



# The Vineyard School

The Vineyard School  
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Dear all families,

I hope you are all well and adjusting to the more wintery weather. On that note, due to the need to ventilate the school well during the day, the windows are open so it is cold inside. I would advise that your children wear extra layers in order to stay warm, including a hat.

I'd like to bring reading back to the forefront of all our minds. I don't just mean reading but also the discussion and sharing of new stories – the joy in finding a new word or idea. Reading, and engagement with it from a young age, is linked to life expectancy, happiness, income levels, mental health and self-motivation; it is an unbelievably powerful tool for the development of the young mind. Not to mention, of course, that it is just plain fun. There are several things we can do to help our children take advantage of this. Firstly, and most obviously; read every day. Every child should read for at least 20 minutes a day, either with an adult or by themselves. It is worth remembering, however, that when in a rush a quick story is better than no reading at all. Secondly, talking with the children about reading! Discuss the books you loved to read as a child, discuss the books you didn't like so much – explain what makes a book magic for you, or what makes it tedious – recommend new books and re-read your favourites, ask questions, discuss the characters, work out the meanings of new words. Thirdly, of course; by reading ourselves, as parents and families, this role-modelling carries a lasting and powerful message. We are hoping to open the library up soon for family reading sessions, more to come on this. Wishing you all a very happy weekend, all the best,  
Frances Bracegirdle

## Upcoming Events

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Wed 1 Dec                             | Assessment reports to parents Y1-6, via ping   |
| Sat 4 Dec                             | Winter Fair, 12:00-4:00pm  |
| Tue 7 Dec                             | Whole School Nasal Flu Vaccinations, 9:00am  |
| Tue 7 Dec                             | Reception Topaz Class Nativity, 9:30am   |
| Wed 8 Dec                             | Reception Jade Class Nativity, 9:30am  |
| Thu 9 Dec                             | Reception Opal Class Nativity, 9:30am  |
| Fri 10 Dec                            | Reception Pantomime Dance Workshop, 8:35am<br>Extra-Curricular Timetable released at 7pm on SchoolPing |
| Mon 13 Dec                            | Year 4 Saxon Workshop - Come dressed as a Saxon  |
| Mon 13 Dec<br>Wed 15 Dec<br>(back up) | Carol Singing Evening Years 1-5 (although everyone is welcome) 4.30-5.30pm                             |
| Thu 16 Dec                            | Carol Service, St Matthias, Kyanite, 11am<br>Carol Service, St Matthias, Garnet, 1.30pm                |
| Fri 17 Dec                            | Carol Service, St Matthias, Jet, 11am  |
| <b>Fri 17 Dec</b>                     | <b>LAST DAY OF TERM - 12pm pick up</b>   |
| <b>Tue 4 Jan</b>                      | <b>FIRST DAY OF SPRING TERM</b>  |

## Twitter

Don't forget to request to follow @Vineyard\_School on twitter. This week there have been pictures posted including: Year 5 making meatballs in design & technology, Year 2 learning to type, Year 3 investigating shadows, Year 2 & 3 trip photos to name a few. We will be posting regularly so you can see what we are up to at school on a day to day basis.

## Carol Singing Evening

We are looking forward to singing some carols together with you just before we break up. This event will take place on the small playground between 4.30 and 5.30pm. The plan is that you will pick up your children at the normal time (except Koosa) and then return to school wrapped up warmly to sing some carols. The children will be asked to stay with their parents.

This event is for Y1-5 primarily but everyone is welcome.

## Useful links

Please see below some links to our website that parents may find useful:

[Calendar](#) [Absence and Attendance](#) [Koosa](#)

[Kids](#) [Extra-Curricular Clubs](#)

[Library](#) [Report and Absence](#) [FAQs](#)

[Website](#) [PTA](#)

Get the latest updates and photos by following the school on Twitter  
[@Vineyard\\_School](#)



# Class News

## Reception

Reception have been very busy practising our Nativity show this week! Amongst all this excitement, we were very lucky to have a year 3 child visit us to tell us all about Thanksgiving. She was brilliant at teaching us and then asked us what we are thankful for. We have also been getting a lot of enjoyment out of our sandpit which has recently been filled. Thank you so much to the PTA for funding it and to the parent helpers who filled it for us!

## Year 1

In year 1 we have had a very exciting week! We have looked at the Jewish festival of Sukkot in RE and built our own Sukkah's. We did this using different materials, like wood, Lego, Duplo and plants for decoration. The children were so creative and immersed in this activity! Currently in science we are learning about animals and what they eat. This week we compared herbivores and carnivores, identifying and comparing which animals eat meat or plants/fruit. We have also related this to what humans eat and what our favourite foods are, by drawing a plate of their all their favourite foods. Finally, in English we have started a new book called 'Send for a Superhero'. In their writing the children have focused on adjectives, capital letters and full stops and checking their work, all through different activities, like making a wanted poster and writing letters. They also loved drawing their own superhero's and superhero masks!

## Year 2

It has been very busy 2 weeks in Year 2! Last Week, we conducted our PIRA, PUMA and GAPS Assessments. The children worked so incredibly hard and showed all of the Vineyard Values over the course of the week. We have started our new History topic - Ancient Egyptians - looking last week at the River Nile and this week, at Tutankhamun and his tomb! As well as this, we have also started practising our Christmas songs, including Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer, during our ARTIS sessions. You may also hear us singing them at the end of the school day! Finally, we have been working hard in both maths and English. In maths, we have been continuing to challenge ourselves by using the column method for addition and subtraction, particularly focusing on subtracting 2 digit numbers. In English, we have been working hard at using the four different sentence types - exclamatory, questioning, command and statement - and expanded noun phrases to complete a variety of tasks based on the story 'The House Held Up By Trees' by Ted Kooser. All of the children have been working so hard! Keep up the good work!

## Year 3

The children learned about shadows in their science lesson this week. They made shadow puppets and used torches to investigate how the shadows changed size depending on where the light source was. By the time you read this, we will have returned from our trip to Butser Ancient Farm to support our learning about the Stone Age.

## Year 4

Year 4 have been learning about the invasion of the Anglo Saxons, this week they explored the reasons why there were different religions during that time period. The children had to piece the clues together and they discovered that with the changes of Saxon leaders the beliefs changed too. The Saxons worshiped Gods and Goddesses, powerful nature spirits (dragons and elves), holy places (springs) and lucky charms (amulets). The children in Year 4 have created their own amulets as good luck charms to protect them from the Saxons invasion on 13th December!! The question is, who will win the battle this time?

## Year 5 & 6

Year 5 and 6 have had a fantastic week continuing their work on learning about evacuees. They have been writing non-chronological reports on the life of evacuees and this was supported by our Evacuee Day on Wednesday. The children arrived in some wonderful costumes and really embraced the day. They created some countryside and blitz collages, performed the 'Lambeth Walk' dance and learnt about how the Enigma code was used in WW2. Outside of this, Y5 have been cooking meatballs as part of their DT work and Y6 Sports Captains and Ambassadors were announced; keep an eye out for them representing sport at The Vineyard soon!



Photos



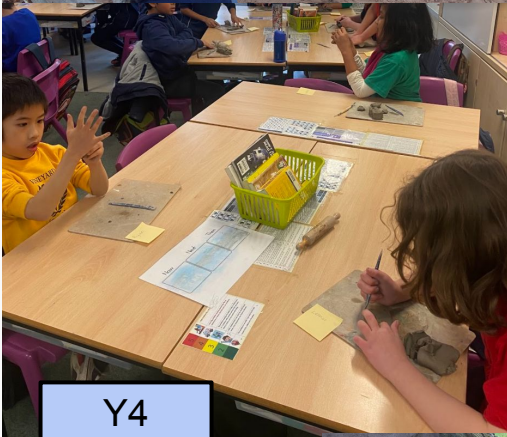
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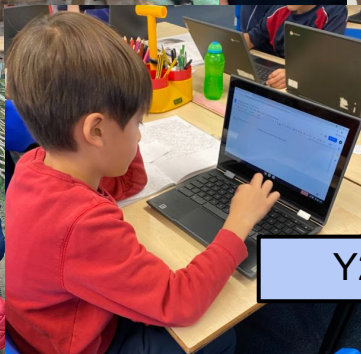
Y1



Y5 & Y6



Y4



Y2



Y3







Year 5 and 6 Cross Country Team.  
Results pending. A fantastic effort



Look at the boys start line! Hundreds of  
year 5 and 6 boys ready to race

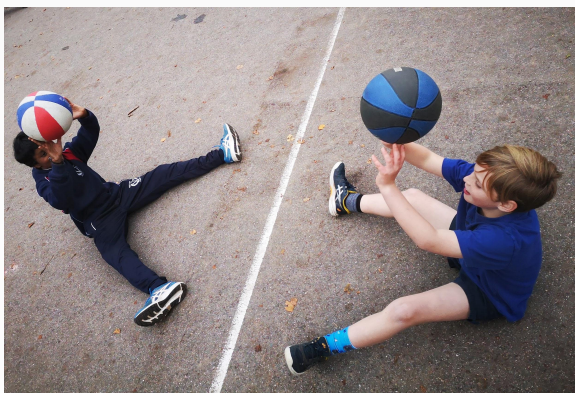


Boxing started this month for Years 5  
and 6



## The game of Ooops!

Drop a ball, say 'oops' followed by a  
friends name. Named friend must react  
and catch the ball after the number of  
bounces that the group have decided.



## Seated Basketball shooting rehearsal.

Using the same shooting technique as they  
would for the basket for the basket, the year 6s  
had a go on the floor. If the ball rises up, the  
wrist is cocked, with middle finger pointing  
down, and the ball lands between their legs  
they are confident it would have been a  
successful basket. Have a go yourself!



Congratulations  
to Diana for  
winning a Bronze  
Medal at the  
National Acro  
Gymnastics  
Championships!