

NOVEMBER 2022 ISSUE 016

VINELINES

YOUR WEEKLY VINEHALL NEWSLETTER



Vinehall
A REPTON SCHOOL



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

Hallowe'en –

What on Earth are we teaching our children?!

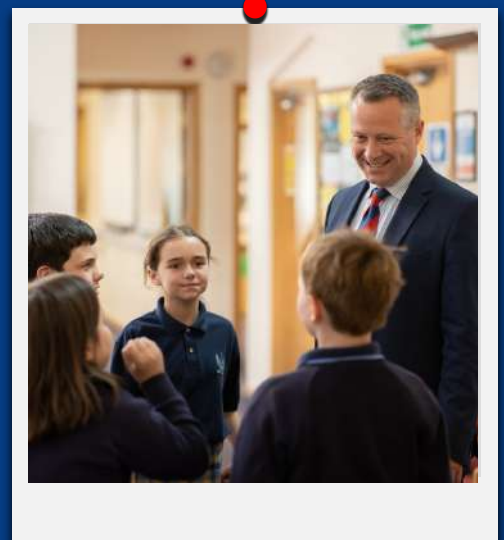
You needed to be standing where I stood on our return to school on Monday morning to understand why I exclaimed, 'What are we doing?! What do we all look like?!' Your beautiful, enthusiastic, kind-hearted young children had returned to us from half-term as a horde of gruesome monsters, wicked witches and unfeeling walking dead.

Where does an Assembly go from here? Well, I spun it all on its head. Using the themes of Darkness and Light and our 'courageous' and 'inquisitive' dispositions, I took the children back to the very root of All Hallows Eve and the celebrations surrounding the even more ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. I asked them to enquire and research more into this confusing, conflicting, contradicting yet wonderful festival.

We talked of needing to find courage when faced by our fear of darkness (challenge and doubt). We talked of lighting jack-o'-lanterns in order to encourage all the good spirits to return rather than to scare away those evil spirits that we fear may bring us harm. We talked of giving thanks to the Hallows, the Saints, the people before us whose lives have provided a good example to us.

Your little tricksters left the theatre that morning challenged to bring light to every room they enter ... I am delighted to share that I have seen fewer monsters around the school since.

I look forward to seeing you all at our Fireworks on the 11th November – our next festival of light – which will fittingly end a day of remembrance.



Joff Powis

UPCOMING EVENTS

Year 1 Trip to Herstmonceux Science Centre

Monday 7 November, 9am - 3pm

Art trip to Lancing College

Tuesday 8 November 8.15am - 4.40pm

Year 2 trip to Drusilla's Park

Tuesday 8 November 9am - 3pm

Debating Competition at Claremont

Tuesday 8 November 2pm - 4pm

Year 5 Parents' Evening

Thursday 10 November 5.30pm - 7.30pm

Remembrance Service, 10.40 am

Cross Country at Claremont

Friday 11 November 1.20pm - 4.40pm

FOV Firework Night

Friday 11 November 5.30pm - 7.30pm

Westminster Abbey trip

Saturday 12 November 8.30am - 5.30pm



FOCUS OF THE WEEK – DRAMA

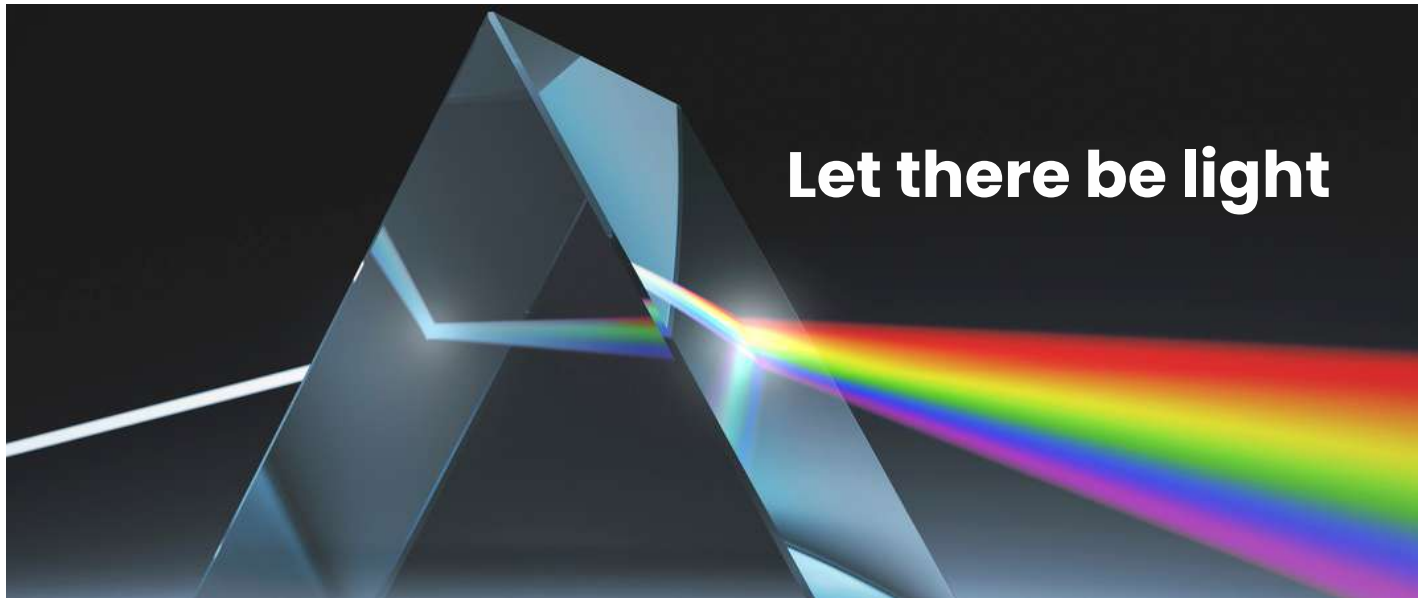
'Film in a Day' at Eastbourne College

The Year 6 cast of last Michaelmas Term's 'The Amazing Maurice' had a fantastic day at Eastbourne College on Thursday.

They enjoyed an 'acting for screen' workshop; location filming on either a murder mystery or an adventure movie; a 'post-production' session on iMovie and editing; and some drama games, before welcoming their parents to a red-carpet screening complete with popcorn.

Thank you to the College for providing such a fascinating, educational, enjoyable and memorable day, and to the children for being such excellent and creative ambassadors for Vinehall drama.





'This is the best Science lesson ever!'

Year 3 enjoyed exploring refraction with bubbles and torches, CDs and whizzy wheels! They also discovered that light travels in a straight line, using cardboard boxes and pinholes and all of them earned Billy Bee points for collaborating well. Thanks to Dr Moore for setting up prisms and lighting in the Dark Room in the Science Department for us.



ACADEMIC

Which plants will thrive in which biome?

Rachel Borrows helped Year 3 to create two contrasting biomes (desert and rainforest) in the De Beer block this week, as part of their Humanities topic about diverse environments. They remembered a lot from our trip to RHS Wisley at the start of the September and are looking forward to checking the hygrometer regularly and recording their observations.



Year 4 Science – Solid or liquid?

We were exploring the properties of a solids and liquids and quickly realised that some don't completely fit into either category.



SPORTS



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

Pumpkin competition

It was wonderful to welcome back the children on Monday in their ghoulish attire. Many of the children also brought in entries for the pumpkin carving competition, and the creativity and originality shown made judging very difficult for our new Director of Marketing and Admissions, Wendy Owens. Very many congratulations to the following pupils who won:

Nursery and Kindergarten: Jackson G

Pre-Prep: Victoria M

Year 3 and 4: Teddy H

Year 5 and 6: Louis L

Year 7 and 8: Elizabeth H



EVENTS

Outdoor Halloween learning

Years 3 & 4 had a wonderful morning in the outdoor classroom. We drank hot chocolate, toasted crumpets and marshmallows, 'aged' trees and used the fire steels to make fire! I wonder if the children can explain to you how you age a tree and measure its height?



Mexican Day of the Dead

International Club went to Mexico this week to learn about the Day of the Dead. Members coloured and created sugar skulls and created "papel picado".



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF PRE-PREP

The Importance of Drama

"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players" wrote Shakespeare in his play "As You Like it." Drama can serve as a powerful medium to bring historical events "back to life." Nowhere is this more evident than in Sussex at this time of year; whole communities come together to celebrate and re-enact events from the past, as an array of Bonfire Societies indulge in bewildering traditions, such as the rolling of tar barrels down the streets in Lewes this weekend.

Drama opens the mind and incites a hunger to learn and research by exploring simple, scenario-based tasks. We used drama as a tool to help us understand the events of The Gunpowder Plot in assembly on Monday. William C played Guy Fawkes, with George S taking the role of the King, who was horrified to open a letter from Lord Monteaule (played by Monty C) and learn of a plot to blow up Parliament. Having understood the reason why we now remember and celebrate Bonfire Night every year, we used a variety of props to help us act out the Firework Code, which will play an important role in helping the children to stay safe this November. I was so impressed by how much knowledge the children already had of how to stay safe!

Of course, costumes also play an important role in drama and just before half term Year 2 had tremendous fun dressing up in authentic saris which were 100 years old. (Thank you to Amelie V for loaning us this incredible and precious collection). We used costumes to help us to celebrate Diwali and, by creating a sense of awe and wonder, dressing up can "hook" the children into their learning. So, the next time we quietly think that children are "just dressing up and playing", we need to remember the words of Dr Maria Montessori, who said "Play is the work of the child", and that in drama children use their imagination and creativity, problem-solving and collaborative skills.



Nicky Whittaker



LITTLE VINES NURSERY

An exciting week for Nursery

What an exciting start to the new term we had this week with the celebration of Halloween. The Little Vines children enjoyed dressing up and acting out their characters. The sounds of cats meowing, witches cackling and dancing pumpkins were the highlights of the day, along with the amazing pumpkins that were carved.



Kindergarten



This week in Kindergarten we have been learning about bonfire night. The children were particularly interested in finding out about Guy Fawkes. They wanted to use the computer to look at pictures of him and then we enjoyed acting out the events. We immersed ourselves into the story by building the Houses of Parliament out of blocks and making a tunnel to travel to the gunpowder store.

PRE-PREP

Reception

Reception have had a spooktacular week. The children were full of energy upon their return for our Halloween dress up day. After painting some rather spooky skittles, we used a gord for bowling and the children kept score.

In literacy we created disgusting potions using ingredients such as rats tails, eye balls and cat fur. The children then used magic ingredients to make their own potion and described what their potion would do.



Year 1

The children returned from the half term holiday eager to participate in a week filled with festive, Autumn activities. While the sun was still shining, we took a walk around the grounds, observing the changes of the season and collecting samples. Passing by the school pumpkin patch, we learnt about the lifecycle of the pumpkin and even harvested our own Year 1 pumpkin! Bringing our specimens back to the classroom, we learnt about the different shapes of leaves belonging to different types of trees and pressed them to make Autumn leaf books. We investigated our pumpkin inside and out, separating seeds and flesh. We baked the seeds and grated the pumpkin to bake a delicious pumpkin cake that we all enjoyed. Happy Autumn!



PRE-PREP

Year 2

Following on from our recent morning at the fire pit, Year 2 planned and wrote a fire poem using their senses and included lots of interesting adjectives. We also learned about the Gunpowder Plot and re-told the story using stick puppets, before writing about it. Everyone loved the role play and it really helps the children to remember the story.



LITTLE VINES TODDLER GROUPS

The Little Vines Toddler Groups are a great introduction to school, offering a supportive network for parents as well as the opportunity for children to develop their communication skills and learn through exploration.



Explorers – Monday, 10am - 11am

Grab your wellies and get outside with our wonderful School Horticulturist. Immerse your little ones in the great outdoors, with hands-on activities themed around nature and gardening.

BOOK NOW



Sports Stars – Wednesday, 10am - 10.30am

Join our amazing Director of Sport, for a fun-filled session, giving your little one a chance to run, jump, hop, skip, catch and throw, while developing their sporting skills.

BOOK NOW



Messy Monkeys – Friday, 8.45am - 10am

Don your messy clothes and experience a variety of interactive, themed-based activities designed to stimulate and entertain your little monkey.

End the session with a cascade of bubbles before enjoying popular songs and rhymes with our Head of Pre-Prep.

BOOK NOW



CELEBRATIONS

Pre-Prep

STARS OF THE WEEK

Nursery

Whole Class

Kindergarten

Ariadne L

Reception

Rory C
George VG

Year 1

Persie L
Henry P

Year 2

Jacob E
Evie E



VINEHALL BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday

PREP

SEBASTIAN R
JOSHUA S

