

Vinehall Pre-Prep



Nursery, Kindergarten, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

2007-2008



This year there has been a real sense of community within the Pre-Prep. From our assemblies and library development to our 70th anniversary celebrations, our classes have put aside time to work together and parents have given their unstinting support.

Assembly is a special time in Pre-Prep. Our youngest members have been particularly attentive this year, joining in when they are ready and our Year 2 children have enjoyed illustrating our stories with role play. A fond memory of the year was standing back and watching all the children in their vintage clothing, following PT instructions and joining in traditional games. Many of you will have joined us at the Summer Ball and seen the nostalgic DVD that was produced of our 1938 *dressing-up day*, and enjoyed looking at the children's exhibition; A *Pre-Prep Perspective on Vinehall, Past and Present*.

During our final assembly, we said farewell to our Year 2 children. They waved goodbye as they joined our 'Moving On Van' and the Year 1 children enjoyed sitting for the first time on the benches. We said a temporary farewell to Miss Sander who is expecting a baby and presented Miss Boorman with a wedding present. We look forward to greeting Miss Boorman on her return in September as Mrs Pepper.



Michaelmas Term



We welcomed a number of new families into Pre-Prep and Miss Clare Sanderson to our staff team. The Year 1 classes had new interactive whiteboards and there was a new flat screen in the library area. The expressive images of our children as they go about their Pre-Prep days have been enjoyed and remarked on by many parents and visitors.

The library was subject to development this year and we planned a special *Book Week*. All the children from two upwards enjoyed a week of activities centred on books. Early in the week Charlie Wilson, a children's (interactive) storyteller, visited and enthused the children into making their own books and writing exciting stories. The 'donate a book day' was hugely successful. Children were encouraged to look at home to find books that they had out-grown. The Prep School children were particularly keen and provided many additions to our library. Children and staff dressed up and were invited to a Book Banquet with the King and Queen of Vinehall (Head Girl and Head Boy of the Prep School). We began by showing all of the books that had been made over the week and then the children processed over to lunch where they were entertained by jugglers and a brass band. We are grateful to Mr Osborne, grandfather of Lucy and Alice Brown, who donated a fun seating area for the children.

A highlight of the term was a visit by the children's grandparents. The grandparents joined our Harvest Assembly, and then were led back to Pre-Prep by the children to look around the classes. Pre-Prep was buzzing with activity and wonder. Grandparents tried their hand at using the interactive whiteboards, making playdough pancakes, building towers of bricks and generally joining in. The children genuinely enjoyed being able to show their grandparents around and it was a very successful and happy morning.

Our Pre-Prep looked very festive during the Christmas celebrations and wonderful coloured lighting shone out in the corridor. Christmas celebrations began with a Year 1 Christingle assembly for parents. The children hung their Christmas wishes on the tree and sang beautifully. Our Nursery, Kindergarten and Reception children performed charming Nativities for their families and friends. It was wonderful to see the youngest children, some of them only two years old, dressed up and involved in speaking, singing, dancing and playing instruments. There were some delightful moments; the innkeeper was very particular about where Mary was to sit in the stable and there was some very loud singing from the kings!

The Year 2 children performed *A Scarecrow's Christmas*, a lovely story about caring for others. A Nativity tableau was included and all the children joined in the singing and dancing. There were some strong performances, not just the acting, but also on percussion instruments and dancing. The music included traditional carols alongside some fun Christmas songs.

Our term ended with a Christmas party for the children and a visit from someone special!



Lent Term



We were joined by more families and new gap students. Mr Walter, from Australia, was an instant success with his card tricks.

This term saw an extremely thorough ISI inspection. The inspectors were with us for four days and appeared without warning in our classes. All areas of the curriculum and aspects of Pre-Prep life were subjected to scrutiny and discussion. Pre-Prep staff rose to the occasion and were keen to show the inspectors the quality and wealth of opportunities available to our children. The children were, of course, completely unfazed by the whole experience and were great ambassadors for what we do! Our parents were very supportive and said some lovely things about Prep-Prep. There was praise for what happens in class....*my child is passionate about school and his teacher is really inspiring him, alongside comments that recognise what we hope is our underlying rationale....an attentive and caring ethos.... there is an incredible sense of commitment and vision about the needs of the young.... it is an outstanding example of education for this age.... high behaviour expectations are delivered with skill and humour....the more time my child has at school, the more impressed I am.* We really do feel we give the children in our care the best possible start.



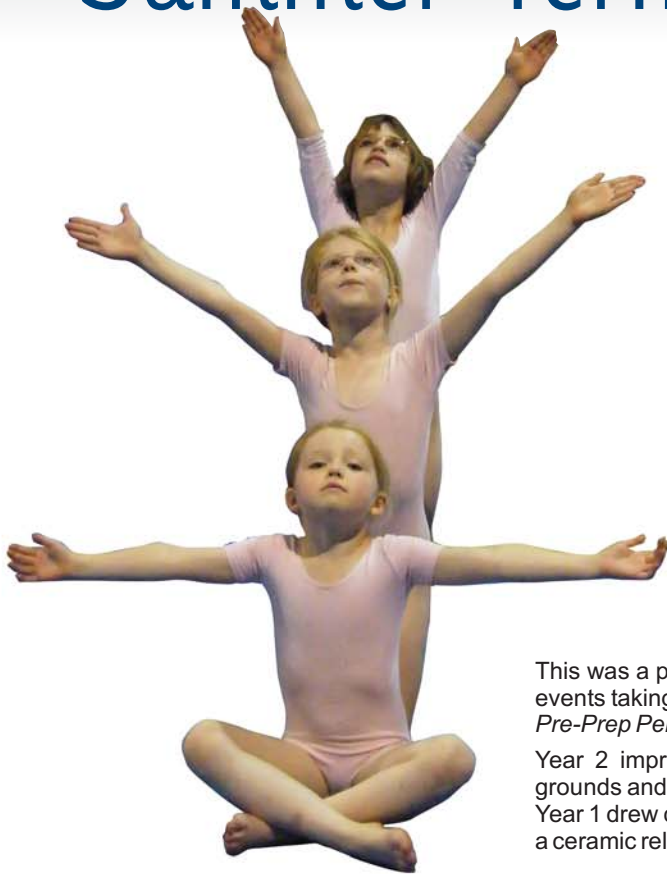
Events this term included a Reception Assembly and swimming sessions for parents to watch. Parents joined us for an impromptu Mother's Day Assembly as well as ballet and funky dance demonstrations. The children enjoyed our traditional pancake races and an Easter egg hunt. We were joined by the Easter Bunny who travelled a long way to be with us this year!

Our Governors visited on our charity day and spoke to the children about what they want to be when they grow up. There was a range of ideas, including a high proportion of vets and pilots. Our visitors also watched the Year 1 play, *Little Red Hen*. They were very impressed with the performance and the confidence displayed by the children.

We ended the term with a bang, literally, as Professor Bonkers entertained the children! We are very grateful to the science department and Dr Teesdale for the amazing Wednesday afternoon.



Summer Term



This was a particularly exciting term with outings, concerts and sporting events taking place. In addition we had a children's exhibition entitled, 'A Pre-Prep Perspective on Vinehall School, Past and Present'.

Year 2 impressed Mrs Monckton when they worked with her in the grounds and produced some amazing flowers for the Vinehall exhibition. Year 1 drew charcoal pictures of the school and worked together to make a ceramic relief of some of our Vinehall buildings.



Nursery and Kindergarten acted the story of *Billy No Buzz* and the Reception classes performed *Moving On*. All of the children were fully involved in singing and dancing and many had some words to say. There were some very confident performers and there is no doubt we have a number of drama stars in the making.



Arts Week



Arts Week was a good opportunity to invite Prep School children over to perform in our Pre-Prep assemblies and they inspired the younger children. We listened to the double bass, flute, saxophone, clarinet, 'cello and percussion. We particularly enjoyed the inaugural performance given by our Pre-Prep recorder ensemble. The Year 2 concert was rather longer than usual owing to the number of children now having instrumental lessons!



All of our children enjoyed Arts Week. The Idolrich Puppet Company held puppet workshops for the children and staged a performance about a big, bad crocodile. The story was based on a traditional tale with a message about sharing.

Artwork





Sports Day

We were determined to have our Sports Day outside following the dreadful downpour of last year and we were all set. However, towards the end of the Nursery and Kindergarten parents' race the heavens opened and we were forced to decamp to the sports hall. Of course we are very fortunate to have such a facility, but it's not quite the same as an English summer afternoon on a sports field! The children adapted very well to the new environment and the afternoon ran smoothly; however Mrs Burgess was sorely missed.

The parents' race ended in a diplomatic draw between the two Year 2 classes!

During the field events prior to sports day, Finn Piper broke the longstanding Year 2 boys' throwing record and William Bearcroft came tantalizingly close to the high jump record. India Jarrett-Potts won the Year 2 girls' throwing competition, a competition she has won each year throughout her time in Pre-Prep.





70th Anniversary in Pre-Prep



As part of Vinehall's 70th birthday celebrations, events were rolled out over this term to enhance the children's learning. We were very keen that the children benefit from these events and that the curriculum be enriched. Celebrations brought together the whole Vinehall community and gave the children a sense of the School's ongoing history.

All children in Nursery and Pre-Prep were able to 'step back in time' and enjoyed finding out about history on their doorstep. The children dressed up as Lord and Lady Ashton, former owners of the house, and as maids, stable lads and other servants to act out how life would have been for the former occupants. The children thought that it was amazing that over 100 years ago the family was almost self-sufficient and able to grow melons and other exotic fruits which are now flown in from Africa for us to eat as snacks.



Mrs Chaplin, a former Vinehall teacher and Headmaster's wife, visited the children and told them all about the school in the 'olden days'. Favourite activities included the game *Giants and Ogres* as well as membership of the *Chimps Club* which you could join if your tree climbing was good enough! Mrs Chaplin also described the outdoor swimming pool from which, on one memorable occasion, a cow was winched - facilities are greatly improved today!

All the children participated in our *dressing-up day*, the theme of which was 1938. We welcomed street urchins as well as pupils from the upper echelons of society that day!

