



# JANUARY GRAPEVINE

Come on weather! Hopefully, as we drag ourselves into February the rain and wind will ease up and allow a few less wet break times and a few more opportunities to learn and play outside!

Our Spring Term continues to be about the progress here at The Vine. We focus our attention on the day-to-day teaching and learning, making sure pupils' progress remains strong as well as our attendance - making sure our pupils are not missing too much learning. We have had some strong performances in our English Challenge, our Public Speaking Competition at Cambridge University and we have an upcoming Maths competition for our Year 4 pupils. We will also be sending two teams (Year 5s) to a hockey competition in a few weeks time where hopefully they will shine against local schools. It has been a real delight watching and listening to the pupils talk about their new 'Oracy Worships' on Tuesdays. In our fast-paced world of technology, it is vital that the art of discussion, debating and listening is not lost...

We have Safer Internet Day and World Book Day fast approaching where the pupils will be taking part in a range of exciting activities. World Book Day (5th March) - we will be celebrating the fact that the school is celebrating it's 20th Year whilst also focusing on the theme of 'reading for pleasure'. Mrs Catton (English Lead) will be sending out more information next week to give parents as much notice as possible.

Lastly, the month of February means one thing—The Six Nations are upon us... A sport which is free on TV is always something to be celebrated and I am definitely looking forward to watching England attempt to win the crown. Coincidentally, we are taking part in the Northampton Saints Schools Cup this year and will be attempting to take a Tag-Rugby team all the way to Franklin's Gardens to take part in the finals. Fingers Crossed.

Thank you as ever for your continued support and enjoy the weekend.

Mr Hynes

## ATTENDANCE AWARD - WEEK 19

WHOLE SCHOOL YEARLY ATTENDANCE— 95.1%

YEAR GROUP WINNER— YEAR 6

CLASS WINNER - SAPPHIRE CLASS



# JANUARY GRAPEVINE

## Diary Dates

### Spring Term 2026

- 10 February EYFS Stay & Play 2pm
- 12 February Non-Uniform Charity Day
- 16—20 February Half Term
- 4 March Holi Day—Colour Run
- 18 March VIAM
- 18 March Y2 London
- 18 –25 March Spring Book Fair
- 23 –27 March Parent Consultations
- 26 March Reception Tea Party
- 27 March Spring Term Ends 1:30pm

### Summer Term 2026

- 13 April Summer Term Starts
- 4 May May Day
- 25 May—5 June Half Term
- 10 July Summer Fete
- 21 July Summer Term Ends 1:30pm

## SCHOOL SUCCESSES

Our **Lead Learners** this week are

Rishaan (Amber), Zara (Topaz), Lois (Emerald), Kayan (Jade) Leo (Turquoise), Chaarvika (Jasper), Jacob (Sapphire), Theo (Moonstone), Vihaan (Amethyst), Krum (Tanzanite), (Pearl) and Vishruth (Opal)

Our **Courageous Advocates** this week is

Simone de Beauvoir, who we celebrated in Worship on Friday.

Lewis (Ruby), Avyaan (Coral), Harper (Amber), Aaron (Topaz), Mia (Emerald), Elsa (Jade) Kiara (Turquoise), Ryan (Jasper), Sandro (Sapphire), Lucy (Moonstone), Kessana (Amethyst), Zac (Tanzanite), Ritchie (Pearl) and Joshua (Opal)

## KINDNESS VINE

We are slowly creating a culture of kindness throughout The Vine. Each week, children who have demonstrated this value, has had their name written on one of our 'kindness leaves'. Our Kindness Vine has grown lots this week—Leaves have grown for - Miriam who helped me



September 2023

when I was feeling sensitive at playtime. Isla for playing with someone who didn't have anyone to play with. Marysia for being a kind and caring



September 2024

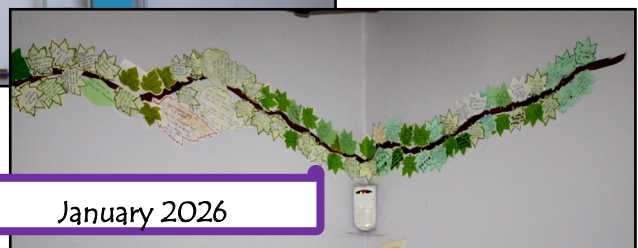
friend helping Nathan in PE. Isla for always showing kindness to all. Ryan, for brightening my afternoon with your thoughtful and insightful ideas.

Kayan for helping Mrs Bate by helping the



September 2025

door. Mrs Bell, for always finding resources for Reception. Mrs Richardson and the Y3 team for helping reception make butter.



January 2026



# JANUARY GRAPEVINE

## READING @ THE VINE

### Accelerated Reader Update



Keep up the excellent work with your reading! Congratulations to the following pupils who reached their AR target in Spring 1: Isla and Ryan (Y3)

Elissia, Emmanuel O, Scarlett-Ava and Willow (Y4)

Andrea, Aon, Ashley, Elizabeth, Evie, Georgia, Jevindu, Krum, Lola, Riagan and Siya (Y5)

Annabelle, Ben, Damon, Dervis, George G, George L, Jasmine, Joshua Y, Lina, Max, Nic, Pia, Peter, Poppy, Renesmee, Swara and Talen (Y6)

Congratulations to our newest word millionaires, Charlotte (Y5), Aya and Caleb C (Y6).

And huge congratulations to our **two** new word multi-millionaires,

Vishruth and Amelie Y6

*The more that you read,  
the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn,  
the more places you'll go.*  
-Dr. Seuss

### National Curriculum *Give Nature a Voice* Competition

Well done to Turquoise class, the winning Year 3 class in the National Curriculum competition.

*Quote " The quality of the children's writing was truly outstanding and left a lasting impression on the judges. They were particularly impressed by how effectively the pupils captured the atmosphere and mood of the stunning visuals"*

The work is published below and we await our prizes to arrive....

<https://www.naturalcurriculum.co.uk/give-nature-a-voice-competition-2025/winners>

**Buddy Bench** - Remember Hello Yellow Day— we won a Buddy Bench from M & S—look forward to seeing the planters in full bloom soon.



## SCHOOL HOUSES

Congratulations once again to Harriers for their Autumn Win

Celebration - **Friday 13th February**—Pyjama Party in the afternoon for all Harrier Staff and Pupils.

Bring your pyjamas with you to change into.

Who will be our Spring winners? What treat will they choose?

Each week it is so close so keep earning those House Points.

Our next House Competition will be

The House Cross Country.

This will take place in Spring 2 in the first few weeks due to the weather.

Friday footsteps

Eagle 30 points

Falcon & Kestrel 10 points

Eagle



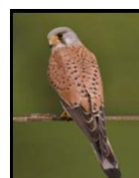
Falcon



Harrier



Hawk



Kestrel



Kite





# JANUARY GRAPEVINE

## NEW YEAR REMINDERS



### School Uniform

Plain Purple Polos.

Grey trousers/ shorts or grey skirts / dresses.

Summer purple gingham dress

Black, grey or white

Plain uniform items can be purchased from many high street / online stores

Logo Purple Sweatshirts / Cardigans

All logo items can be purchased from Nationwide School Uniform

<https://www.thevine.cambs.sch.uk/uniform/>  
[Nationwide School Uniform](#)



### PE kit

Plain navy blue T-shirt, tracksuit bottoms, shorts, PE hoodie (logo available from Nationwide) and trainers.

On PE days pupils wear PE kits and trainers to school. Please note, it is not appropriate to wear branded sports wear.

### Uniform

Please can you make sure your child wears full uniform.

Sturdy black outdoor footwear.

### Jewellery

The only jewellery permitted in school are stud earrings and watches. Earrings and watches need to be removed for PE days, we do not tape earrings over.

### Hair

Please make sure long hair is tied back. Headbands and hair clips should be plain in nature.

### Nail Polish

Nail polish is not permitted.

*Correct school uniform is compulsory.*

*Letters will be sent home if your child has continuous non compliance .*

### Lunchbox and Snack time Reminders

Please remember that the Vine is NUT FREE so please think about "hidden" nuts in products such as Nutella, Peanut Butter, Cereal Bars and Chocolate Hazelnut pancakes etc.

Remember this can be very serious for anyone with nut allergies!

Morning breacktime snack should be a healthy snack. Fruit is provided for pupils up to and including Year 2.

For pupils in Year 3 and above please send a healthy snack into school, ideally fruit but this can also be healthy cereal bars (nut free), rice cakes, raisins or dried fruit.

NO sweets, crisps or chocolate bars.

Please be sensible with any lunch / snack containers and water bottles. NO GLASS!



# JANUARY GRAPEVINE

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

### Safari Stu Visits Early Years!

The Early Years children at The Vine had a very special visitor recently – Safari Stu came to see us, bringing with him a fascinating selection of animals for the children to meet up close. The children were amazed by the variety of creatures, which included snakes, cockroaches, skinny pigs and a *super cute* tenrec (don't worry if you're not sure what that is, feel free to Google it!). Safari Stu shared interesting facts about each animal and answered lots of thoughtful questions from the children.

Many of the children showed great bravery, stepping outside their comfort zones to touch or even hold some of the animals. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as curiosity replaced nerves, and there were lots of excited faces and proud smiles throughout the session. The visit was a fantastic hands-on learning experience and a memorable opportunity for reception children and pre-schoolers alike.



### Reducing food waste matters to year 4!

On Wednesday 14th January, Year 4 pupils welcomed Cambridgeshire County Council for an engaging and educational day of free recycling and food waste workshops. The sessions were designed to help children better understand the importance of reducing waste and caring for the environment at home.

During the day, pupils worked alongside a professional chef who explained practical ways to reduce food waste, showing how leftover or overripe ingredients can be transformed into something delicious. The children thoroughly enjoyed getting hands-on, baking their own banana muffins topped with a crumbly topping, while learning valuable skills about food preparation and sustainability.

The recycling workshop was equally popular, with pupils enthusiastically learning about what items belong in each bin and why correct recycling matters. The sessions sparked curiosity, discussion and plenty of excitement, with many children keen to share their new knowledge beyond the classroom. One pupil summed up the experience perfectly, saying he "had fun learning about what goes in each bin and can't wait to tell his grown ups how to use them properly". The workshops not only provided an enjoyable day for the children but also helped them develop a stronger understanding of environmental responsibility, leaving them inspired to make positive changes at home and in their community.





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## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Garden Club have been busy looking after our Orchard this month. We are lucky to have our own plum, pear and apple trees which will fruit during the summer and autumn. Mr Clayton continues to care for our orchard, pruning all the trees in the winter. Children in year 5 and 6 have helped by pruning some of the apple trees, looking for damaged branches to remove and creating an open structure. We make our own compost on site and have been mulching all the fruit trees, removing the weeds and putting a layer of compost on the surface of the soil to keep all our fruit trees healthy.

Our Willow weaving projects have been very popular so we have expanded our creations to include willow cone plant supports and willow cobwebs which will soon be appearing in and around the willow maze.



### CB23 Public Speaking Competition

On 19 January, a strong team from The Vine School took part in the CB23 Public Speaking Competition. Kiara (Year 3), Reyaansh (Year 4), Joanna (Year 5) and Jacob (Year 6) proudly represented the school after weeks of careful preparation and practice in the run-up to the big day.

The competition was held at the prestigious Peterhouse College in Cambridge, creating a real sense of occasion. Speaking in front of a large audience, our pupils rose to the challenge, delivering confident, engaging and well-prepared speeches. The standard was extremely high and the results were very tight.

Although we did not come away with prizes this time, these four young orators did us incredibly proud. Their performances are a clear sign that oracy skills at The Vine School are going from strength to strength.



**Year 6 English Challenge—** On Wednesday four pupils went to Monkfield Primary School to take part in an English Challenge. Although we didn't win we had a fantastic time taking part. There were eight other schools in our heat, which we had to compete against. There were three rounds: book round, basic skills, extra thinks and bonus points. In the book round we had to answer questions about multiple books ranging from classics to popular books nowadays. As well as that we had to do extra thinks, which were things like "Name the character?" and "Who said that?", we enjoyed this. Next we took part in a basic skills round which included grammar questions like spelling and punctuation. We then did a bonus round where you can get extra points! The first one we did was a strand puzzle which is where you have to find words in the word and you can only use the letter once. The second bonus round is word block where you need to find a four letter, five letter, six letter and nine letter word. However if you got the nine letter word you get nine points. Although we tried very hard, we didn't get the nine letter word. Overall, it was a fantastic experience for us to enjoy. By Isabelle A and Evelyn J.





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## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Art Competition Winners:

Congratulations to Jack (Y2), Eva (Y2), Asra (Y3), Alisha (Y4), Jevindu (Y5), Nina (Y6) and Sophia (Y6) who were selected to represent The Vine in the ASHYAC art competition. Their work will be on display in an exhibition hosted by The Ivo in St Ives.



## COMING UP SOON!

### Breathe Well Charity Update

Mrs Fofana has previously been into school to talk about The Breathe Well Initiative, a charity working to improve respiratory health in Sierra Leone. Coffee mornings are also held here in Cambourne.

In December they were able to lay the foundation for this much-needed clinic in Bo, in the Southern Region of Sierra Leone. This clinic will help children and families affected by breathing problems linked to poor air quality and biomass fuels.

We will be supporting the charity through a non-uniform day on **Thursday February 12th 2026**. Funds raised would go directly towards supporting the clinic and improving access to care for children and families in the local community. Cash donations on the day.

**Adama Fofana Co-Founder & Trustee The Breathe Well Initiative** Charity ID: 1194481 [www.tbwi.org](http://www.tbwi.org)



Look out for...

4th March—Holi Day—Colour Run—Details and booking on Arbor soon.

