

28 APRIL 2023

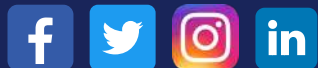
ISSUE 32

VINELINES

YOUR WEEKLY VINEHALL NEWSLETTER



Vinehall
A REPTON SCHOOL



We Are Vinehall

Afternoon Tea

Friday 5th May
from 3pm



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

Welcome to the summer term 2023.

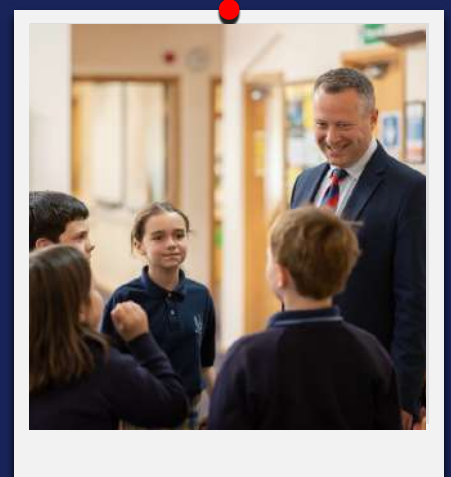
Nat King Cole encouraged us to roll out those 'Lazy Hazy Crazy days of Summer' and I am filled with a sense of positivity for the term ahead. There will be no laziness at Vinehall but the warm summer haze will surely arrive and our days will include some wonderfully exciting events, numerous activities and, most importantly, oodles of fun. The beauty of our magnificent grounds is for all to see and they will be as busy as ever with children enjoying a huge range of activities. We are building towards the thrill of 'We are Vinehall Day', Sports Day, Charity fun days, the FOV Summer Fete and the camping and forest schooling to come. There will be a wealth of very happy memories to cherish.

As the days lengthen, the clouds lift and the trees burst into blossom, the school is filled with a buzz of excitement. The schedule of prospective family visits is incredibly busy and, as I tour the site, I feel an enormous sense of pride. Your pupils are charming, articulate and friendly. They receive visitors with comfort and smiles, just as they have welcomed all our new pupils this term. I was delighted to award so many of our coveted merit badges this week in recognition of how kind our guardians have been in ensuring all new children settle in quickly and build friendships.

'Summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language'; Henry James couldn't be more right.



Jeff Davis



CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK



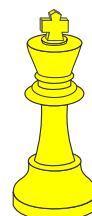
MONDAY 1ST MAY

Bank Holiday - no school.
Boarders to Bewl Water Aqua Park.



TUESDAY 2ND MAY

Saxton House Charity Chess Tournament.
Year 1 'United' Drama Workshop



WEDNESDAY 3RD MAY

Cricket v Holmewood House



THURSDAY 4TH MAY

School Committee Meetings.
Year 5 Art and English trip to Scotney Castle
Girls' Cricket v Beechwood.
Boys' Cricket v Holmewood House.



FRIDAY 5TH MAY

We Are Vinehall Day and Coronation Tea Party.
Exeat begins after School.



SUNDAY 7TH MAY

Voces8 Concert in the Chaplin Theatre



ANNOUNCEMENT



Little Vines Nursery
will be open 50 weeks of
the year from September 2023!

We are excited to announce that from September our Little Vines Nursery will be open for 50 weeks of the year, providing wrap-around care from 8.00am to 5.30pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS



We are delighted to invite all parents and guardians to our upcoming 'We Are Vinehall' afternoon on Friday 5th May from 3pm. The children will be taking part in an action-packed day of team-building activities and a celebration of our school's values!

Children from Reception to Year 8 will be participating in over 30 exciting team-building activities that will challenge and inspire them to showcase their talents and teamwork skills. And that's not all – our Nursery children will join the Pre-Prep for a picnic lunch and their own mini team-building activities in the Nursery.

Parents are invited to join us from 3pm on the Front Lawn for a fantastic Coronation tea party which includes Pimms, cloudy lemonade, finger sandwiches, and Union Jack cakes!

We will be announcing the team winners at 3:30pm and then conclude the day with an exciting school tug of war at 4pm. This is an event not to be missed!

If you are able to attend **please RSVP by going to www.trybooking.co.uk/CITV**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our next Open Day is on Friday 19th May from 9am–4pm.

A marvellous opportunity for prospective parents to see our outstanding facilities, and meet Joff, Liz and our amazing staff and pupils.

Please share our open day posts on Facebook and Instagram
facebook.com/VinehallSch

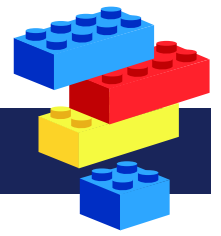
If you know of any friends or family who would like to attend, please ask them to register on our website or contact us at admissions@vinehallschool.com.

Thank you!

Our New Website launches next week

We are very excited to announce that our brand new Vinehall School website will go live next week in time for #We Are Vinehall Day.





FOCUS OF THE WEEK – STEM

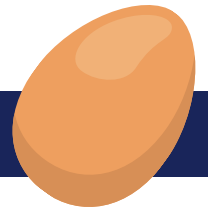
The children in Year 5 and 6 have been busy in STEM this year, working towards their Superstar CREST Awards. Upon successful completion, the children will be awarded certificates of their achievement near the end of the Summer Term.

Some of these challenges have so far included coding Lego mazes, bridge building using paper straws, building models to tell the story of women in STEM and the successful marble run afternoon which was held at the end of the Lent term.

We have been lucky with the weather early this week, as 5L ventured out for a bug hunt nature walk. We stopped at different locations in the school grounds to collect specimens using specialist equipment called pooters. Using identification keys, the children were quick to identify woodlice, ants, worms and beetles. We compared the coverage of different flowers by the fallen oak tree to those in the woods and the children were delighted to see the bluebells out in full bloom.



FOCUS OF THE WEEK – STEM



Year 6 have built their own egg containers and set up ziplines in the grounds, with teams competing to transport an egg the furthest distance without breaking.

Later in the term, the children will be building water rockets using recycled materials and launching them from different “launch pads” in the grounds. We will also explore the fishing lake habitat on site, where the children can experience pond dipping. There is lots to look forward to in the Summer Term!

If any children in Year 7 and 8 wish to complete a Bronze CREST Award independently or with a team of friends, then please come and speak to Becky Prior for more information.



ACADEMIC

YEAR 3

What does a plant need to grow healthy and strong?

In Science Year 3 set up an investigation which will run until half-term. In pairs they planted three bean seedlings for each of six requirements: none, some and plenty of water, air, soil, space, light and heat. They had to decide how to run their investigation and will be measuring and recording the heights of their seedlings twice a week.





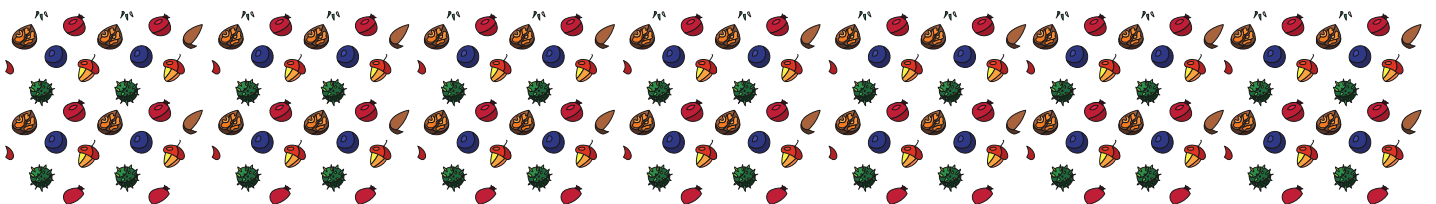
YEAR 3

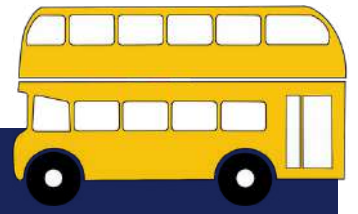
'What do you think this might have been used for?'

'Having spent time discussing 'What, Why, Who, How questions' about items on loan to us from Bexhill Museum, the children turned into hunter-gatherers.

When the rain stopped, they went off into the gardens to forage for real herbs and some pictures of plants, nuts and berries that may have been eaten in Britain back in the Stone Age.

Miss E did a great job of hiding the 'plants' and it took 3E some time and teamwork to discover all twelve pictures and several herbs!





YEAR 4

Road Survey

Humanities - Year 4 have started their Planet SOS topic in humanities. They completed a road survey and were very surprised at how many vehicles past the school and at the speed at which they were going!



Drama workshop

Y4 are thinking about their fears for their English work. Mary Alderson ran a great drama workshop for us based on the book 'Do You Dare?' The children had a lovely time as always when performing.





Kate O'Hearn untaps pupils' creativity

This week, the Prep School had a visit from the effervescent author Kate O'Hearn, who writes fantasy children's literature (including the Pegasus series). She arrived at the Theatre resplendent in white Grecian robes and liberally adorned with golden necklaces.

An enthusiastic, honest and expressive speaker, Kate started the session, (somewhat unconventionally) by inviting pupils to ask her questions, which led to her telling us the story of how she became a writer.



PREP

Kate also, using volunteers from the audience, explained how a book comes into existence, going through a metaphorical conveyor belt of editor, publisher, publicist, printing press and so on, all the way through to the shelves of Waterstones (or another bookstore).

This really brought the process to life for the children and was very entertaining - Henry C (7N) playing the part of 'Rebecca, the publicist' and Charlie C (5L) playing Kate herself, parroting her joyful reaction when her book got published had the audience in fits of laughter.

Kate set the children the challenge of writing a short story, with elements chosen through discussion with the audience.

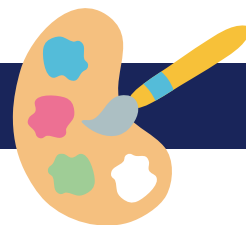
The children found this very fun. Her kind words and praise boosted the confidence of those courageous enough to read in front of an audience.

Finally, the children had the opportunity to purchase books, signed by the author herself!

All in all, it was a very fun morning and the children left the Theatre buzzing and with renewed confidence in their creative writing abilities.



VINEHALL ART EXHIBITION 2023



The Return of the Vinehall Art Exhibition 2023

The Vinehall Art Exhibition 2023 has moved from The BlackShed Gallery in Robertsbridge, to the front hall at school.

This is another chance to see the highly imaginative pieces produced on the theme of 'Land, Sea and Sky' by our pupils.

It is well worth a look.

The Year 5 pupils had the chance during their Art lesson to review the work once more and to be art critics during their art lessons.



BOARDING



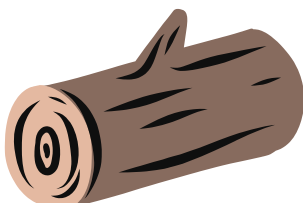
The first weekend back and we welcomed new boarders into the house. The weather could have been better for their first experience of life in England, but it wasn't all bad.

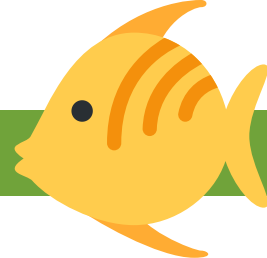
On Saturday we took a walk in Ashdown Forest, home of Winnie the Pooh and friends. Unfortunately, they were not about to meet us, but we wandered down to Pooh bridge where the adults played Pooh sticks and the children decided to cross the river by climbing across a fallen tree.

We returned to school and watched a movie after dinner.

On Sunday we were supposed to have a lovely picnic and a cricket match in the field, but the weather had other plans for us, so we did prep and music practice in the morning and then ate our picnic lunch in the dining hall while it steadily rained outside.

Most of the boys then spent the afternoon in the sports hall and the girls decided to bake, they made delicious rice crispy cookies and lemon and poppy seed cupcakes. Next time girls we really need to read the recipe! However, despite the lack of finesse, they were delicious.

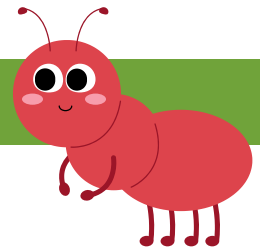




Under the sea

Under the Sea is this term's topic. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about different sea creatures and used different media and materials to create fish. We played number games, as well as learning a poem about an octopus. We have been lucky with the weather and pretended to swim in the ocean to our pirate ship. Watch out the for the pirates next week!

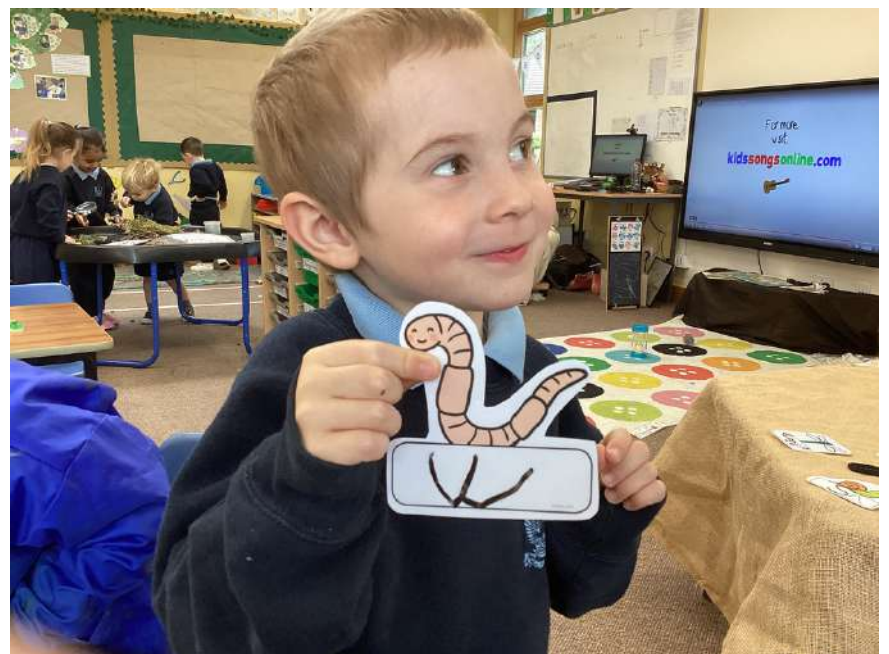




Kindergarten

It was wonderful to welcome the Kindergarten children back for the summer term and we were all very pleased that we have two new friends joining our class.

This week we have been exploring mini-beasts and making a bug hotel. We collected materials, made labels and painted mini-beast stones to create our very own Kindergarten bug hotel. Everyone is excited to see which mini-beasts will be coming for a visit!

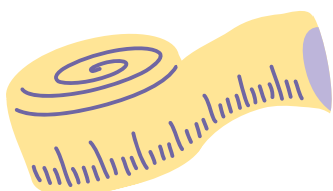


LITTLE VINES NURSERY

Kindergarten

Measuring investigations

This week the children in Kindergarten have loved learning about measuring. They were extremely engaged when using the meter sticks to explore the outside area. The children were curious just like Cassie Cat. They were asking questions and making predictions. Lots of the children set up their own measuring investigations, which included measuring themselves, finding the tallest object and finding objects that were taller or shorter than 1 meter.





Reception

Reception have had a wonderful week exploring our ocean topic.

The highlight of the week was our trip to Brighton Sea Life Centre, Britain's oldest aquarium. The children were all amazed by the sea creatures and reptiles we saw on our visit. The children were also lucky enough to have a visit from Peppa Pig in the discovery centre. From jelly fish to sea horses the children all had their own favourites to talk about when they returned.

The trip finished with lunch on the beach in the sunshine. We then used our trip to inspire art, writing and maths.





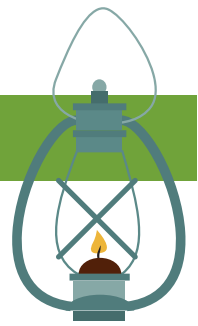
Year 1

Year 1 has been working like Billy Bee this week to paint physical and human features for the countries of the United Kingdom.

We began our new focus text, 'The Queen's Hat' and the children experienced what it was like to be blown away on a windy day! They made a tally chart to predict whether or not their hats would be blown away in the gusty wind storm. The children were very surprised to discover the results of their experiment!

A surprise guest came to visit us and answered questions about her life and Buckingham Palace. What an exciting week it has been!





Year 2

Year 2 have had an exciting start to our new topic Brilliant Bodies, by travelling back in time to the Crimean War, to learn about Florence Nightingale. After discovering what conditions were like in the hospital, the children made lists of jobs to do there.

The boys then had to role play the injured soldiers, whilst the girls made excellent nurses, cleaning up and looking after them all so well. .



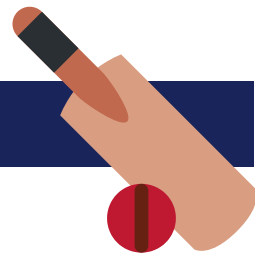
We were then treated to a visit from Florence Nightingale, who told us all about her life and what she achieved.

We also discussed how nowadays we are fortunate that men and woman can do any job they want to, whereas this was not the case in the 1800s.



Laura Percy-White also ran a fitness workshop for us on Monday, to help the children learn about staying healthy. They worked on reaction time, agility and endurance and had lots of fun completing the different tasks.





A special thank you must go to Keith and Craig, our fantastic groundsman, who have worked tirelessly over the last month in preparation for our first week of cricket. At one stage it looked like a game of water polo was more likely but, with a few days of sunshine, they managed to turn the wickets and pitches into cricket fields. The senior girls hosted Dulwich Prep in what proved to be a great start to the season, winning all three games and impressing their coaches with some accurate bowling and strong hitting.

The 1st XI boys hosted Beechwood in a low-scoring encounter, finishing the afternoon with a comfortable nine wicket win. The Colts B managed to fit in two games against the same opposition and although the result did not go their way, Brody Masnick was pleased with their efforts. He tells me running between the wickets is definitely an area on which they will be working in their next session.

On Thursday the U8/9 girls enjoyed their first cricket matches of the season, travelling to a chilly Eastbourne to take on St Andrew's. Laura Percy-White was pleased with the collaboration and reflection shown by all the girls.

Next week is going to be a busy one, with all the teams in action against Holmewood House on Wednesday. On Thursday the U8/9 girls take on Beechwood at home and the boys travel to Tunbridge Wells to play Holmewood House in what will be their first cricket match of the term.



1ST TEAM GIRLS' CRICKET

Pre-Prep ^{☆☆}

STARS OF THE WEEK

Nursery

**Cora
Quinn**

Kindergarten

George

Reception

All of Reception

Year 1

**Toto
Tashfeen**

Year 2

**Monty and
George**



Happy Birthday

Mayreau - Kindergarten

Zephan - Reception

