

OCTOBER 2022

ISSUE 015

VINELINES

YOUR WEEKLY VINEHALL NEWSLETTER



Vinehall
A REPTON SCHOOL



Harvest *Festival*

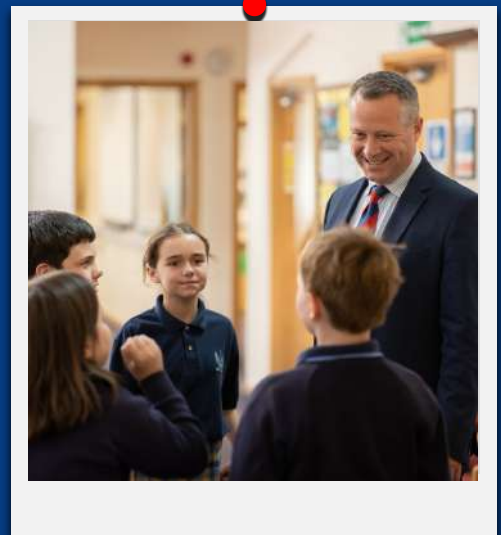


MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

'We have so much to be thankful for', was the resounding message to be taken away from our Harvest Festival service. The school community was at its finest, with young voices of the very highest of standards performing to and celebrated by a captivated and proud gathering of Grandparents. Tours conducted by the grandchildren followed, to which the feedback was wholeheartedly thankful for the environment and for the opportunities available to their grandchildren at Vinehall.

In a week where the pastoral theme has been 'you reap what you sow', the joy shared between grandparents and grandchildren could not have been scripted more perfectly. 'Grandchildren are the crown of the aged' - Proverbs 17:6. My thanks to the Rev Ann-Marie Crosse of Mountfield for overseeing the service and to everyone who shared a magnificent array of produce so generously; this will be donated to Dom's Food Mission.

As the first half of term comes to a close, after today's lovely tea-time concert showing off the exceptional range of musical talent within our school, there is no doubt that all involved with Vinehall are ready for a well-deserved break. The children have conducted themselves wonderfully over the past two months, with their courageous appetite for curiosity and challenge. Time for a rest and refresh.



Joff Powis

Harvest Festival



NOTICES

Vinehall Christmas Art Competition 2022

Create a Doodle for Christmas.

Doodle something
to do with Christmas.

You could doodle a Christmas tree?
A bauble?
Rudolf?
It is up to you!

Your doodle should be
no larger than A4.

Artwork can be colour
or black/white.

All artwork should be named
Bring to Mrs Konyu before
1st December.

Prizes

1st Prize
£15 Amazon Gift Voucher

2nd Prize
£10 Amazon Gift Voucher

3rd Prize
£5 Amazon Gift Voucher



UPCOMING EVENTS

Pumpkin Carving Competition and Halloween Dress-Up Day
Monday 31st October

Year 8 Mock Examinations Begin
Tuesday 1st November

Film Day at Eastbourne College
Thursday 3rd November 2022, leave 8.15am, return 5.30pm

Year 4 Bexhill Museum Romans Day
Friday 4th November, leave 9am, return 4.40pm

Halloween Roller Disco

Vinehall International Classical Concert Series
Sunday 6th November, begins 3pm.



FOCUS OF THE WEEK – ENGLISH

Reading for pleasure and rewards

In the English department, we are about to relaunch our Reading Lists for Juniors, Middles and Seniors, which we have rebranded as Reading Lists for Roots (our developing readers), Shoots (our growing readers) and Fruits (our senior readers who are expanding their minds and vocabulary at a rate of knots!).

The aim is that children in Years 3, 4 and 5 can start off with the Roots list but can also dip into the Shoots and even Fruits lists if they wish. Likewise, a child in Year 6 can dabble in the Shoots and Fruits lists. Our Senior pupils should focus their attention on our Fruits list, which has been updated to include topical and non-fiction texts, such as “I am Malala” by Malala Yousafzai and David Attenborough’s book “A Life on our Planet”.

Our reading star scheme continues; this involves children reading eight books (not from any reading list) to start off with in order to earn themselves a bronze reading star, and eight more books (at least three of which to come from a reading list) to earn a silver reading star and eight more books (at least five of which should come from a reading list) to earn a gold reading star.

The rules are slightly more stringent if a pupil wishes to earn their reading stars once over again (three books; five and five must come from reading lists second time around). Children can only earn their reading stars twice over (their jumpers would be weighed down with heavy hardware otherwise!) but we do plan to award book tokens (at the discretion of the English department) for outstanding reading achievement.

Children usually come to see me at tea with their yellow reading records completed with the titles and authors of the books they have read so that I can quiz them on their reading.

But do children have enough time to read during the school day? My Year 6 form emphatically told me that they wanted more reading time built into the timetable and hopefully that will be carried forward by our Academic Committee (who met this week to discuss a range of issues). Reading is an excellent way to relax, as well as being vital for improving literacy.

Indeed, we recently rechristened Creative Writing club “Book Club” so that we can focus on reading as well as writing – children love to come and relax with a biscuit and a book and let literature carry them into another world.



ACADEMIC

Animals including Humans

As part of their science topic, 'Animals including Humans', Year 3 have been investigating lung capacity before trying to answer the question, 'Do people who exercise more have a greater lung capacity?'. It was fairly inconclusive, but we had a lot of fun!



Tasting time in RS

In RS Year 3 have found out about harvest time in ancient Israel. They all tasted olives, figs, grapes and dates with mixed reactions. It was interesting to find out we all had our favourites.



Around the World

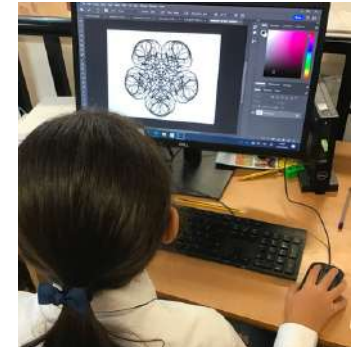
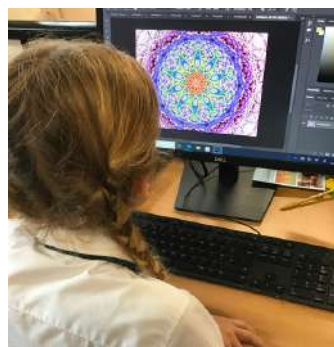
As part of our topic in Humanities, Year 3 used charts to find out the average temperatures in different parts of the world in one specific month (August). They discovered they had to take their time to look carefully before trying to colour and label accurately on their maps.



Digital Design

There were a lot of 'oohs' and 'aahs' when the Year 5 pupils worked on their mandalas as part of their topic work on symmetry. The butterfly tool sent them into a spin of excitement. It was difficult to ask them to stop.

They are combining their traditional skills with their digital skills on the Adobe Creative Suite.



Year 4 Science

Year 4 designed ear-defenders to muffle sound, using all the knowledge they had learnt during the topic. Mrs Barrett tested the defenders by holding them over her ears and the class used a computer sound check. George and Teddy's won. Mrs B was impressed with the children's creativity and team work.



Year 5

Year 5 have been learning about earthquakes and volcanoes. They built the earth using plasticine, in different colours to match the different layers. They then cut the earth in half to reveal the layers and labelled their models with toothpicks.



Harvesting Vegetables

Year 3 and 4 harvested and tasted vegetables from the green house - chillies, tomatoes and cucumber. Lots of children were keen to try the chilli and enjoyed it.



Year 6 – Bede's Classic Day

On Monday, the Year 6 Latin class, along with pupils from St Christopher's Prep in Hove, was invited to an exciting Classics-themed day at Bede's school. This was an excellent opportunity to learn more about the Classical world, and staff and sixth-formers at the school provided a diverse range of activities designed to stimulate interest in the ancient world.

The pupils took part in a mini-Olympics, a quiz about ancient mythical characters (the Medusa, Cyclops and Minotaur were brought to life, 21st century-style by Bede's sixth-formers!) and were also introduced to Ancient Greek. After meeting the new alphabet, they discovered how much of the language they already know as so many Greek words are used in English.

A visit to the Bede's zoo was included in the day, along with plenty of snacks and a delicious buffet for lunch.

The trip was a huge success, thanks to our hospitable hosts at Bede's and the enthusiasm with which the children took part. In fact, they were excellent ambassadors for Vinehall and Poppy O and Louis L received laurel wreaths and ancient Greek scrolls for achieving so well in the mini-Olympics... Well done to the Year 6 Latin class!



SPORTS

Vinehall v St Andrew's Swimming Gala



On Tuesday the Year 4&5 squad took part in a swimming gala against St Andrew's. It was great to see so many spectators again after the last few years of Covid.

Both teams were amazing in their efforts and sporting behaviour, and there were some wonderfully exciting races. Their discipline was also great, with not one early start.

The final score:
Vinehall 133-113 St Andrew's.
Congratulations to all our swimmers.

Thanks to Katie Walker and the rest of the staff for their help.



Swimming Success

Alara K, recently took part in a Swimming competition held at the K2 in Crawley on the 24th & 25th of September.

Alara competed in 7 races; won 7 medals (1 gold, 3 silver, 3 bronze); achieved 7 personal bests and beat 4 Sussex county qualifying times.

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

Boarding

The boarders have enjoyed a very successful week, with outstanding sporting, academic and all-round results. Last weekend the boarders took part in the wonderful 'Apple Day', with many of the children trying different types of apple juice round a bonfire and participating in the strange British tradition of apple bobbing. On Sunday the boarders experienced the delights of the water park obstacle course, which they found much easier than the Gappers! Afterwards they had another visit to one of England's famous pebble beaches.



Year 6 visit Charles Darwin's house

On Friday 7th October, Year 6 visited the home of Charles Darwin in Kent. The children explored the house by following the 'Darwin Learning Trail', finding answers to questions about each of the rooms and the interesting objects found within.

We saw original notes from Darwin's famous book, 'On the Origin of Species' along with some of the collections from his voyage on HMS Beagle. We were very lucky with the sunshine which allowed us to explore the gardens where Darwin completed many experiments. The children observed an experiment which is still set up today, whereby a rectangle of lawn is cornered off to observe and record different species of plants in the long grass.

The worm stone at the back of the garden under a huge chestnut tree demonstrated how Earthworms carried away soil slowly over time, making the stone sink into the ground at a rate of 1mm per year. After a delicious packed-lunch in the education room, the children went outside to play on the lawns for the rest of their lunch break before exploring Darwin's greenhouses. The greenhouses contained many fascinating plants, such as the insectivorous *Drosera*. The children were excited (and grossed out!) to learn that Charles Darwin was one of the first to scientifically prove that these plants gain nutrients through digesting insects on their leaves.

For the last activity, all of the groups came together to take a walk along 'The Sandwalk': Darwin's quarter-mile 'thinking path'. Darwin used to complete five laps at noon to contemplate his theories of evolution. We reflected on the day and discussed in small groups what we had found most interesting about the visit before returning to the main house to depart.





Year 3 visit Bateman's

Year 3 visited the home of Rudyard Kipling to discover more about this famous local author who lived in Burwash at about the same time that Lord and Lady Ashton lived at Vinehall.

The children loved the gardens, the Phantom Rolls Royce and the pond, and were fascinated by the mill with its giant water wheel. They became quite excited playing Pooh Sticks on the bridge, but nobody fell in!

Once inside the house, they asked the National Trust volunteers some interesting questions and then enjoyed a lovely time playing in the wooded play area before heading back to school. Mrs E is looking forward to reading their own 'Just So' stories when they compose them after half-term!

Apple Day

The sun shone on Saturday for Vinehall's first Apple Day in the newly-established school orchard. There was apple bobbing, apple pressing, apple printing, apple tasting, apple peeling and apple craft, as well as various apple-based treats such as mulled cider, apple cake and toffee apples on offer! A very big thank you must go out to all the staff and parents who helped to make the event such an enjoyable day for the whole school community. Also our thanks to the Year 8 leavers of 2021 who donated the apple trees for the orchard. Of the ten different varieties we are growing, six took part in our tasting table and the resulting votes were counted as follows:

- 1st place: Fiesta
- 2nd place: Royal Gala (our supermarket control variety!)
- 3rd place: Discovery
- 4th place: Bloody Ploughman and Cox's Orange Pippin
- 5th place: Egremont Russet and Bountiful

We hope to be able to extend our orchard over the coming years to include more local heritage varieties and perhaps more of our popular Fiesta apples too!



LITTLE VINES NURSERY

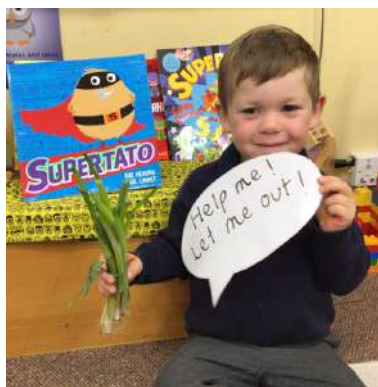
Harvest Time



This week we have been celebrating Harvest time. We read the story of 'Pumpkin Soup' by Helen Cooper. The story initiated lots of rich language and gave the children the opportunity to answer open-ended questions, learn the sequence of the story from beginning, middle and end, as well as joining in and anticipating what happened next? We then made our own pumpkin soup; the children were just like Maisie Monkey and tried something new.



Kindergarten



SuperTato

This week in Kindergarten we have been exploring the story of SuperTato. We had lots of fun discovering what mischief the Evil Pea had been up to. First he trapped the fruit and then he froze the carrots. We thought about what the trapped characters might say and we wrote wanted posters to see if we could capture the Evil Pea.



PRE-PREP

Reception

Reception had a wonderful trip on Tuesday to celebrate the end of our transport topic, 'On the Move!' We took the mini-bus to Battle train station where we bought our tickets and boarded the train to Hastings. Then we walked down to the park and had a snack and played in the playground. Instead of getting the train back, we took the public bus back to Battle so we could use a different type of transport. The children had a wonderful time and asked if next time we could go by aeroplane!



Year 1

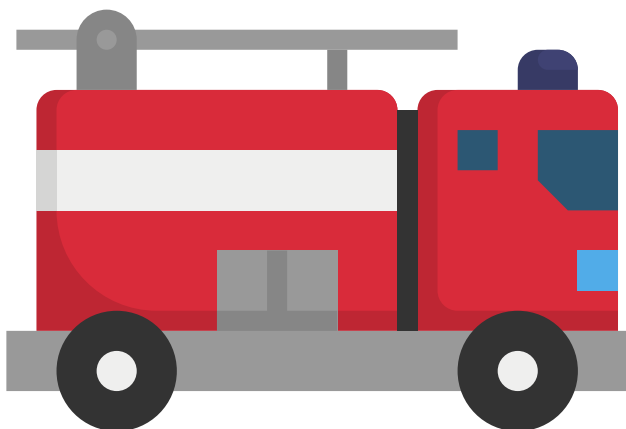
Year 1 ended their topic of 'Blast from the Past' with an 'Olden-days' dress-up this week. The children looked amazing and spent time sorting the similarities and differences between their costumes before forming a 'Human Timeline', ordering themselves from the oldest costume to the most recent. Some lovely Grandparents helped the children write down favourite memories, including food, school subjects and films, and with the help of Keith, our groundsman, we buried our memories in a Year 1 time capsule. I am sure that when we dig up our capsule in the summer term the children will be surprised by how much they have grown and changed over the course of this year!



PRE-PREP

Year 2

To conclude our 'Fire Fire' topic, Year 2 designed and made fire engines. Very carefully the children used hand saws to cut the axles, added their wheels and then painted their engines. Once dry, they added extra features such as windows, hoses and lights. Everyone worked very hard and all the children were very proud of their fire engines, which look brilliant. We also spent some time in the outdoor classroom, using fire steels to create sparks, as well as toasting crumpets and enjoying hot chocolate. Delicious!



CELEBRATIONS

Pre-Prep 

STARS OF THE WEEK

Nursery

**All children for
Harvest Festival**

Kindergarten

Mayreau

Reception

**All children for
their trip**

Year 1

**Rose
Elfie**

Year 2

**Vivi
William**



VINEHALL BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday

PRE-PREP

ANNABELL & ALBERT K

PREP

JOSHUA G, JACOB E, LORELEI F,
OLIVIA C, JUAN MA, GABRIELLA F &
ALBERT P

