MAY 2023 ISSUE 35

VINELINES

YOUR WEEKLY VINEHALL NEWSLETTER

Vinehall
A REPTON SCHOOL

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

'All my life through, the new sights of Nature made me rejoice like a child' - Marie Curie.

Vinehall has been celebrating National Walking Month and Mental Health Awareness Week by encouraging our children to explore and rejoice in our beautiful grounds. Staff have offered breaktime walks through the woods and fields, encouraging the children to appreciate nature in all its Springtime splendour, and ensure its soothing balm is firmly in their 'toolkits'.

Prospective families and visitors to the hugely popular bug hunt this week have commented on our breath-taking school environment; one which we happily remind the children not to take for granted. I would encourage all parents to share in our good fortune and would welcome you to walk the grounds with your children and dogs or find a wonderful picnic spot; join us for a happy day of tennis or golf tomorrow or make a date to bring friends.

Jeff Davis

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY 22 MAY

End of Year Assessments Week for Years 5-7
Pre-Prep Meet the Teachers Week
Girls' Swimming v Bede's
Boys' Tennis v Marlborouth House

TUESDAY 23 MAY

2.30pm Year 1 Parent Tea Party

WEDNESDAY 24 MAY

Girls' Cricket v Saint Ronan's
Boys' Cricket v The Mead
Boys' Cricket v Marlborough House

THURSDAY 25 MAY

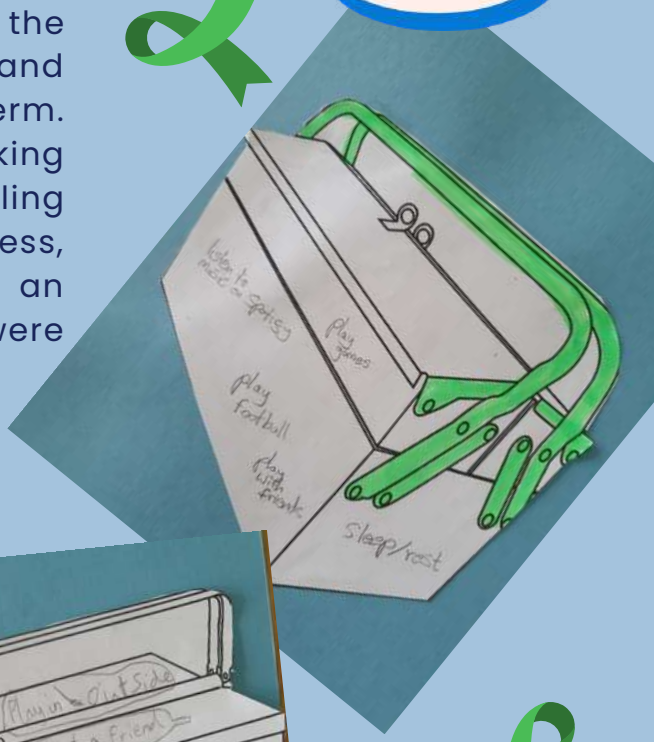
Girls' Cricket v Skippers Hill
Boys' Cricket v Claremont

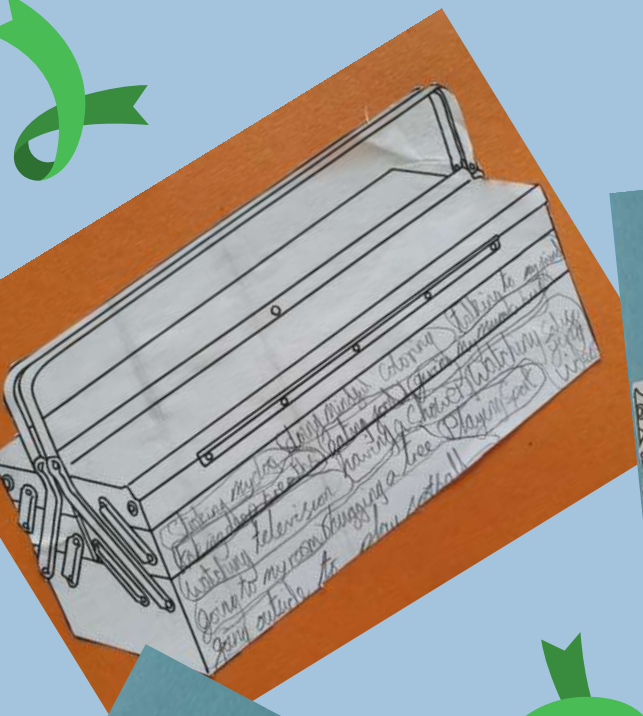
FRIDAY 26 MAY

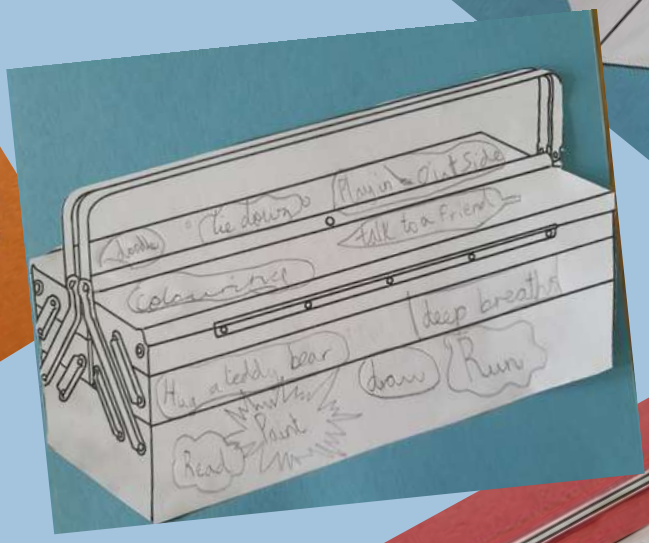
8.30am Year 3 Poetry Presentation to parents
8.30am De Beer Book Look and Coffee
3.00pm Tea Time Concert
Half Term begins after School

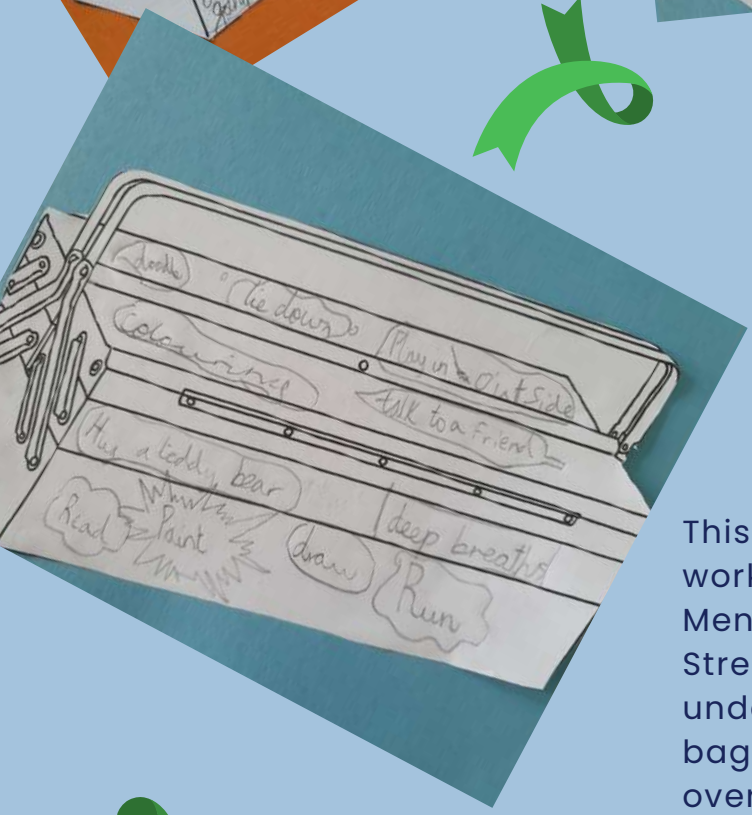
MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

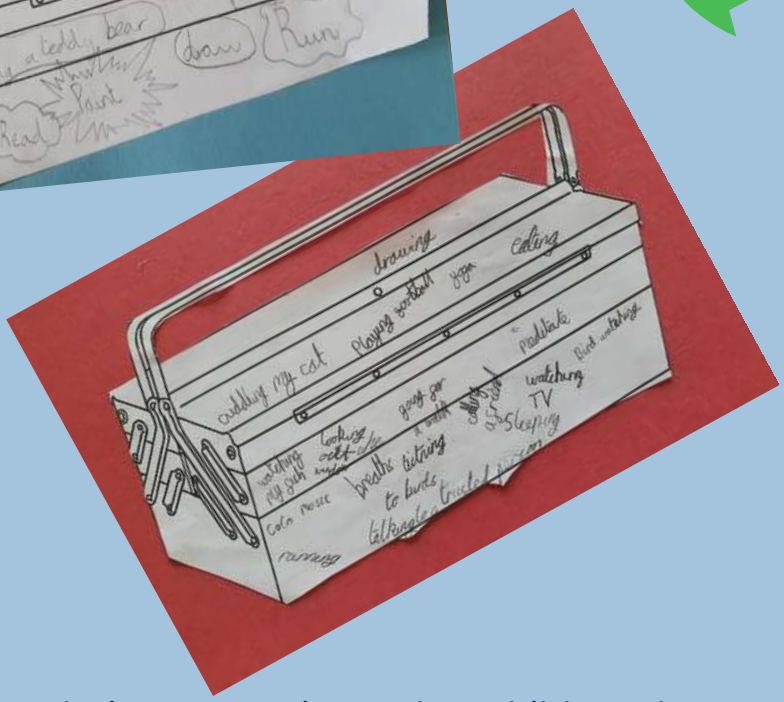
Monday's Assembly was courageously led by the Year 6s who learned about mental health and support strategies in Life Skills lessons last term. Being with friends, spending time in nature, talking to a trusted adult, drawing, feeding pets, cuddling pets, playing sports, practising mindfulness, listening to your favourite music and going on an adventure are some of the strategies that were shared with the Prep School.











This week in Form Time, the children have worked on 'The Stress Bag' combined with 'My Mental Health Toolkit' in the Juniors and 'The Stress Bucket' in the Seniors. The children understand how stressors can build and our bags become too heavy to carry/our buckets overflow; however, in practising mental health coping strategies, our bags and buckets begin to empty.

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Also, May happens to be National Walking Month so, as a part of Mental Health Awareness Week, we have enjoyed scheduled walks during morning breaks this week. Spending time in our beloved gully is always a great mental health reset.

Which mental health strategy will you try out this week?

LITTLE VINES NURSERY

NURSERY

Green Fingers

Gardening and being among nature has been shown to improve mental and physical health.

The Little Vines children have been involved in planting seeds to create their very own vegetable patch. They have planted beetroot, radishes and green beans. Taking on the responsibilities of caring for these vegetables educates our children and develops their understanding of concepts such as 'cause and effect'. For example - plants die without water.

Here are a few quotes from the children:
“The soil is dry, it needs water.”
"The plants need water and sun to grow up to the sky."
"When it is big, we will eat them all up."
"I like playing in my garden and I help to pull up the weeds and water the tomatoes."

LITTLE VINES NURSERY

Kindergarten

Mental Health Week

In Kindergarten we actively encourage the children to explore their own interests. Enjoying physical activities, being creative and learning new things help the children to develop a strong sense of emotional well-being.

We also use the zones of regulation and talk to the children about how they are feeling. We discuss the strategies they can use to bring themselves into the green zone.

PRE-PREP

RECEPTION

Reception have had a brilliant week preparing for our Aquarium show. The children have created a range of different sea creatures, learnt some interesting facts and written some descriptive poetry.

Last week the children decided which sea creature they would like to learn about and became the aquarium keepers for the afternoon. They then took the knowledge they developed and put it into a show for Year 1 and their parents.

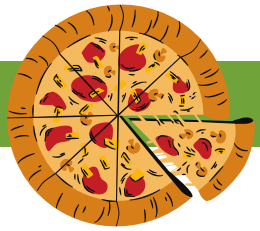
PRE-PREP

YEAR 1

Year 1 enjoyed the beautiful weather and did some of their lessons outdoors this week. They listened carefully to the cheerful birds singing in the background and this kept them focused on what they were doing.

The children used tea bags to make their 'Shema Scrolls' look old before writing the prayers inside. Inside the classroom you could hear peaceful music playing and children worked like 'Ollie Owl' to print their William Morris designs onto fabric. Well done children for concentrating so well and producing such lovely work!

PRE-PREP



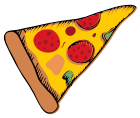
YEAR 2

Year 2 have been thinking about why we need to eat a balanced diet in our Learning Journey and have sorted foods into the different food groups.

We then went to Pizza Express in Tunbridge Wells, where the children got to make their own pizzas, whilst thinking about the different ingredients used.

Once the pizzas were ready, we headed to Calverly Gardens to eat our delicious pizzas and play in the beautiful sunshine.

What a lovely day!



PREP ACADEMIC - YEAR 3

OUTING TO THE BARBICAN MUSEUM AND LEWES CASTLE

Year 3 had a very busy day on Tuesday. First they were lucky enough to handle some artefacts from the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age in a workshop led by the education leader at the Barbican Museum. She was impressed by the children's thoughtful and relevant questions and their ability to work collaboratively. Next we listened to a story set in the Neolithic times and the children worked independently to explore the cabinets in the museum, answering questions about the exhibits.

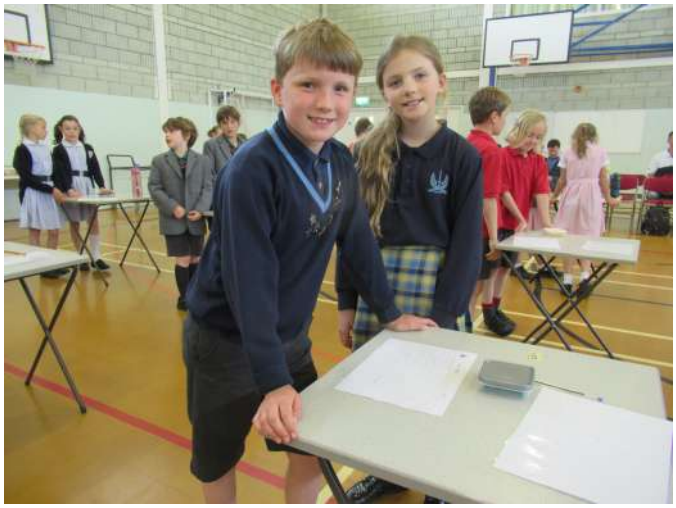
Then we all travelled forwards in time and watched a film about the history of Lewes. After a picnic lunch in the grounds of the castle and a well-earned playtime, we braved the climb up the spiral staircases of the two castle towers. What a wonderful view from the top!

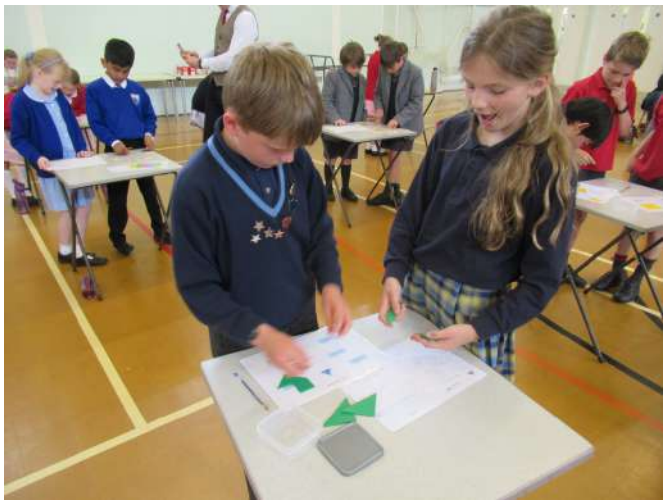
Mrs E was delighted when the curator of the castle commented on what beautiful behaviour the children had, which earned them all various house points - well done, 3E, for being respectful, kind, courageous, curious and collaborative! Thank you too, to Miss E for coming with us on a very memorable trip.

'An exciting, amazing, terrific and fun day out' according to Caspar, Rupert, Coralie and Arya. Mrs E agrees!

PREP ACADEMIC

YEAR 4 MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE





Alexandra C, George B, Ivy G and Sam L headed over to Somerhill for the annual Y4 maths challenge. It was very exciting and there were a lot of schools attending.

The children took part in a selection of different kinds of maths problems.

Although nervous, they thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon.

PREP: EXTREME READING COMPETITION

This term's Library competition received a fabulous selection of entries from Vinehall's most intrepid readers pursuing their hobby in some very unlikely situations. Imagine reading while atop a fork-lift truck, or balancing bareback on a pony, performing a skilful trick on a skateboard, or manoeuvring a homemade raft across a murky looking lake? All these, and more, were featured in this highly popular competition. There were staff entries too: Ally Linney reading whilst riding a camel in Morocco and Mary Alderson speeding along on the back of a motorbike, reading an equally fast-paced bestseller.

Eventually, after every pupil in the Prep School had cast their votes, the winners were announced. Congratulations to Henry C, 'Don't Look Down', India A, 'Fearless on a Foal' and Seb B, 'Skater Seb.

Everyone received a bookmark for their endeavours and a huge amount of admiration from us all.

Debbie Gearey - Librarian

SAXTON CHARITY EVENT

The Saxton Sweet Sale was a massive success. The money from this, combined with the Saxton Charity Chess Tournament, will be donated to our charity, Cancer Research UK.

This fundraiser was arranged by Year 7 & 8 Saxtons, but every house member helped by either making signs, donating money or manning the stall. But it wouldn't have been possible without our hugely supportive Saxton teachers.

The atmosphere was buzzing with excitement as we put together our Pick and Mix stall. The queue for the sale wrapped around the building as the excited Prep School children couldn't wait to collect some sweets.

Written by Henry C, Isobel F, Elizabeth H

SPORT

This week Wednesday both the boys and girls played Claremont at Cricket. There were some extremely close matches, with the Colts A boys and U11C girls picking up two very good wins. On Thursday the U8/9 girls continued their good start to the term, with a strong performance. The U8/9 boys travelled to a sunny Eastbourne for a very relaxed and enjoyable afternoon against St Andrew's.

This afternoon sees the athletics team take part in the rearranged meet at Dulwich in Cranbrook. Hopefully the rain stays away.

Next week is as busy as ever, with boys' tennis against Marlborough House on Monday, a girls' swimming gala against Bede's on the same day and cricket fixtures on Wednesday and Thursday rounding off what has been at times a wet and frustrating first half of the summer term.

RHS WISLEY

Last weekend our Saturday outing took us to the Royal Horticultural Society's flagship garden at Wisley, packed with horticultural inspiration, and the UK's leading centre for horticultural science.

The children toured the impressive glasshouse, marvelling at rare and endangered plant species from around the world. We also explored the interactive displays in the Hilltop building, and enjoyed spotting tadpoles in the wildlife garden.

BOARDING

What a wonderful, sunny weekend and, at long last, playing outside was not a chilly experience.

On Saturday the boarders went to RHS Wisley for most of the day but returned to have dinner outside. They then moved their mattresses and duvets into the Common Room, where we watched Eurovision. It was a very late night and there was much disappointment when Spain only received five points from the public. With the UK taking its usual spot near the bottom, the balance was restored.

We had a lazy start to Sunday morning after the excitement of the night. We spent the morning doing prep and music practice. After lunch, there was a boarders' cricket match on the front lawn; most played but some decided it was the ideal opportunity to lie in the sun and relax.

We then had some fun in the school pool and managed to exhaust some children to the point where they just wanted to watch a movie. Others still had some energy, so we headed down to the tennis courts before enjoying our dinner outside.

We look forward to the Year 5s visiting us for a boarding taster evening. Good fun will be had by all.

CELEBRATIONS

Pre-Prep STARS OF THE WEEK

Nursery
Fenella

Kindergarten
Rupert
Freja

Reception
All of Reception

Year 1
Aayat
Millie

Year 2
Amelie
Isabel