

MARCH 2023

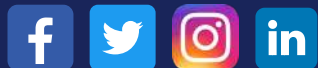
ISSUE 029

VINELINES

YOUR WEEKLY VINEHALL NEWSLETTER



Vinehall
A REPTON SCHOOL



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

John Dewey, the renowned educationalist and philosopher, famously said,

'We do not learn from experience ... we learn from reflecting on experience.'

This term's focus for our teaching staff has been 'Who is doing the thinking?' as we encourage our pupils to find answers to their own questions, to complete their own research and take ownership of the information they will more readily retain through being guided towards individual and collaborative discovery.

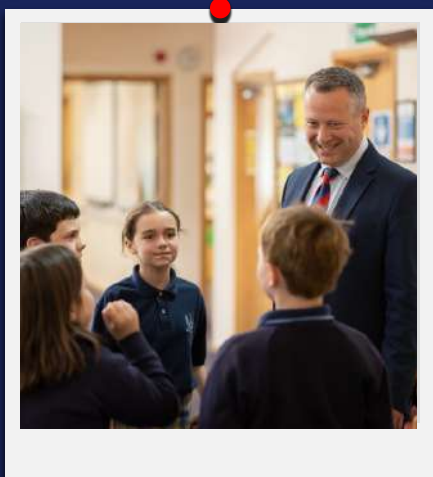
Our Educational Advisor from Repton, Simon O'Malley, has enjoyed observing teachers with this focus in mind and has been hugely impressed by the independent thinking being encouraged across subjects in the Prep and Pre-Prep.

At Wednesday's special International Women's Day assembly, I chose not to simply share inspirational information about famous or unsung women, but I asked the children to consider their own responses to important questions, including:

- What does inequality mean to you?
- What do you understand are the reasons for it?
- What would your ideal future be?
- How can you make change happen?

I am always impressed by our pupils' collective social conscience, their deep thinking and their generous spirit. With such responsible global citizens in our school community who will go out into the world and make a difference, the future looks brighter for not only women and girls, but also men and boys.

Jeff Davis



Talking Heads

A huge thank you to all those parents and staff who joined us last night for our inaugural educational forum. Our three visiting dignitaries were very interesting, informative and entertaining and the event was so successful that we hope it will be the first of many.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Vinehall Art Exhibition at The blackShed Gallery

Friday 17th March to Wednesday 23rd March. FREE entry

Vinehall Prep pupils are having their own exhibition of Art at **The blackShed Gallery** in Robertsbridge.

Over 40 pupils have created works on the theme of 'Land, Sea and Sky'.

The Gallery is holding a private viewing with canapes and fizz for the families of our budding artists on Saturday 18th March from 4pm-6pm.

The Exhibition is open to the public and is a hugely exciting initiative for our artistic pupils. Please do support them if you can.



Whole School Open Day

On Friday 17th March we are holding our Open Day for all prospective families looking for school places from Nursery to Year 7. Please let all you friends and family know and encourage them to come along to meet Joff and the staff and have a tour of our wonderful school

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK



MONDAY 13TH MARCH

PET Examinations in London
Year 4 Trip to Rye Nature Reserve

TUESDAY 14TH MARCH

Pre-Prep Bee Curious Science morning
Prep STEM Challenge afternoon

WEDNESDAY 15TH MARCH

10.00am Pre-Prep Bear Hunt for Prospective Families
Boys' Hockey v Radnor House, Dulwich Prep and Marlborough House
Girls' Football v Bede's and Saint Ronan's

THURSDAY 16TH MARCH

Eastbourne College Orchestral Day
Girls' Football v Dulwich Prep, Beechwood and Skippers Hill
Boys Hockey v Marlborough House
Year 7&8 Boarders' Parents' Evening (on-line)

FRIDAY 17TH MARCH

8.40am Pre-Prep Spring Walk for children and parents
Netball Tournament
Wine Tasting at Mountfield Winery - Year 3-5 Parents

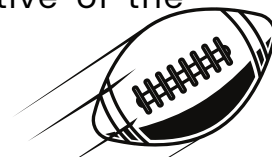
SATURDAY 18TH MARCH

9.00am-12.20pm Compulsory Rehearsal for all Year 3&4 pupils
Laser Tag - all welcome.

SUNDAY 19TH MARCH

FOCUS OF THE WEEK – SPORT

The Lent term has been an extremely busy one for the sports department, with the pupils taking part in numerous fixtures, tournaments, galas, and competitions. A highlight of my week is always hearing from the staff and reading the match reports describing everyone's efforts, irrespective of the results and outcome.



Games

The start of the term saw the boys finish off their Rugby season and, although it was a wet end to what was at times a tough season, it was pleasing to see the effort and progress all the teams had made. Special mention must go to the U10s who played eleven matches, winning eight, drawing two and only losing one.

No sooner had the rugby stopped, than the hockey season began in earnest. In stark contrast to the rugby season, the weather seemed to improve, the boys' moods lifted and it was great to see them enjoy their hockey on the Astro. There have been several wonderful results so far this term; special mention should go to the Colts A team, who did brilliantly at the IAPS qualifiers at Wellington College, making it to the Cup quarter-finals having gone undefeated in the group stages.



FOCUS OF THE WEEK – SPORT

The girls' netball teams have also had a good term, with a mix of results from the different age groups. A highlight of the term so far was the tournament win by the U11A team at the Mayfield 5s. A wonderful performance and a great experience for the group.



The girls' official football season started last week with the U8s and 9s travelling to Bede's for an enjoyable afternoon of football. The 1st & 2nd teams followed this with convincing wins against Dulwich Prep earlier this week.

Although the U11s may not have got the results they wanted, they showed tremendous fight in their two matches. It promises to be a busy end to the term, with the girls playing both football and netball and I look forward to following the rest of their term and results with interest.



FOCUS OF THE WEEK – SPORT

Gymnastics

It has been another busy term for our gymnasts, with the girls working extremely hard during their individual and group sessions on Wednesday and Friday evenings. They recently took part in the ISGA National 4 Piece Gymnastics Championships at Tormead School, where they did very well. The U13 team came 3rd overall in the team event, with Elizabeth H coming 2nd overall and Rosie D 5th in the individual competition. The U11 Team also did very well finishing 7th overall, with Indira H finishing 10th overall. A huge thank you to Nikki and Hayley Towner for all their efforts every week.



Swimming

The Vinehall team have taken part in four events this term. In the first gala they travelled to Bede's senior with our junior squad. It was a close win for Bede's, Vinehall narrowly losing 100-91. We then sent 10 girls to the IAPS national qualifiers where they swim for a time to see if they can reach the national finals in June at the Olympic pool in Stratford London. Fingers crossed that we have qualified, with results due in after the Easter break.

The girls' senior team travelled to Mayfield for another close encounter, with Mayfield winning 54-45. This week the senior mixed squad swam in a friendly gala at Claremont. Vinehall were very dominant in most parts of the gala and showed wonderful team spirit throughout.

Well done to the squad for their hard work and dedication and thank you to Derek Guy, Katie Walker and members of staff who have helped this term.

Summer

The Summer is going to be as busy as ever, with plenty of cricket and athletics fixtures scheduled. The highlight will be Sports Day on Saturday 24th June. Please do check our sports website for details of all upcoming fixtures. It has been so pleasing to see so many of you in support, home and away, each Wednesday and Thursday and I look forward to seeing you all again in the sun next term.

ACADEMIC

YEAR 3

Are all coins magnetic?

3E had different opinions before they set about investigating this, as part of their Science topic on Forces and Magnetism. They are still pondering why some are magnetic and some are not. Mrs E has given them a clue that it is something to do with the dates on the coins ...

Spelling challenges in Year 3!

3E helped each other to try to remember the correct spelling of 'different' by writing it in different ways. We shall see if it has helped when they next write a story and use it!



YEAR 4

Real Dentist visit

We were delighted to welcome Sela Hussain, a past parent, to 4B. She showed the children how to brush their teeth properly and we used disclosing tablets to see who was the best. The winners won wind up teeth! We had a lovely morning.



LITTLE VINES NURSERY

Physical opportunities for our Little Vines

Every day at Little Vines we have the opportunity to get physical and develop our gross motor skills. We play games using media and materials to create obstacle courses as well as participating in games using items such as a parachute. These opportunities create new challenges for our children and promote, not only their physical development, but children's thinking skills.

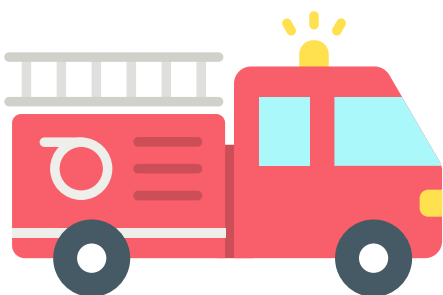
The children thoroughly enjoy their gym sessions with Nikki Towner and each week she teaches them skills to enhance their coordination, confidence and strength and above all have to have fun!



LITTLE VINES NURSERY

Kindergarten

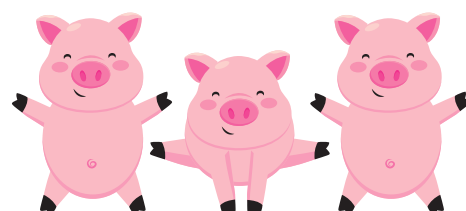
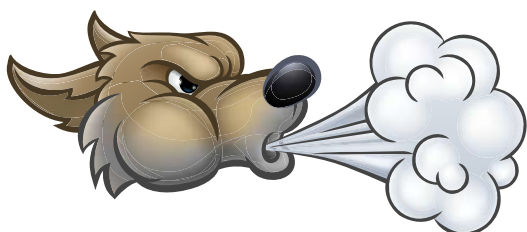
It's been another wonderful week in the kindergarten class, as we've continued our 'People who help us' topic. The children have very much enjoyed welcoming police officers and fire fighters to Vinehall. We have been curious just like Cassie Cat and we are now super at asking very thoughtful questions. Back in our classroom, these wonderful experiences have fuelled our role play and writing.



RECEPTION

This week has been the start of our deep dive into traditional tales. On Monday a little pig left us a message asking for help to build him a house to save him from a big bad wolf. The children used cardboard boxes, recycling and magazines to create their houses. They then took the tale of 'The Three Little Pigs' and twisted it to create their own, so we had 'The Three Little Fish and the Big Bad Shark' or 'The Three Little Rabbits and the Big Bad Fox' for example. The next traditional tale we delved into was 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We started by creating a class story map and then acting it out in groups. Jack then left us some seeds to grow our own cress heads for the giant that lives in the castle.

Forest school came inside this week due to the terrible rain, so the children created their own faces using natural materials and then told stories using the face as their character.



YEAR ONE

Our week in Year 1 is not complete without our physical activities! The children have particularly enjoyed learning how to play hockey this term and have felt very grown up playing on the Astro during their ball skills sessions.

We continue to practise our gymnastic skills weekly in preparation for our amazing gym display that will take place in a few weeks.

It has been very exciting watching the children progress in their swimming lessons, with all the children now able to swim in the deep end. Well done to all the children for being the best they can be and never giving up, like our Pre-Prep Pal, Terry Tortoise!



YEAR TWO

Rain didn't stop Year 2 from visiting the Outdoor Classroom this week; first the children had to find the woolly worms hidden in the woods and they discovered that the brighter, more colourful worms were easier to spot. Then the children got into their groups to build their minibeast hotels which they had designed last week. Despite getting wet and muddy, the children really enjoyed working together to create these hotels.

We have also had fun learning about mass this week. The children used the balance scales to weigh classroom objects in grams and were surprised by how heavy a kilogram is.



CELEBRATIONS



WHATLINGTON SINGERS TENOR VACANCY

This local, friendly 32-strong choir has a vacancy for a tenor or two; male or female welcome. The choir sings a wide variety of music and has performed at numerous venues. They meet on Monday evenings, 7.15-9.15pm at Whatlington Church. Parking is available nearby. If you are interested, can find your way round a score and have a bit of singing experience, please contact Yvonne Underhill underhill@msn.com or 07721 880893.