MAY 2023 ISSUE 32

VINELINES

YOUR WEEKLY VINEHALL NEWSLETTER

Vinehall
A REPTON SCHOOL

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

It is certainly a moment to be hugely proud, shouting from the rooftops - WE ARE VINEHALL!

It is often quoted that 'the strength of a community lies in the pride and involvement of its members,' and this was in full evidence today as the children, staff and parents celebrated their love for, and pride in, our wonderful community.

My sincere thanks to Wendy and our team of staff for overseeing the action-filled day and to Gemma and her catering crew for the marvellous Coronation Tea Party.

Hip Hip Hooray on We Are Vinehall Day! The pictures below have captured the pure joy of the occasion ... from our little two-year olds right through to those much wiser, but who remember what it feels like to be a child.

Jeff Davis

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY 8 MAY

Bank Holiday - no school.

TUESDAY 9 MAY

Year 3&4 Writing Workshop with Jo Norland.

WEDNESDAY 10 MAY

Year 5 Girls' Athletic Meet.
Girls' Cricket v Marlborough House.
Boys' Cricket v Battle Abbey

THURSDAY 11 MAY

Whole School Photograph.
Girls' Cricket v Sacred Heart.
Boys' Cricket v Skippers Hill

FRIDAY 12 MAY

Pre-Prep Late Spring Walk.
Dulwich Athletics Meet.

SATURDAY 13 MAY

RHS Wisley Trip

SUNDAY 14 MAY

Boarders to Slip and Slide

ANNOUNCEMENT

OUR NEW WEBSITE IS NOW LIVE!

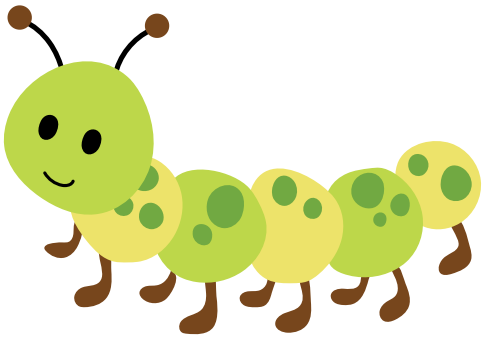
What's next

Discover More

UPCOMING EVENTS

The children in Little Vines Nursery will be pulling on their wellies to go on a bug hunt through the grounds on Wednesday 17th May from 10.00-11.30am.

The event is also open to all children from six months to four years from outside the school. So if you know of any friends or family who would like to join us - please spread the word and invite them to book a free place at this link: https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CHLN!



FOCUS OF THE WEEK: LANGUAGES ANCIENT & MODERN

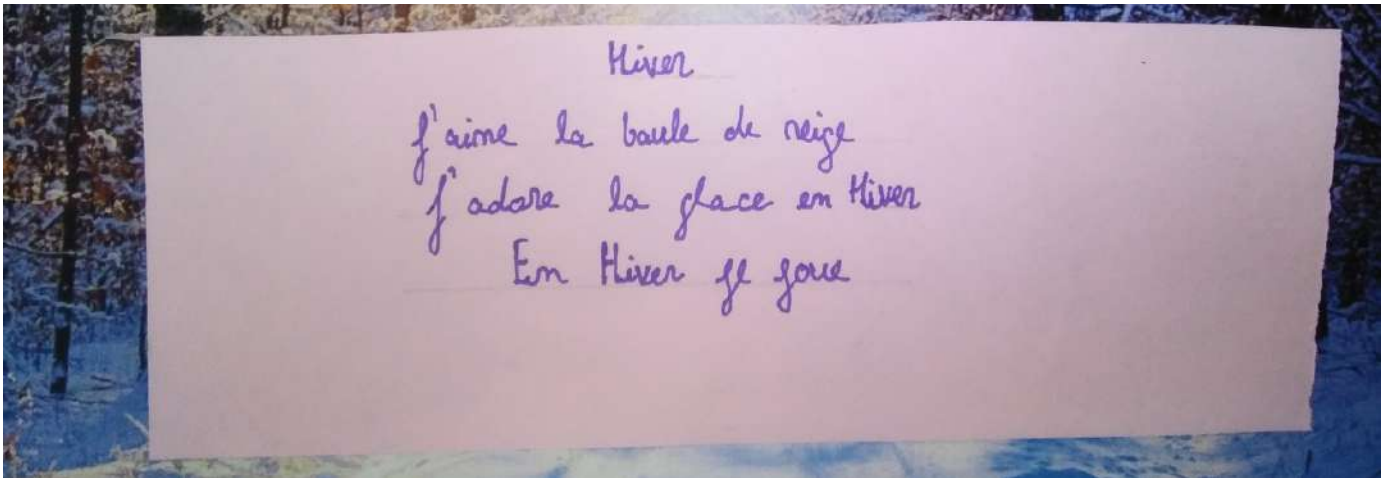
The question “Quel temps fait-il?” may have been heard in many Vinehall homes this week as the Pre-Prep children have been singing and dancing to a French song about the weather. We have been learning about other countries where French is spoken, and what life is like in those places.

Creative writing in French

I am very proud of the beautiful written work produced recently in French. Reading and writing a variety of forms has broadened vocabulary and enabled memorable learning.

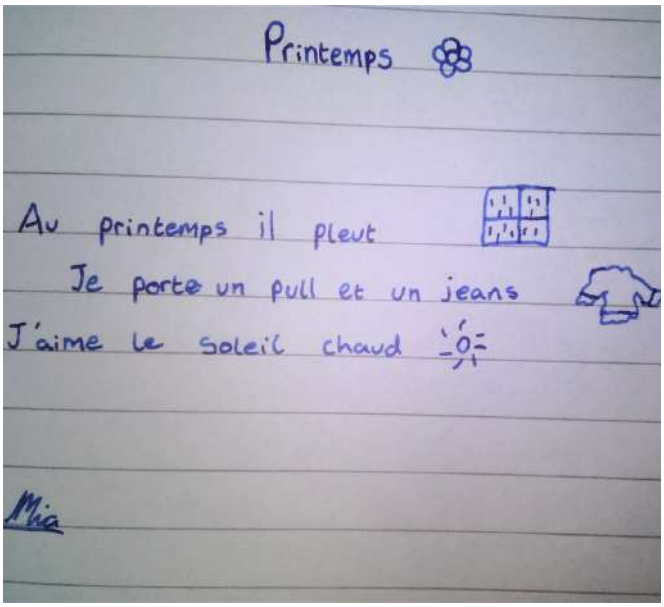
Year 5 have learned to describe looks and character in French, using third person verb forms with a wide variety of adjectives. They have designed and made “pillar people”, each unique and full of personality!

FOCUS OF THE WEEK: LANGUAGES ANCIENT & MODERN



Year 6 French classes have written Haiku poetry in French, on the topic of the seasons.

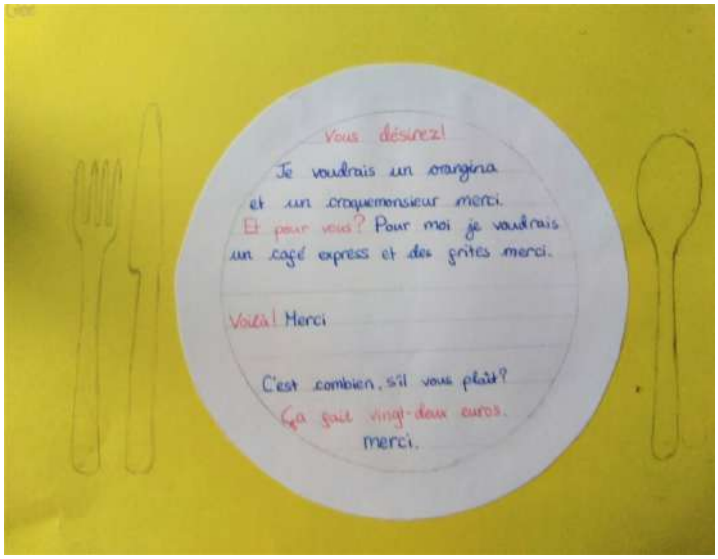
It was a challenge to invent poetic phrases with the right meanings and, to keep to the accurate meter of a Haiku, we had to identify syllables and count them carefully. The children rose to the challenge wonderfully, with some very creative results as you can read.



FOCUS OF THE WEEK: LANGUAGES ANCIENT & MODERN

Year 7 French have studied “calligramme” poems, which are written in the shape of their content. We studied a famous poem written during the first world war by the poet Apollinaire, and the children were inspired to write their own versions.

We sent a parcel of “mini-livres” off to our pen-pals in France just before Easter, full of photos, drawings and information for our French friends. We are looking forward to meeting them later this term when the French school comes to visit England. Thank you so much to parents who sent in photos to help make the booklets so attractive and interesting.



FOCUS OF THE WEEK: LANGUAGES ANCIENT & MODERN

Trips and events for Modern Languages

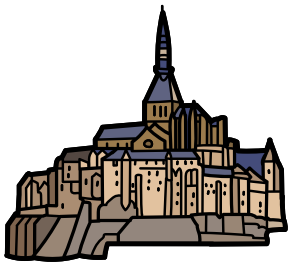
Spanish continues to develop strongly across Years 6 and 7 and many children in Year 5 are beginning to consider their choices into Year 6 and are asking good questions about language learning.

Later this term we will be joining the British Film Institute for a Spanish language session about short films.

Also in this busy Summer term comes the highlight of learning French - our Year 7 visit to Normandy. This year we will be in France during activity week. Everyone is looking forward to tasting delicious French food, trying out language skills in real situations and visiting so many fascinating cultural and historic places.

We are going to Mont St Michel, to see the Bayeux tapestry, and many important sites connected with the Norman conquest in 1066 and the D-day landings in 1944.

On y va!



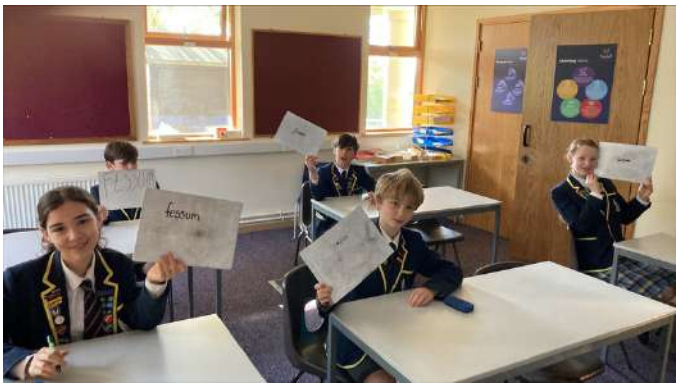
FOCUS OF THE WEEK: LANGUAGES ANCIENT & MODERN

The Classics department is having a busy start to the Summer Term.

The Year 8 class have been working hard, refining their knowledge of Latin tenses before starting practice papers next week for their Common Entrance exams after half term.

In Year 7 the class have been practising Latin adjectival agreement. It can be tricky at first but Countdown-style games and Latin Bingo help us learn!

At the end of Year 5, pupils choose between studying Latin or Spanish.



The Year 6 Latin class are enthusiastic classicists and love to conjugate verbs - with accompanying sign language!

They have just started a study of Roman gladiators and were interested to learn that the gladiators had themes. For example, the Murmillo was a marine-themed gladiator who wore a fish-shaped helmet and fought the Retiarius who had a trident and fishing net. The class are working on creating their own gladiators and are busy inventing Latin-style names!

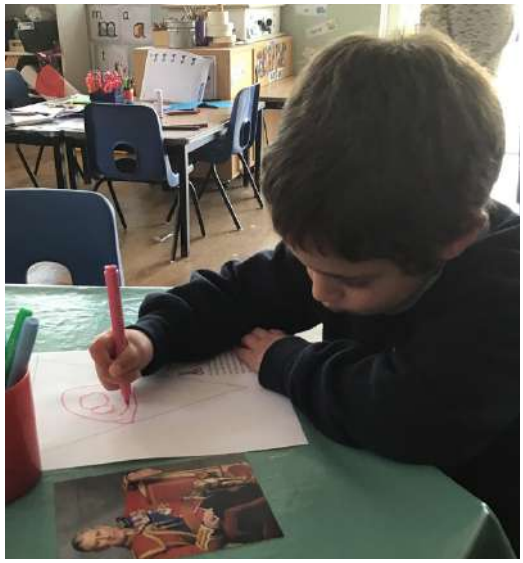
LITTLE VINES NURSERY

NURSERY

The importance of language in the Early Years

For our Early Years children having a large vocabulary supports all areas of their learning. Words allow children to make sense of the world around them. Communication and Language is part of our Early Years curriculum and is one of the most important foundations blocks.

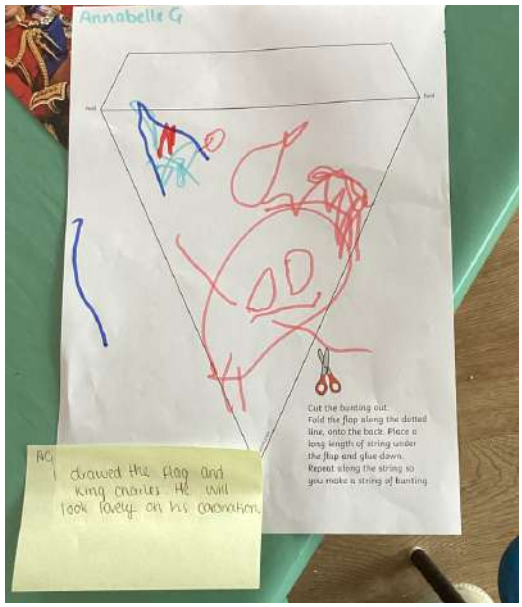
Our Nursery offers a rich environment full of conversation and opportunities to develop and extend our children's language skills.



This week we have been learning about our forthcoming Coronation celebrations and the children used their amazing language skills to describe our new King; just a few examples below:

"He will wear a gold crown; red is everywhere."

"King Charles, he has two eyes, and two triangle arms. He will have a circle crown on his head."



LITTLE VINES NURSERY

Kindergarten

Kindergarten French

The Kindergarten children love their weekly French lesson with Madame Clayton and this term we have been learning weather vocabulary through a variety of songs, games and rhymes.

A real highlight has been singing and creating actions to accompany a French weather song. The children's laughter and singing in French has been a joy to hear as it has filled the classroom.

PRE-PREP

RECEPTION

Reception have been travelling the world this week!

We started by designing our own boats and investigating materials to create our own boats out of junk modelling next week.

The children tried to predict each of the materials against two factors - whether it was waterproof and if it floated.

We used our floor map to think about where different animals live and the climate of those places.

Many of the children were interested in which countries and continents the animals came from and so we tied that into our stories.

PRE-PREP

YEAR 1

It was a week of “Everything British” when the Year 1 children participated in a drama workshop practising different skills such as: how to sip their tea properly and most importantly, how to wait patiently in a queue.

The children were most excited when it was announced they would be going on a school trip this week … a virtual one that is! We boarded the train and experienced what it was like circling around on the London Eye, all the while taking in the historical landmarks of our capital city.

PRE-PREP

YEAR 2

Year 2 got to experience their first Good Copy Tea in the Melon Garden on Tuesday.

Mrs Powis invited us round for ice creams in the sunshine and told us how the children in the Prep School are rewarded with a Good Copy Tea for earning lots of good copies and credits; something the children are now all looking forward to once they are in Year 3!

We also planted pumpkin seeds with Mrs Borrows, which will be transferred into the vegetable garden later this term and will be harvested by the children once they are in Year 3. Lots to look forward to next year!

PREP: ACADEMIC

YEAR 3

Fun with Fractions on a Friday!

3E had some fun finding equivalent fractions; they used magnetic bars and worked collaboratively like Billy Bee!

Roots and Shoots!

Having looked very closely at some plant specimens, Year 3 produced some super observational botanical drawings, before labelling the functions of each main part of the plant.

PREP: EVENTS AND TRIPS

Chatham Dockyard

We enjoyed a wonderfully sunny day out as a part of our Saturday Enrichment Programme.

The children explored Chatham Dockyard, visiting the exhibition 'Monsters of the Deep', together with an impressive collection of ship models and artefacts.

After a picnic lunch, a highlight of the excursion was exploring the HMS Ocelot, a Cold War Submarine that is in her 60th birthday year. We also enjoyed touring the HMS Cavalier, a Second World War Destroyer and the HMS Gannet, a Victorian Sloop.

BOARDING

We had a lovely long weekend in the boarding house. On Saturday most of the boarders went to Chatham dockyard and had a lovely time.

The Year 8 girls went to a birthday party in Hastings and came back singing hits from Mamma Mia. Everybody was tired, so we watched a movie before enjoying a lovely Al Fresco dinner and a game of 40/40 on the front lawn. Some of us have still not recovered, but it was great fun.

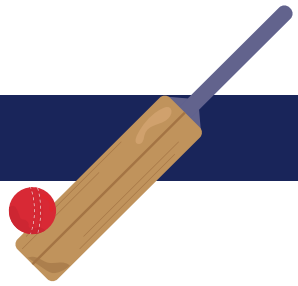
On Sunday morning, instead of our usual chapel service, we went on a walk around the wilder parts of the school grounds, the pond, the Bluebell walk and the big climbing tree.

We had a more practical afternoon with prep and music practice before embarking on a tricky treasure hunt. The riddles kept the children busy for most of the afternoon and sent them to the four corners of the grounds. The treasure was of course chocolate and blowing bubbles.

BOARDING

Bank holiday Monday was warmish but a bit overcast and we headed down to Bewl water to the Aqua Park. Squeals of laughter could be heard on the shore as the borders fell into the chilly water. After an hour of fun, they dried off and had a hot chocolate and a picnic lunch before returning home happy and tired.

SPORT



The sun finally made an appearance on Wednesday afternoon, contributing to a wonderful afternoon of cricket. There are not many schools which can boast Vinehall's views; add a bit of sunshine and the lovely smell of freshly cut grass and the conditions are perfect!

The 1st team boys did well against the Holmewood House 2nd XI; however, Mr Extra cost us in the end. It was a different story for the Colts As, who impressed with their all-round display, winning with a few overs to spare. The Colts Bs were not so lucky; however, improvement is being made in every session.

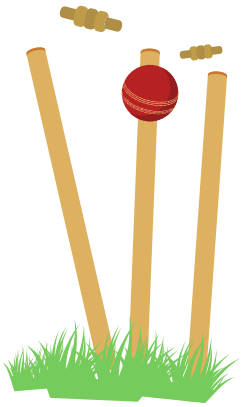
The 1st Team girls came up against a strong Holmewood House bowling attack, restricting our scoring options and leading to a narrow 15 run loss. The 2nd team's match was an extremely close affair, with the team scraping a fantastic win by one run. The U11A & Bs travelled to Tunbridge Wells and, although the results did not go their way, the U10s at the same venue managed to come out on top by 22 runs.

The U8 & 9 girls continued their good start to the season with an exciting and action-packed afternoon of cricket at home.

The junior boys played their first matches of the term. Playing against two very strong sides, the boys tried their best and learnt a lot from the experience.

Next week is as busy as ever, with a number of fixtures, a U10 girls' cricket tournament and an athletics event.

Can I please remind you that all fixture information can be found on our sports website using the fixture & results link on the top of the school website.



CELEBRATIONS

Pre-Prep

STARS OF THE WEEK

Nursery
Blake

Kindergarten
Rey and Shree

Reception
Oscar

Year 1
Henry P and Rose

Year 2
Barnaby and Sia