

SEPTEMBER 2022 ISSUE 011

VINELINES

YOUR WEEKLY VINEHALL NEWSLETTER



Vinehall
A REPTON SCHOOL



1926 - 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

Welcome to our first Vinelines of the new school year.

We give an especially warm welcome to the forty new children, twelve new staff and thirty-six new families joining our Vinehall community.

Whilst our pupils have been whisked along in the excitement of all that the new term holds in store, I am pleased to share that the children and staff have found time to reflect and give thanks for the remarkable life and reign of Queen Elizabeth II. Our beautiful Children's Chapel has had a remembrance candle burning throughout the period of mourning and there is a book of condolence for messages of love and gratitude. The Chapel will remain open throughout the weekend and next week should any of our wider community wish to visit.

I look forward to sharing with parents the strategic development priorities for the coming year. The expertise and opportunities being gained from our partnership with Repton is generating great momentum for the new school year. Dan Lewis, our Chair of Governors, joined us for the staff INSET and for the Management Team's presentation to the staff on the development planning. Mark Semmence, the Headmaster of Repton, was also able to visit and spoke inspirationally to the staff about the genuinely exciting times ahead for us within the Repton Family of Schools. His visit overlapped with that of Simon O'Malley, our Prep School Liaison, who brings with him a vast experience of successful prep school leadership.

I look forward to seeing you all over the coming weeks.



Joff Powis

SCHOOL LIFE

Boarders Return



The boarders settled very quickly and happily and have jumped straight into school life with great enthusiasm. Last Saturday the entire boarding house enjoyed a four-mile hike on Firle Beacon. The weather was lovely and everyone conquered the steep hill at the end. After a lie-in on Sunday and breakfast in their pyjamas, the boarders attended their first chapel service, where they paid their respects to Her Majesty The Queen. Afterwards they enjoyed a bubble football match; there was much laughter, especially when the children were exposed to the force of Mr Wenham (the new six-foot gapper). However, the boarders got the last laugh when they teamed up with Miss Parkin and Miss Sands to knock him over.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Year 6 Humanities Trip to Canterbury Cathedral

Tuesday 20th September

Hockey Masterclass – Bede's Senior School

Thursday 22nd September

Year 7 Humanities Trip to Battle Abbey

Friday 23rd September



CO-CURRICULAR

Roald Dahl Day

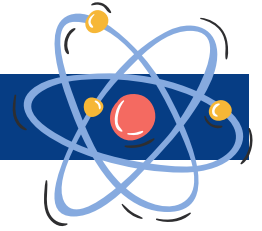
Tuesday 13th September was Roald Dahl Day and activities relating to this wonderful children's author took place in lessons across the curriculum. Years 3 and 4 were excited to visit the Chaplin Theatre, where they were surprised to meet the eccentric Willy Wonka and enjoy a drama workshop relating to 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'.

The children were wonderfully enthusiastic and creative in a range of activities including mime, tableaux, improvisation and voice. Mary Alderson, Director of Drama, was delighted to spot some great performers for future productions.

Did you know that Roald Dahl attended Repton School? He would have loved our children's interpretations of greedy Augustus, spoiled Veruca, lazy Mike and lovely Charlie, not to mention the brilliant way in which the children used their bodies to represent chocolate rivers, glass elevators and all sorts of images from his enchantingly vivid imagination.



EVENTS & TRIPS



Year 4 at the Science Centre

Year 4 had a wonderful day at the Herstmonceux Science Centre. We had glorious weather and the children made full use of the outdoor activities. We learnt about light and used a thermal imaging camera; we also watched and took part in a fantastic show all about sound. I even learnt a few things which will make my teaching even better! It is such a great place to visit and Year 4 were very interested and well-behaved, asking some excellent questions. #Ollie Owl #Billy Bee



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF PRE-PREP

It has been such a pleasure to watch the children settle into school life so easily, quickly adapting to new teachers and routines, and navigating the expectations of different year groups. The staff have worked so hard to create beautiful learning environments, in which the children can flourish, and I have seen so many happy faces and heard frequent cries of "I love my new teacher!"

During the week we have taken time to discuss and reflect on the life of Her Majesty the Queen, and the theme for our Monday morning assembly was "A Life Well Lived." I was impressed with the maturity and knowledge the children shared with me and each other, as we examined bank notes and stamps, and swapped stories of visiting London. Some of the children were able to articulate that they had felt sad when they heard the news, and they have all had the opportunity to visit the beautiful Vinehall Chapel to write messages in our "Vinehall Book of Condolence." Year 2 painted portraits of Her Majesty at different periods of her life, whilst listening to music by Elgar. It seemed fitting to remind the children of our school motto "To do our best for the benefit of others", so exemplified by the life of our late queen.



Nicky Whittaker



LITTLE VINES NURSERY

Vegetable Garden



The Little Vines visited the vegetable garden this week. Mrs Borrows showed the children that the cabbages had holes in them.

“What had made the holes?” was the question and “Caterpillars and snails” came the response, as the children discovered the mini beasts having a feast.



Kindergarten



Kindergarten spent some time this week thanking the Queen for her service. We went to the school chapel and shared our thoughts with our friends.



HRH Queen Elizabeth II
1926 - 2022



PRE-PREP

Remembering the [👑]Queen



During the week Pre-Prep children and staff have visited the chapel to remember Her Majesty the Queen and pay their respects. We talked about all the things the Queen did for our country and why she was so special, before sitting quietly to think about her.

Everyone signed the Book of Condolence, thanking her for her service.



Year 1

Year 1 have been busy exploring the classroom, discovering the new things that it has to offer. To the children's surprise, they found two coconuts, similar to the ones in their story 'Chicka Chicka Boom Boom'. We spent time studying the coconuts using all our senses and learnt a great deal about them. The children set up an 'All About Me' museum and took turns visiting the exhibits and learning about each other. We wrote and signed a 'Year 1 Promise' to always do our best to keep our classroom safe and happy. It is going to be an amazing year!



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 - 11am

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, 10am - 11am

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 & Kindergarten

Ella

Freja

Reception

Louis

Forrest

Year 1

Aayat

Toto

Max

Year 2

Barnaby

George



VINEHALL BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday

PREP

SEBASTIAN B, CARLOS G,
HARVEY P, BORJA C, ISABEAU R,
& BETSY S

