

OCTOBER 2022 ISSUE 014

VINELINES

YOUR WEEKLY VINEHALL NEWSLETTER



Vinehall
A REPTON SCHOOL



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

Take Courage

One of the school's dispositions is Courageousness, known to our younger children as pal Maisie Monkey, and recently Vinehall pupils have shown courage in abundance. Our Year 5 mathematicians competed in a challenge at St Andrew's against much bigger schools and older children, achieving great success; our Year 2s joined in their Fire of London drama workshop over in the big theatre with bravery, creativity and confidence; and our swimmers, runners, hockey and football players have shown an exemplary sense of teamwork and sporting behaviour across the week's fixtures. Our sports department and the entire community are so proud of their successes but also their good grace in the face of defeat. As a small prep school, we have lost count of the number of times our pupils have succeeded whilst 'punching well above their weight'.

However, it was humbling and incredible to see our poetry finalists amazing their peers and the judges by their public speaking skill; Thursday's National Poetry Day 'Poetry by Heart' competition included pupils from Years 2-8 performing a wonderful array of pieces on an environmental theme. To see such young children standing on stage and speaking to a full audience of pupils and staff with such expression and feeling was a delight for all and visiting judge Susan Bowie was amazed by their courage.

I take great pride in our Vinehall children being inquisitive, collaborative, resilient and reflective on a daily basis; but this week's courageousness has been truly a joy to behold.



Joff Powis

SCHOOL LIFE

Boarding

After another very successful and busy week of classes, the boarders had a weekend packed with fun. On Saturday morning they all went to their respective clubs before taking part in the golf tournament. In the evening we had a party and everyone got to show off their excellent dance moves. On Sunday morning after chapel, Mr Powis introduced the traditional art of conker fighting. This involved all the children finding conkers around the grounds, while experiencing the joys of Britain's lovely wet weather! On Sunday afternoon all the boarders went Ten-Pin bowling, which resulted in much laughter and keen competition. However, none of the children could beat Miss Sands or Mr Wenham, who ultimately earned bragging rights.



Conker Competition!

'... A great conker is one that has been stored in a dry place for at least a year. This matures it and makes it rock hard and therefore formidable.' (Roald Dahl)

The Vinehall Conker Competition has officially begun, and the children are eagerly queuing up at break time to challenge the "cheggars", the "cobblers" and the "conquerors". Even our Gappers are getting into the competitive spirit.

Have you ever wondered why some conkers float in water but most sink? When placed in water, all the conkers that have damage inside them will, due to their lack of density, float to the surface. For children who wish for a fighting fit conker, you simply discard the floaters and concentrate on the much harder ones at the bottom of the bucket. Good luck to all the competitors and their prized conkers!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Reception Outing to Hastings

Year 3 'Just So Jaunt' at Bateman's

Tuesday 11th October

Year 1 'Olden Days' Dress-Up Day

Wednesday 12th October

Harvest Festival and Grandparents' Day

Thursday 13th October, 9.30am

Tea-Time Concert

Friday 14th October 2022, 3.00pm

Half Term

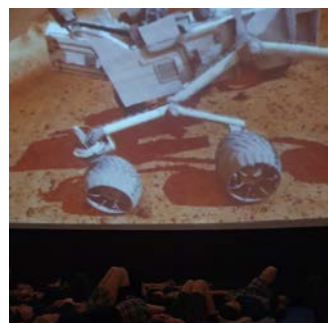
Friday 14th October to Monday 31st October



FOCUS OF THE WEEK – SCIENCE

From Planetariums to Broccoli: Hands-on experience!

The children in Years 5 to 8 experienced a wonderful session in the 'Wonder Dome' Planetarium on Tuesday 4th October to launch the celebration of World Space Week 2022. The wonderful presenter, Joe Kinghan, took the children on a 360-degree, immersive tour of our galaxy and the universe. The environment inside the dome was completely dark and the children could barely contain their excitement as they lay down to look up at the stars. We explored the Eagle and the Horsehead Nebula, so named due to their cloud-shaped forms. It was fascinating to think that the different coloured clouds were metals and gases, giving off beautiful colours. We learned about the exploration of the moon through a short film about the moon landing and how a lot of the equipment, including a moon buggy, was left on the moon due to the expectation that humans would venture back there! The children were in awe of the explanation of why Saturn is called the jewel planet, due to it raining diamonds!



Year 5 are very excited to experience their science lessons in the specialist laboratories. We have been learning about the planets of the solar system and how day and night occurs on Earth. We are also researching how theories about the solar system have changed over time.

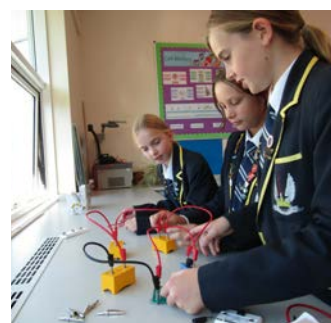


Year 6 have been studying the properties of light through a series of hands-on experiments. We have used ray boxes to investigate reflection of light in mirrors and refraction in glass blocks; we have dispersed light through prisms and explored how we see colour through experimentation with coloured filters. The children are excited about the trip to Charles Darwin's house, which will be a wonderful opportunity to prepare them for their Evolution topic after half term.



Year 7 have settled into their CE Science syllabus, having already completed many of the practical experiments in the Summer Term of Year 6. This has prepared them well for confident use of microscopes, looking at cheek and onion cells. The children have also tested different foods for starch and sugar and are using models to explain how we breathe. One such model involved using broccoli to model the alveoli air sacs in the lungs and comparing it to a balloon.

Year 8 have been finishing off their CE syllabus, learning about Space, Electricity and Magnetism. The children were very excited to experience the planetarium, which really brought their learning to life and gave them a very visual understanding of the vastness of Space and how satellites are used to explore it. The children have also built their own series and parallel circuits and tested different components in their circuits such as diodes, lamps, buzzers, motors and LEDs. We have now moved on to magnetism and this week Year 8 have learned how to draw magnetic field lines using iron filings and a small plotting compass.



ACADEMIC

Poetry by Heart

This week, on 6th October (on National Poetry Day), we enjoyed superb performances from all the finalists in our Poetry by Heart competition. Pupils had selected poems which connected with the theme of The Environment.

We were delighted to have Reception and Year 1 with us to watch the Juniors (finalists in Years 2, 3 and 4). Teddie W and Florence B (Year 2) had memorised their poems beautifully and bravely stood up on stage in front of the whole school!

For Year 3, Oliver G, Albert P and Rupert F gave spirited performances of their poems and representing Year 4, Esme L and Indira H and Harry M gave confident and bouncy performances.

For the Middles (Years 5 and 6), Rosie A, Lucie B and Seren K gave a feisty recital of "Lone Dog" and Jamie M, Masa M and Harvey P gave a fun performance of "The Shark" by Lord Alfred Douglas. Finally, Charlie F gave an animated and sincere performance of a very environmental poem entitled "What You Can Do".

Representing Year 6, Alara K and India P recited a well-known favourite, "Duck's Ditty", by Kenneth Grahame. Matilda B, Poppy O and Isobel S-M gave a lovely performance of "The Donkey" by GK Chesterton. Cecily G recited Rudyard Kipling's poem, "The Way through the Woods" with great poise. Lorelei F and Frances S chose a gorgeous poem, "Little Mouse" by Richard Edwards and recited it with style and sophistication.

For Year 7, Isobel F and Dora G treated us to a different take on "The Way through the Woods". It was intriguing that, this year, two lots of finalists coincidentally selected the same poem, which appeared to increase the pressure on those performers!

We had some gorgeous performances from solo performers in Year 7 – Sebastian R with "Sleeping Cats", Isla M with "Caged Bird" and Aless K with "Axolotl". India A and Elizabeth H gave a moving recital of "To a Butterfly" by William Wordsworth and Chloe F and Elsie B gave sterling recitals of their chosen poems ("Caged Bird" and "Winter Seascape"). Jordi D M, Charlie P and Carlos G S lightened the mood with their lovely rendition of "The Cabbage Caterpillars".

The judges (Susan Bowie, the actress), Mary Alderson (Director of Drama) and Nicky Whittaker (Head of Pre-Prep) certainly had their work cut out judging the winners. They pronounced Esme and Indira to be the winners in the Junior category, Charlie F to be the winner in the Middles category and Chloe F to be the winner in the Seniors category.

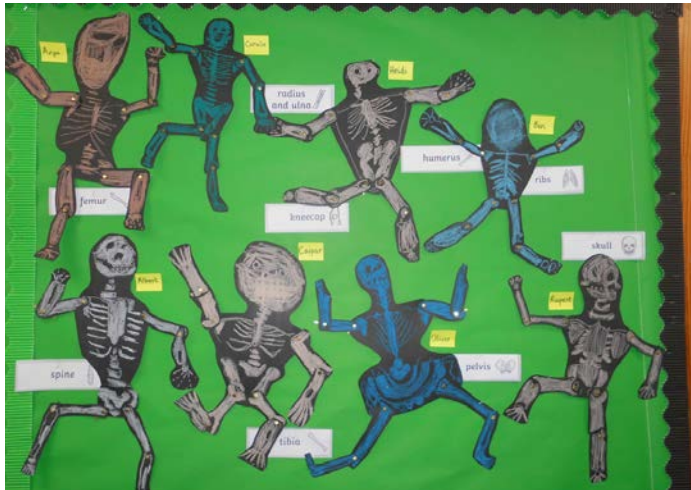
Many thanks to our judges and many thanks to all of our English teachers – Louise Hawtin, Carina Everist, Louise Barrett and Debbie Gearey, for supporting their pupils in this competition. Congratulations go to our winners and to all of our finalists – what a fantastic achievement!

Watch Us 



Year 3

Year 3 have been learning about bones and muscles in Science. Amongst other things, they have discovered many interesting facts about skeletons and had fun making one! After collecting data they produced a Scattergram to answer the question, 'Do some people have strong muscles because they use them more?' Lots of discussion followed!



Prep School Art Club

String painting! A great activity! The only problem with this session was that the children did not stop. There was nowhere left to dry any of the work and we had to resort to the floor. Even Mrs Konyu's desk!



SPORTS

Swim Squad Success

The Girls' Year 7 and 8 swim squad travelled to Benenden School on Monday for their first gala of the term. The girls were very enthusiastic and supportive of each other, which showed in their performance in the water. Both the Year 7s and Year 8s won their age groups, with a score of 32 to Benenden and 46 to Vinehall. This is an incredible achievement against such a large school.

A great start by the senior girls.

Derek Guy

Cross Country

The U11 and U13 cross country teams travelled to Somerhill School in Tonbridge for a tough but very enjoyable afternoon of running. The teams may not have been placed, but they gave their all and can be pleased with the finishing positions.

Huge congratulations to Henry and Charlie C who both finished an incredible 3rd in their races. What makes their results even more impressive is that they were both running up a year!



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

Pumpkin Soup and Muffins!

Year 3 visited RHS Wisley earlier this term and came back with a Crown Prince pumpkin, donated by one of the kind members of their team. Rupert in 3E had the idea of asking our chefs to make something from it - we enjoyed delicious soup and some tasty muffins too! Thanks, Chefs!



FAMILY APPLE DAY

SATURDAY 8TH OCTOBER

12.30-3.30PM

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

LOCATION:

VINEHALL SCHOOL ORCHARD

Apple peeling competition | Apple tasting |
Craft making | Toasting marshmallows
and much much more...

LITTLE VINES NURSERY

What do I look like?



The Nursery children have been learning all about what they look like. This week we focussed on differences and similarities when looking at the colour of our hair. We used pipettes to explore how we can create new colours and ended up creating rainbow hair!



Kindergarten

Our amazing Kindergarten superheroes assembled for a very exciting day on Thursday. We all dressed up as our favourite superhero and had lots of fun fulfilling the missions that HQ had sent us.

One of our favourite missions was rescuing some of our superhero colleagues who had unfortunately been frozen in ice by some evil villains. We experimented with different antidotes to find out which was the most effective at dissolving the ice. We discovered that salt made the ice crack and our clever superheroes suggested that pouring hot water and using hammers to chip away the ice would work too. They were right! Batman was very relieved to be rescued and we enjoyed extending our ice investigation into the garden.



PRE-PREP

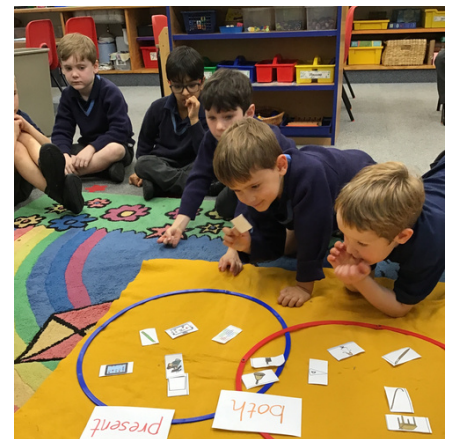
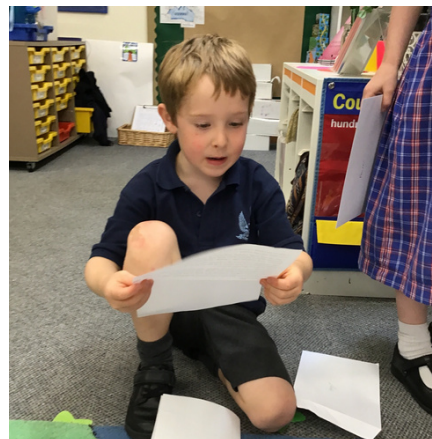
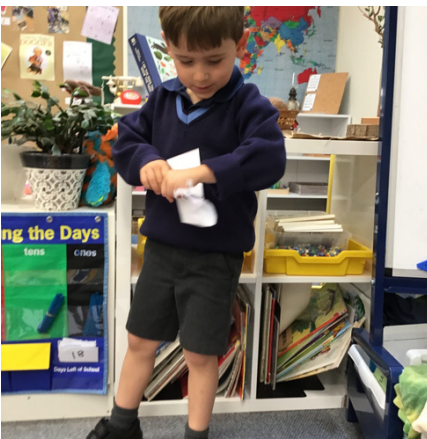
Reception

As the leaves turn from green to gold, Reception have been exploring the signs of Autumn around the school grounds. The children then used the leaves and natural materials they had found to create some sci-art with pastels and paint. A special Autumn box was left in the classroom on Friday which was full of surprises and revealed some hidden treasures within spiky exteriors.



Year 1

Year 1 were surprised to receive post that was addressed to them at school this week! The children discovered their letter was from their Grandparents who described what life was like for them at the age of 5. The children showed great interest and enthusiasm as they compared the past to the present and asked many questions, just like our Pre-Prep Pal Maisie Monkey. Our thanks to all the Grandparents for the most amazing letters - I am sure the children will have many more questions when they see you next!



PRE-PREP

Year 2 Drama Workshop

Year 2 were treated to a Fire of London drama workshop in the theatre this week. They had to mime a scene from the Great Fire, with some children pretending to be the flames, some choosing to represent the burning houses and some being the worried people in the city in 1666. They also imagined being the flames as they swept across London, as well as making a chain to pass heavy buckets of water along to put the fire out. Lots of fun was had and it helped us to think about how people might have felt at the time.

We also took part in the 'Poetry by Heart' competition this week. A particular well done to Florence B and Teddie W who were chosen to participate in the final, showing great courage when they recited their poems by themselves in front of the whole school. We were so proud of them and all those Year 2s who managed to learn a poem.



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.



LITTLE VINES EXPLORERS

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



LITTLE VINES SPORTS STARS

Sports Stars – Monday, 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



LITTLE VINES MESSY MONKEYS

Messy Monkeys – Monday, 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



Pre-Prep 

STARS OF THE WEEK

Nursery

**Eva H, Indigo, Iris for
settling in well.**

Kindergarten

**Imogen
Rey**

Reception

**Freddie
Albert**

Year 1

**Adeline
Tashfeen**

Year 2

**Ned
Amelie**



VINEHALL BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday

PREP

**ALBERT M, JOSHUA G, AND
ROSA A**





Vinehall
A REPTON SCHOOL

OCTOBER *Half-term* HOLIDAY CLUB



**FROM
£35 PER
DAY**

▶ **Limited Spaces Available** ▶

24TH - 28TH

October

AGES

Mini Vines: 2-3 yrs old
Kindergarten- Year 4

ACTIVITIES

Woodland Adventures

Arts & Crafts

Tennis & outside sports
and much much more...

Start at
8.30AM

Finish at
3.30PM

[Click Here to Book](#)