



Life in the English department is always lively, varied and exciting! Creative writing has developed exceptionally well this year with many pupils winning prizes or having their work published. There are poetry boards in both junior and senior sections of the school designed to encourage children to pin up their own work just for the pleasure of sharing it with others.

The autobiographies produced by members of Year 7 made fascinating and entertaining reading and will be a wonderful keepsake for the children once they have moved on from Vinehall.

Some Year 6 pupils have produced a stunning anthology of anthropomorphic tales inspired by Rudyard Kipling's *Just So* stories and Year 7 has enjoyed creating a variety of fairy tales in both traditional and modern styles.

The library continues to provide a rich source of material to encourage those new to the joys of fiction as well as those seeking to discover fresh works to broaden their love of literature. The importance of reading can never be too highly emphasised particularly in an age where other distractions often exist in direct competition.

Vinehall's Year 5 played host to the Year 5 pupils of Sedlescombe Primary School in a linked literacy project based on the theme of *Water*. The children benefited enormously from this sharing of talents and enjoyed working together with others of their own age. This inspired a junior poetry competition on the theme of *Water*.

Finally, it is always immensely rewarding to discover that talent nurtured at Vinehall has gone on to flourish at senior schools elsewhere and this term we were particularly delighted to receive some brilliantly assured pieces of writing from Ben Huntington-Rainey and Daniel Serra who brought back some of their work for us to enjoy.



Seven decades of literature being enjoyed by today's children



Water Poem Competition

Winners:

Year 3: Edward Birrell, Rebecca Casselden, Georgina Christie
Year 4: Cordelia Brown, James Fosbery
Year 5: George Birrell, Alice Whaley

Water

Water crashing,
Water gnashing,
Water in between my feet.
Water smashing,
Water dashing,
Wish-a-water
Throw
A penny in the sea.
Georgina Christie

Why?

Why did the sky cry?
I don't know.
Why did I cry?
I don't know.
Do you know why I cry?
Rebecca Casselden

Water

Water can be cool,
Splashing in the pool.

Water can be a pain,
When your matches are
Cancelled in the rain.

Water can be warm
When you come in from a storm.

Water can be hot
Cooking pasta in a pot.

Water can be great,
But we don't want it at the fete.
Edward Birrell



Water

Splashing on the windows,
Splashing on the door,
Splashing on the garden,
More, more, more.

Spitting on the leaves,
Spitting on the trees,
Spitting on the playground,
Very cold on knees.

Sloshing on the pavement,
Sloshing on the roads,
Sloshing on the churchyard,
Very happy toads.

Showering on the houses,
Showering on the people,
Showering in the village,
Even on the steeple.
George Birrell

Water

Drip, drop, drip, drop
Water sings its silent song.
Splish, splosh, splish, splash
Patiently waiting its turn to
Splish and splash and drip and drop.
Beautifully shining in the sun
As it foams in the sea,
Falls from the sky
Turning to snow in the cold
Then fluttering and floating
Down,
Down,
Down
And then
It disappears.
Alice Whaley

The School Lake

Murky green water,
Bright yellow flowers, dotted like stars
Against a sky of green lily pads,
Fuzzy reflections mimicking the trees,
Fish frolicking, dancing as though the lake was a huge disco,
A toad croaking gently nearby,
Invisible
Birds singing merrily,
Unknown creatures lurking in the depths.
Cordelia Brown

The School Pond

Dragonflies dancing across the shimmering water.
Dark green lily pads glowing in the light.
Fish swimming silently,
Flies skimming the water.
Weeping willows swishing in the breeze.
Underwater forest full of hidden surprises.
Purple flowers glowing dimly,
Sun making reflections.
Ferns flapping in the breeze,
Ducks flapping their wings before flying into the air.
James Fosbery