

MAY 2023

ISSUE 36

VINELINES

YOUR WEEKLY VINEHALL NEWSLETTER



Vinehall
A REPTON SCHOOL



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

Partly to distract from the end of year assessments going on this week, I asked the children to focus on making the most of their break times. Children need to play!

As we know, play is an essential part of a child's development and well-being. It not only brings joy and fun into their lives but plays a crucial role in their physical, cognitive, social and emotional growth. Within our safe and supportive environment and most incredibly beautiful grounds, the children are certainly benefiting from ample opportunities to explore, discover and enjoy themselves.

Whether playing 'Around the World' or 'Family It', whizzing down the zip-wire, hiding in the monkey bush or cartwheeling across the lawns, your children (even the 13-year-olds!) are having the most childishly and wonderfully active playtime.



Jeff Davis

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK



MONDAY 29TH MAY – FRIDAY 2ND JUNE

Half term

SATURDAY 3RD JUNE

IAPS Swimming Finals at the Olympic Pool, Stratford

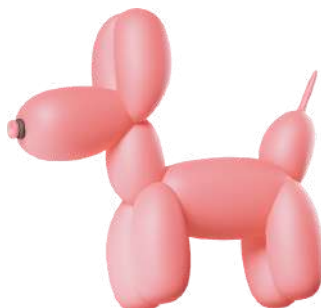
SUNDAY 4TH JUNE

7.30pm Concert Series: London Brandenburg Ensemble

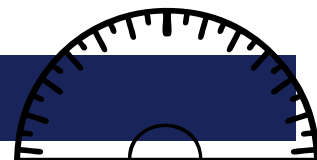


ADVANCE NOTICE – FOV FETE 17TH JUNE

We listened to parental feedback and to the strong wish for a family event in the summer rather than a Ball. The Friends of Vinehall are focussing every effort on making the Summer Fete a spectacular family occasion. Please put the date in your diaries.



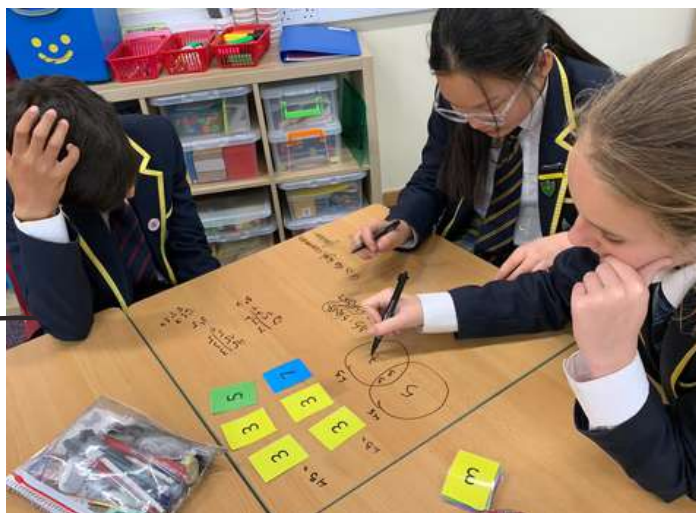
FOCUS FOR THE WEEK – MATHEMATICS



Problem solving is central to the Maths philosophy at Vinehall and in all year groups, the children get hands-on opportunities to solve contextual problems. Doing this collaboratively has so many benefits including: increasing creativity and innovation; helping each other to improve, encouraging engagement and productivity and inspiring different viewpoints. It is so important as a skill, that it is one of our core learning habits. Here are many examples of this in action:



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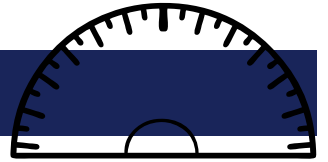
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FOCUS FOR THE WEEK – MATHEMATICS



This term has also seen Vinehall host a series of four Royal Institute Maths Masterclasses taking place on Saturday mornings as an enrichment activity for invited Year 8 groups from local schools, ably organised by Paul Borrowes. Both Paul and Alison Tripp have led sessions and the two others were led by Royal Institute representatives. In the second session, collaborative teamwork was put to the test to determine mathematically if the shapes of hot air balloons would work – leading, of course, to building them! Pleasingly they all went up ... for varying amounts of time!



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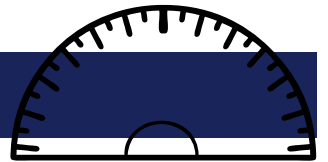
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FOCUS FOR THE WEEK – MATHEMATICS



The focus on problem-solving has fostered excellent results in the recent UK Maths Trust competitions. You may remember the results of the Intermediate Maths Challenge a few weeks ago where some of our Year 7 and 8 children attempted the paper designed for 16 years and younger. A few continued on to the Kangaroo round where both Ella F and Patrick L gained a merit for their papers – a truly impressive feat for an upper secondary school competition!

The results are also in for the Junior Maths Challenge, designed for Years 7 and 8. Congratulations to all the certificate winners pictured. A special mention for our Year 6 Bronze certificate winners – Iden N (best in year), Stephen Z, Felix G, Matilda B and Act C, who still have two more years to hone their skills. Well done also to the Gold winners of Isla M (best in year), Ethan E, Patrick L (best in school), Flo S, Ella F and Alfie C, who will progress to the next round.

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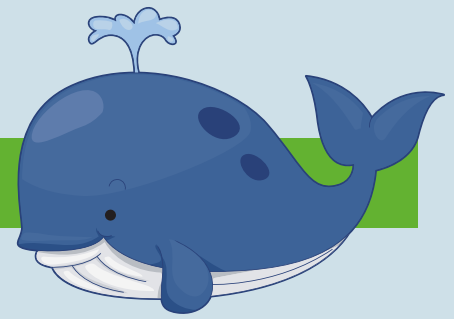


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LITTLE VINES NURSERY

NURSERY – MATHS IS ALL AROUND US



Every day at Little Vines Nursery the children are exposed to mathematical challenges and opportunities. This week we have been reading the story of 'The Snail And The Whale', which opens up a wealth of mathematical challenges.



The children have been involved in activities to promote the understanding of pattern formation as well as learning about different sizes and grouping/sorting objects.



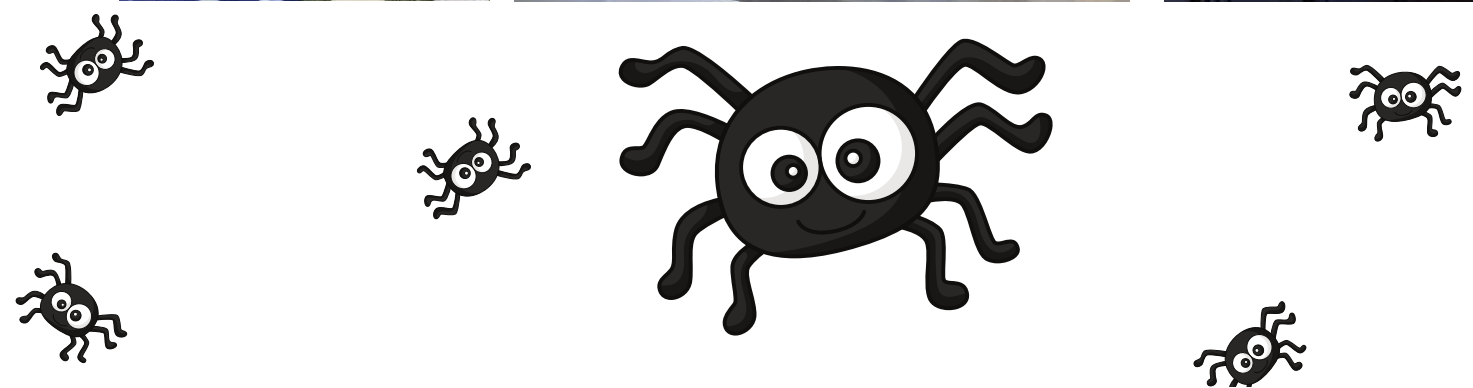
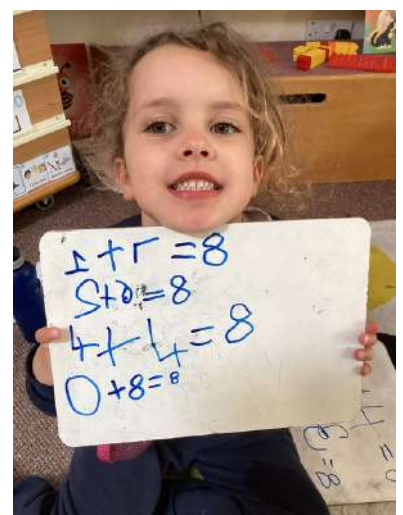
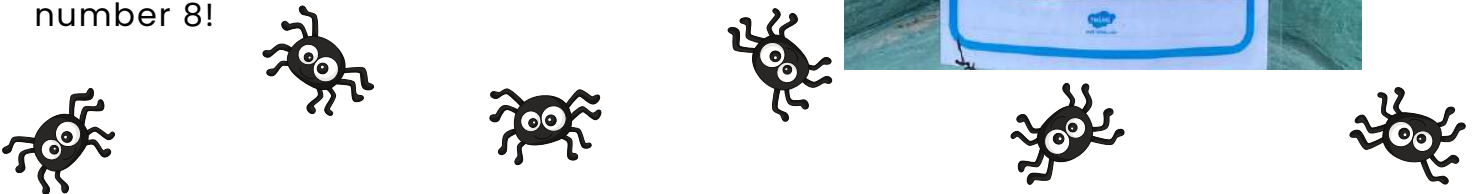


KINDERGARTEN

Our focus for maths this week was the number 8. We started the week by singing 'Incy Wincy Spider' and going on a spider hunt in our beautiful Pre-Prep garden. We found lots of play spiders and a few real ones too! We counted how many legs they had and discovered that spiders have 8 legs.

We then continued our exploration of the number 8 by learning how to write the number 8, creating our own spiders, playing with Incy Wincy spider in the water tray and some of the children wrote their own number sentences that total 8.

What wonderful week learning about the number 8!



PRE-PREP

RECEPTION

Reception have a wonderful week leading up to half term. After the excitement of last week's Aquarium show, we have taken the time to relax and dive deeper into number bonds to 5 and independent writing.

The children also took time to say goodbye to Louisa Bennett, who will be on maternity leave from half term. The children will be in the fabulous hands of Cathy Fuggle, who has spent lots of time in class to prepare for the transition into the final term.

We hope you all have a fabulous half term and enjoy the sunshine!



PRE-PREP



YEAR 1

Year 1 made their final preparations before the big event: The Year 1 United Tea-party!

The children were busy rolling, cutting, baking, setting, arranging, singing and practising their lines ahead of what turned out to be a very special afternoon celebrating what it means to be British.

Well done Year 1 for working together like Billy Bee to make such a memorable event for all of our guests! You should be very proud!



PRE-PREP



YEAR 2



This week we have made smoothies and puff pastry wheels, working collaboratively in small groups like Billy Bee.



They have also had to evaluate their finished products and suggested changes they could make.



As part of our Brilliant Bodies topic, Year 2 have been making tasty, nutritious snacks.



The children have prepared, chopped, mixed, blended and cooked, before enjoying the fruits of the labour.



PREP ACADEMIC – YEAR 3



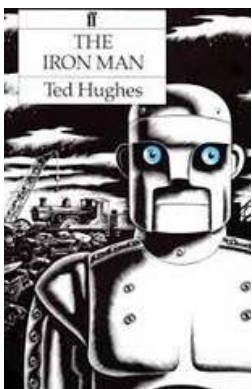
DRAGONS AND AN IRON MAN FOUND IN THE CHAPLIN THEATRE



For the past few weeks, Year 3 have been working hard to learn their lines to present 'Zog' by Julia Donaldson and 'An extract from The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes.

They gave two performances to their friends in Year 4 and Pre-Prep and to parents, learning to use their voices in a whole group, as smaller groups and as soloists. They added movement and sound to enhance the dramatic effect.

Mrs E was very proud of their confidence and great stage presence!





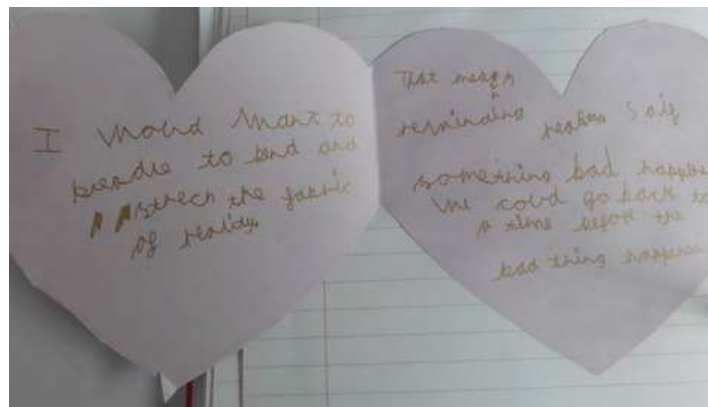
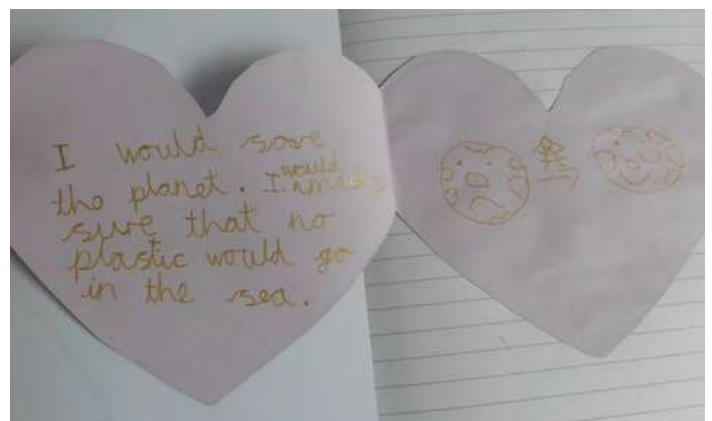
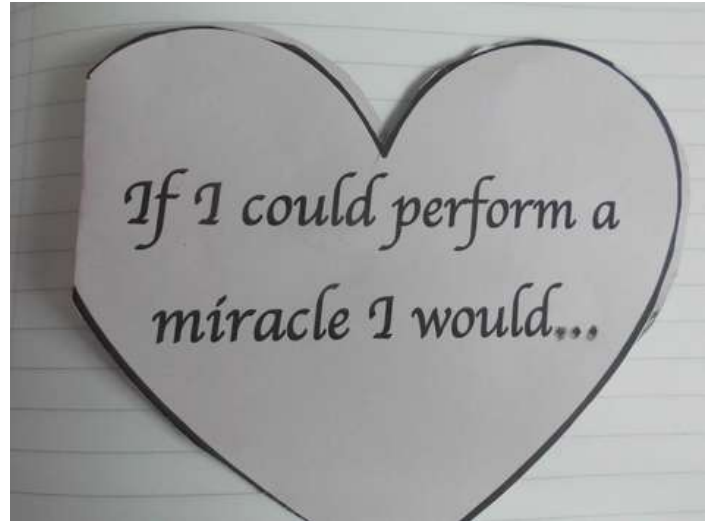
MIRACLES CAN HAPPEN

In RS the children have been reading about some of the stories in the New Testament, when Christians believe that Jesus performed many miracles.

This week they wrote about what they would like to happen if they could perform their own 'miracle' in our World.

Some of their ideas were:

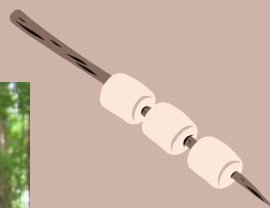
- 'Give money to poor countries';
- 'Stop climate change';
- 'Find a cure for cancer';
- 'Help the homeless';
- 'Stop the war in Ukraine'; and
- 'Bend and stretch the fabric of reality so if something bad happened, we could rewind reality and go back to a time before the bad thing happened.'





OUTDOOR LEARNING DAY

Year 4 had a wonderful day last Friday. We pond-dipped, bug-hunted, built fires, cooked and generally had a marvellous time.

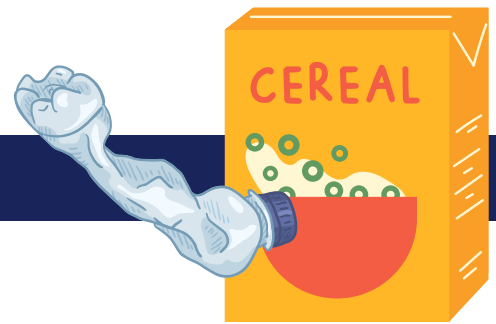


PLANTING

Year 4 planted their sweetcorn this week. Let's hope it is ready to eat by the end of term.



PREP ACADEMIC – YEAR 4



TRASH MONSTERS

The children have been learning about the environment inspired by the book 'Planet SOS'. They used their recycling from home to make their own Trash Monsters.



PREP ACADEMIC



YEAR 5 – EN PLEIN AIR

During their Art lesson, Year 5 took a walk around our grounds, as part of 'Mental Health Awareness Week'. We took advantage of the warm weather and moved our lesson outside. After all, we have the most amazing grounds on our doorstep.

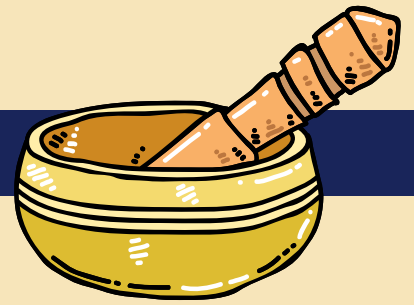
The topic work is 'Close Up', and the pupils were asked to look at their surroundings more closely. Using only black pen to sketch with, the pupils tried to find the perfect view by working 'en plein air'.

They had previously visited Scotney Castle and studied 'The Picturesque'. This is the perfect view with a sense of the wild. Joseph Paxton considered this when designing the school gardens.

Tracey Konyu



PREP ACADEMIC



YEAR 5 – SOUNDS OF THE SINGING BOWL

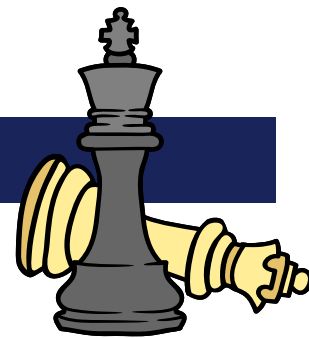


In Year 5 we have been trying to think what meditation might mean to a Buddhist. Last week we compared a clear, positive mind to a jar of clear water. Negative thoughts were likened to a spoonful of soil that the children put into the jar (our mind) and, as the soil settled and the water became clear again,, so a Buddhist may try to clear the mind.

This week the children have begun to colour mandalas and they have tried to play the Singing Bowls. This requires a lot of focus and perseverance; Mrs E was impressed with the determination some showed.



SAXTON HOUSE CHESS TOURNAMENT



Over the last couple of weeks, Saxton House has been running a Chess Tournament. The main aim of the tournament, which was arranged by Year 8 Saxtons and included Year 3 up to Year 8, was to make participants smile, help them meet new friends and, very importantly, raise some money for charity.

Overall, it was a remarkable success and enjoyed by all who took part. The grand total raised by the tournament and Saxton's recent Sweet Stall was an amazing £193.44 which will go to Saxton's charity this year, Cancer Research UK.

The Junior winner was George B; the Middles winner was Tymofii L and the Senior winner was Gonzalo R-S.

Thank you and well done to everyone who took part!

By Charlie P, Year 8 and one of Saxton's House Captains.



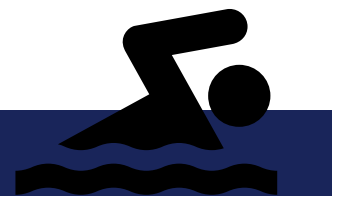
Finalists



Winners



SPORT



A busy week to finish a topsy turvy half term of sport. With the weather dominating proceedings early on, it has been great to see the sun these last few weeks.

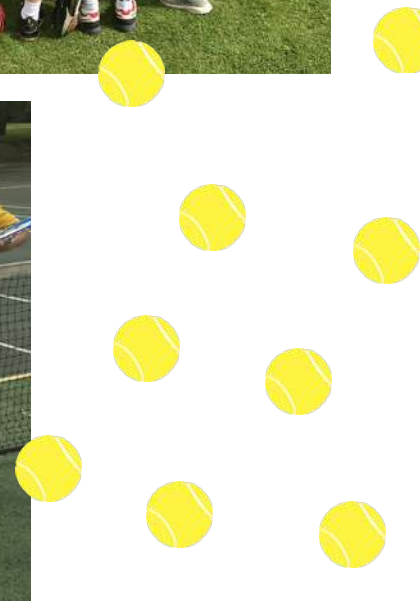
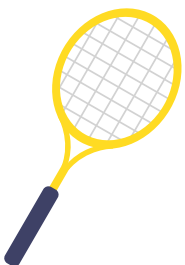
On Saturday we hosted our summer term Golf and Tennis morning. With the course looking magnificent, it was lovely to see a number of families and boarders tackle the course. We will be hosting the next event in the Michaelmas Term, and it would be lovely to see more families join us for what is a very relaxed but enjoyable morning of sport.

On Monday the Year 5,6,7 & 8 girls' swimming team travelled to Bede's senior school to take on Bede's Prep. It was a very close encounter with some very exciting finishes. Bede's came out on top, winning by 181-171, with Derek Guy extremely pleased with his swimmers.

On the same evening the U11 & U13 boys' tennis teams took on Marlborough House. Playing doubles, the boys did a brilliant job, and it was pleasing to watch the high standard of tennis.

On Wednesday the girls took on Saint Ronan's in a block of cricket. The standard of cricket was high, with the girls putting on a good display in the face of some seriously accurate bowling. The boys also had a good afternoon, taking on MHS and The Mead. Fewer wides were bowled and Louise Barrett was very impressed with the performance of the Colts B team.

The U8/9 boys and girls finished this half of term with three exciting games of cricket against Claremont and Skippers Hill on Thursday afternoon. It is so pleasing to see the progress the two cohorts are making.



BOARDING



We had a really busy weekend in boarding last week. We started off with our Year 5 boarding taster evening on Friday night. Thirteen Year 5s joined us for a sporty evening in the gardens, playing jump rope, catch or just running around with friends. Hot chocolate and baby marshmallows before bed and then a hearty breakfast on Saturday morning before heading off.

On Saturday morning the boarders joined in with the golf and tennis day which was great fun. After lunch we had a long prep session in preparation for the exams. During several breaks the boarders played outside in the sun.

We had dinner outside and, while the children were distracted, the Gappers came from behind with super soakers and started a water fight. We had mini pistols and 260 water balloons, but the fun was over remarkably quickly; we were all soaking wet but happy. Early showers to dry off and then most children settled to watch 'Eurovision, The Movie'.



On Sunday we went to Drusilla's Zoo. The children wandered around the zoo, ate far too many donuts, went on rides and played in the adventure playground. The sun shone and it was a lovely day. On Sunday evening after a dinner of pasta salad, fruit salad and ice cream, we made mocktails, complete with little umbrellas.



Happy Birthday

Ines C – Year 7

Skye R – Year 7

Sia A – Year 2

India, Monty & Max P – Year 6

Louis C – Reception



Pre-Prep 

STARS OF THE WEEK

Nursery

Oscar O'G

Kindergarten

Arlo
Max

Reception

Forrest

Year 1

Henry SC
Toto

Year 2

Jacob

