how well the Colts A & B teams performed, each only losing one game.

The U8s played their first competitive games for the school and the U9s did well in the many festival type afternoons, with their footballing skills improving with every session.



## Rugby

One week after half term the boys started playing rugby and what a wet start to the season it has been. The weather has not dampened their spirits and, with some hard work in training, they have performed brilliantly on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. There have been many stand-out performances, but the highlight must be how well the U10s did against MHS, Dulwich and Radnor House two weeks ago, winning all three games at the festival.

## Cross Country

It has been pleasing to see the number of pupils who have taken part in the cross-country club held on Monday evenings. They have worked extremely hard on their fitness levels and have enjoyed the different challenges set around the grounds and on the astro.

The teams entered three races/competitions this term. In the first at Saint Ronan's the boys' team, consisting of Charlie C, Gaston R, Henry C and Ethan E, finished an impressive 4th out of 17 teams, with Henry completing the course in the fastest time.

The Cooke brothers continued their fine form at the Somerhill event, with both Charlie and Henry finishing 3rd in their age groups. What makes this result even more special is that both were running up a year.

In the final event of the term, we took six teams to Claremont. In perfect cross-country conditions, all the age groups ran their hardest, with the U11 boys team finishing an impressive 3rd.

## 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](#)



# ACHIEVEMENTS

## Swimming

This week the Girls' U10, U11, U12 and U13 swimming teams took part in a gala at Bede's Senior School. Swimming against Bede's, St Andrew's, Battle Abbey and Skippers Hill, the teams can be pleased with their efforts. The U10s finished 3rd in their group; the U11s - 2nd; the U12s - 3rd; and the U13s - 4th. Vinehall finished 3rd overall - well done girls.



## Eco Fashion Success at Trash Couture Competition

We are immensely proud of our two Year 7 artists who were shortlisted for the annual Battle Abbey Trash Couture competition. Skye R and Isobel F responded extremely well to the theme, with highly imaginative creations that demonstrated an understanding of their chosen materials. Their garments were not only interesting to look at, but they highlighted the need to recycle and upcycle. Skye was the overall winner in her age category with her stunning dress and there were many very positive comments about Isobel's work.

Well done to all those who submitted entries and huge congratulations to both of our finalists.





# MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF PRE-PREP

As we approach Christmas there is a strong sense of anticipation and excitement in Pre-Prep. An alien spaceship, complete with flashing lights, is set to provide a dramatic start to our Christmas Nativity, and beautifully decorated trees adorn the classrooms and corridors. On Monday the whole of Pre-Prep visited Battle Christmas Tree Festival to see our brilliant entry entitled "Christmas is Magical." The After-School Club have been busy for weeks, using recycled materials to craft decorations such as Prosecco cork shepherds and egg box angels. Our tree certainly did not disappoint – we thought it was the winner – and hope for good news at the end of this weekend when the voting closes. If you have not been along yet, there is still time to go and cast your vote!

On reflection it could be said that it is not just Christmas that is Magical, but the experience of being in Pre-Prep as a whole. At no time has that been more evident than this week, when the children dressed up as aliens complete with a third eye, disaffected school children and a whole host of other Nativity characters to re-tell the traditional Christmas story. We have all loved working on "Christmas with the Aliens", learning all the songs and actions and working collaboratively as a team (just like Billy Bee!) to tell the most famous story of all time. I could not have been prouder of the children as they performed with such spirit and gusto, and what a delight it was to watch their faces light up when the audience laughed at their jokes. A huge thank you to all the teachers and teaching assistants who have been involved in bringing this script to life, and to you, as parents, for supporting your children in learning their lines and cheering them on. Vinehall is truly Magical!



Nicky Whittaker



# LITTLE VINES NURSERY

## Countdown to Christmas at Little Vines

We celebrated the 1st December by talking about our very special Advent Tree. The children learnt about taking turns when opening up a box on the tree, as well as listening to their friends talk about what Christmas means to them.

The children have explored different media and materials to create Christmas decorations and have been learning about the very first Christmas. They are all very excited to perform their 'Wriggly Nativity' to you on Tuesday!

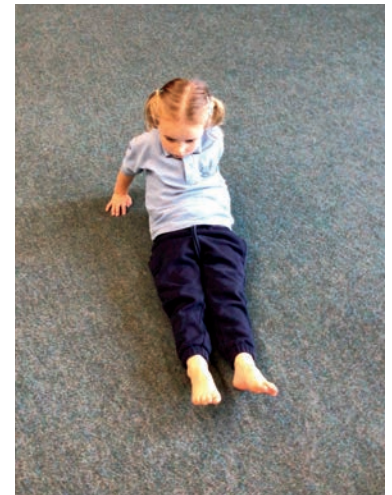


## Kindergarten

### Gym Time

A real highlight of our week in Kindergarten is taking part in gym lessons with Mrs Towner. We always listen carefully to the instructions and recently we have been learning how to make different gymnastic positions with our bodies.

We all enjoy using the apparatus and learning how to balance, jump and climb.





# PRE-PREP

## Christmas Nativity - Merry Christmas with Aliens

After weeks of hard work, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children performed their Christmas play to the rest of Pre-Prep and their families. This year there was a slight twist to the traditional nativity involving some stranded aliens. 'Christmas with the Aliens' told the tale of aliens who landed on earth when their spaceship stopped working; they soon realised they had crashed into the rehearsals of a school Christmas Play. The children kindly invited the aliens to watch and learn about the birth of Jesus. The aliens agreed it was a story the whole universe should hear.

### Cast list:

**Aliens:** Florence B, Isobel, Teddie, Barnaby, George S, Jesse, Ezra and Elizabeth-Rose

**Narrators:** Evie, Amelie, Sia and Tashfeen

**Children:** Ned, William, Vivi, Elfie, Rose, Aayat, Adeline, Rory and Zephan

**Kings:** Annabel, Monty and Jacob

**Mary and Joseph:** Persie and Toto

**Angel Gabriel and Angels:** Max, Florence R, Shahaan, Oscar and Victoria

**Inn Keepers:** Millie and Henry SC

**Teacher:** Henry P

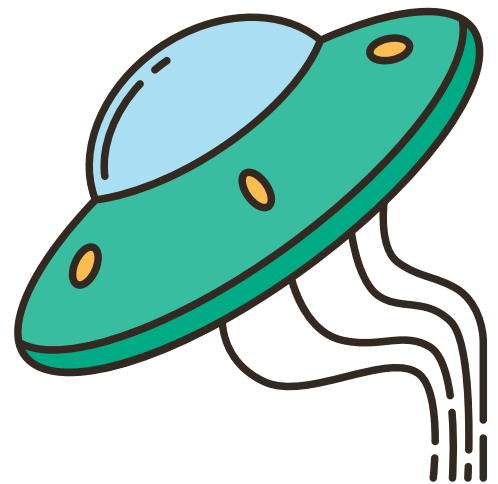
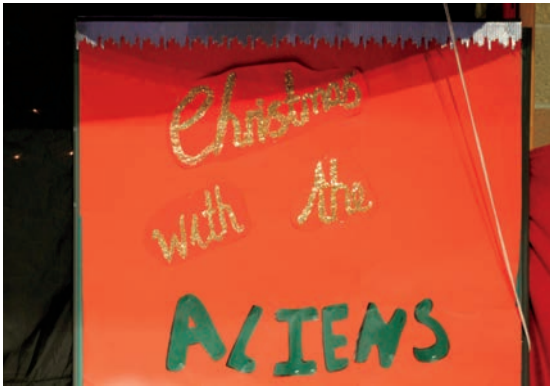
**Shepherds:** George VG, Louis, Freddie, Forrest and Albert

Thank you to all of those who came to watch. All the children were amazing and should be incredibly proud of their brilliant performances. Who knows that will happen next year?





# PRE-PREP





# LITTLE VINES – SANTA'S WORKSHOP

We were delighted that so many families came to our Santa's workshop at Little Vines Nursery this week. It was wonderful to see all the children thoroughly enjoying themselves and getting messy with festive arts and crafts, including decorating their own gingerbread elf and making a Christmas tree decoration.

The Chamber Choir entertained families with their beautiful singing and Father Christmas even managed to find time in his busy schedule to visit and hand out gifts for all the children, with the help of some familiar-looking (Year 8) elves.





Pre-Prep

## STARS OF THE WEEK

Every single child in Pre-Prep for  
all they have done to enter into  
the wonderful spirit of Christmas!



VINEHALL BIRTHDAYS

# Happy Birthday

PRE-PREP

IMMY P & JESSE J

PREP

INDIRA, H, POPPY O, JACK L &  
FLORIANE S





# NOTICES

## Second Hand Uniform

There is a stock of good quality second-hand uniform available from the School Matron. Please email: **[matrons@vinehallschool.com](mailto:matrons@vinehallschool.com)** if you would like to arrange an appointment.

A uniform list is available on our website. **[Click here to view.](#)**



## Football Camp

Zac Attwood will be running a football camp at Vinehall over the Christmas break.

**When:** 22nd December 2022

**Time:** 10am – 3pm

**Venue:** Astro or Sports Hall (weather permitting)



### Details:

The course is open to all boys and girls aged 5-13.

The cost is £20 for the day.

To book your child's place please contact: **[zattwood@vinehallschool.com](mailto:zattwood@vinehallschool.com)**

## Santa Dash

Best of luck to Sarah Wolford, who is participating in the Santa Dash this weekend along Bexhill promenade.

If you would like to join in the festive fun, **[register here.](#)**

