Weekly Learning Update

1st May 2026

Nursery

It has been another brilliant week within Nursery and the children have certainly enjoyed the warm weather!

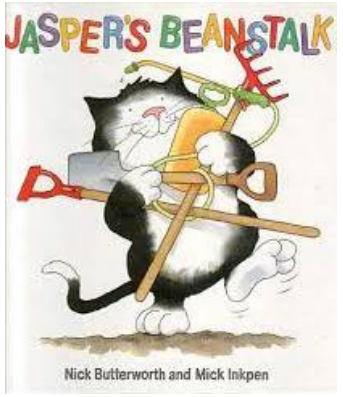
With our topic this half term being 'Lifecycles' and with David Attenbrough celebrating his 100th birthday on Friday 8th May, the children decided they would like to make him a birthday card! We have spent time within Nursery learning about who David Attenborough is and his positive impact to the environment and plants and animals around the world. As well as this, the children decided they would like to send him a birthday card to celebrate his special day. They all worked very hard on this special project.

Our focus text in English this half term is Jasper's Beanstalk by Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen. Throughout the week, we have supported our learning by exploring the lifecycle of a range of plants, focussing on the similarities and differences of them.

In Phonics, we have been exploring the concept of alliteration this week and identifying the different sounds within words that can be heard. Various activities have taken place to support hearing multiple sounds within words and identifying the intial sound within words. This has then led on to be able to identify if words are starting with the same initial sound, or not.

With the warmer weather, the children have enjoyed being outside. Please may children come into their sessions wearing sun cream and be provided with their own (named) sun cream so it can be reapplied as necessary, as well as a named sunhat available for all of their sessions.

The children have enjoyed accessing a range of different activities both inside and out, exploring a range of interactive life cycle areas, becoming pirates and finding buried treasure to represent one more or one less of a given number with buried treasure. They have also been able to explore health and self-care with some activities exploring teeth brushing and gaining independence with jackets and zips!



Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

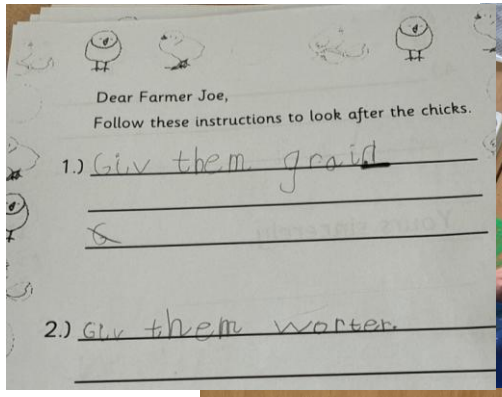
We have had another marvellous week in Reception!

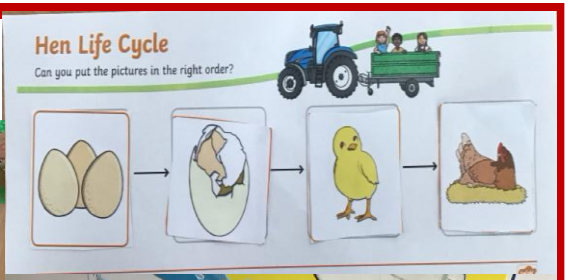
In Phonics, we have continued learning Phase 4 blends. We have been practising reading and spelling words that end with blends such as ft, lf, pt, ct, xt and sk as well as words that begin with blends like sp, st, sw, sm, fr, pl, tr, dr and bl.

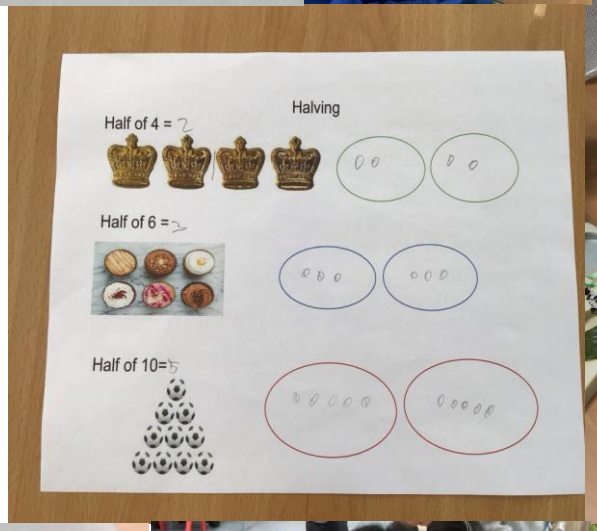
In English, the children have been learning to write to inform. They have explored instructional writing and have written clear, step-by-step instructions to help Farmer Joe care for his chicks.

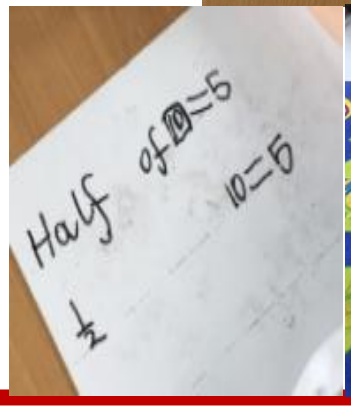
In Maths, the children have been learning how to halve objects and numbers. They were introduced to "Halving Horse," who helped them practise halving numbers using concrete and pictorial representations.

In R.E, the children have been exploring the concept of the Golden Rule across different religions. They have learnt that, although it is expressed in various ways, the Golden Rule consistently teaches us to treat others with kindness, fairness and respect.









Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

We have had another busy and exciting week of learning in Year 1!

In English, we have been writing instructions on how to make *mustard sandwiches*. The children discussed the key features of instructions, including bossy verbs, time sequencing words and adverbs. They did a brilliant job applying these features and successfully met the learning objective of writing to inform. We were very impressed with their enthusiasm and independence.

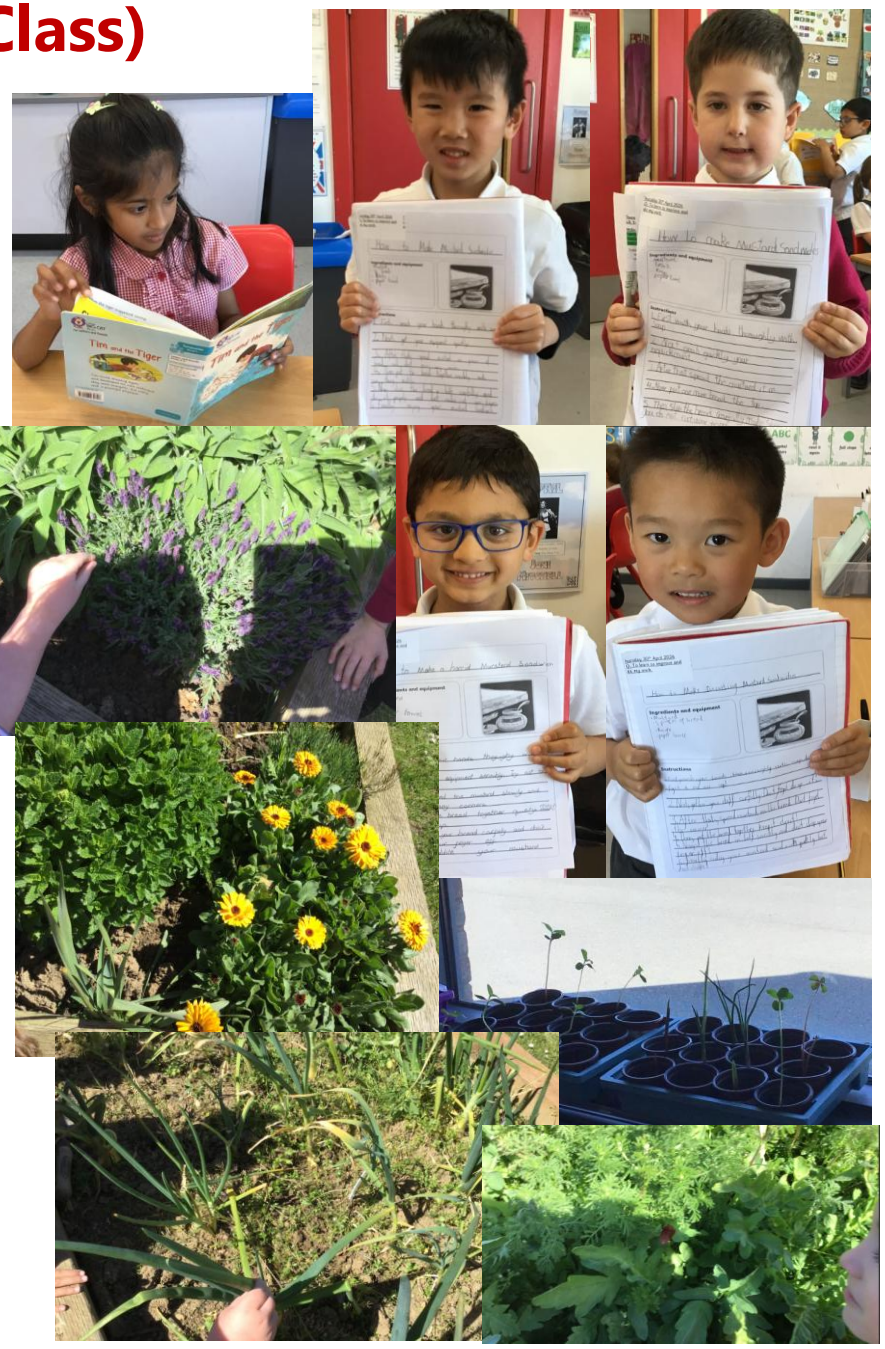
In Maths, we have continued our learning on multiplication and division. The children learned how to represent Maths stories by creating arrays, helping them to understand equal groups. We also explored doubles and revised counting in 2s, 5s and 10s to support problem-solving and reasoning skills.

In Science, we updated our plant diaries with observational drawings showing how our plants look this week. The children were delighted to see how much their plants have grown and used lots of accurate vocabulary to describe what they could see. We then went on a plant hunt, identifying examples of garden plants and wild plants. The children were fantastic at explaining the difference between these and impressed us with how many plants they were able to identify.

In RE, we continued learning about Jewish worldviews and explored special objects in Judaism. We learned about a mezuzah and why it is an important religious object for Jewish people. The children then reflected on objects that are special to them and thoughtfully explained their reasons.

In Geography, we explored the geographical features of St Ives in Cornwall, identifying which features were human and which were physical. The children then wrote postcards describing these features and showed excellent accuracy in their geographical knowledge.

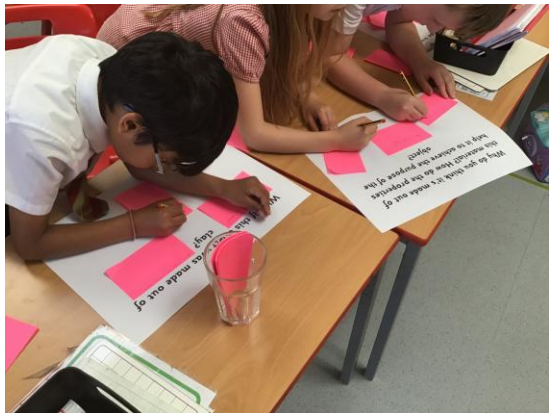
We can't wait to see the seaside first-hand next week when we visit Hunstanton Beach! Please look out for an email with final details and reminders for the trip. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

We've had a wonderfully busy and hardworking week in Year 2. The children have shown great enthusiasm, curiosity and pride in their learning and it has been lovely to see their confidence continue to grow.

In English, we have been exploring the theme of gratitude through our text Dadaji's Paintbrush by Rashmi Sirdeshpande. The children have reflected on the special people in their lives and have begun writing thoughtful letters to someone they are thankful for. They have been applying key writing skills such as expanded noun phrases, commas for lists, contractions and a range of conjunctions to extend their ideas. We have also been focusing on handwriting and presentation, taking extra care with letter formation, spacing and overall pride in our work.



In Maths, we continued our learning on fractions. The children have been recognising and finding thirds, using practical resources and visual models to support their understanding. They have also been using their knowledge to work backwards and find the whole when given a part - a challenging skill that they approached with determination. We explored non-unit fractions too, noticing patterns and explaining our reasoning clearly.

In History, we compared Victorian hospitals with modern-day hospitals, learning about the lasting impact of Florence Nightingale. The children were able to identify what has changed, what has stayed the same and how her work continues to influence healthcare today.

In PSHE, our focus has been on keeping safe in an emergency. The children learned what an emergency is, who to contact, and how to respond responsibly. They then practised making a calm, clear 999 call through role-play, explaining what had happened and giving key information. This learning helps them feel confident, prepared, and able to keep themselves and others safe.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

It's been another great week of learning and the children have worked incredibly hard across all subjects.

In English, the children have been writing information reports about marine life. They have shown fantastic progress, not only in structuring their writing clearly but also in remembering key skills such as accurate punctuation, the use of conjunctions to extend their ideas and adopting a more formal tone. It has been wonderful to see them applying these skills independently and taking real pride in their finished pieces.

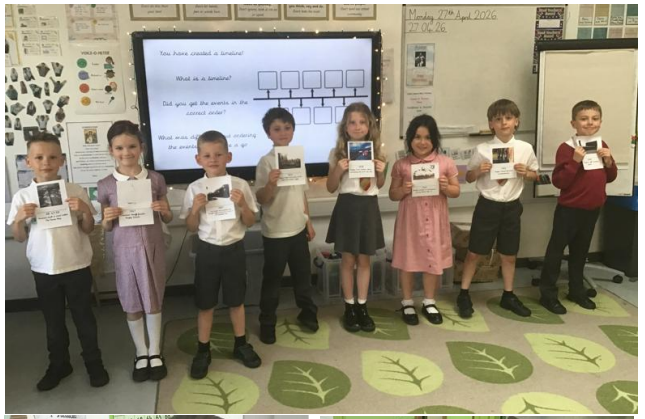
In Maths, we have been focusing on finding equivalent lengths using metres, centimetres and millimetres. The children have practised converting between units and explaining their reasoning, developing both their confidence and accuracy. They have also been solving problems involving measurements, showing a growing understanding of how these units relate to each other in real-life contexts.

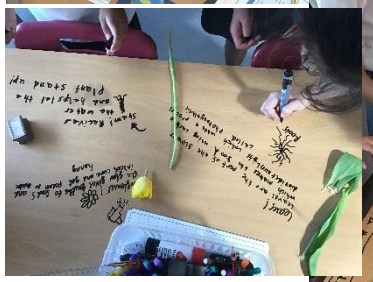
In History, we explored significant events linked to Rugby's local history. The children worked hard to place key events on a timeline, including the opening of the train station, the founding of Rugby School, the importance of Dunchurch in relation to the Gunpowder Plot, and the construction of the Fosse Way. They enjoyed discussing how these events shaped the local area and began to understand the concept of chronology more deeply.

In PSHE, we had important discussions around water safety and firework safety. The children shared their ideas thoughtfully and learned practical ways to keep themselves safe in different situations, understanding why these precautions are so important.

In RE, we explored the story of Noah, identifying the key events and thinking carefully about its meaning. The children considered why this story is important to Christians today, reflecting on themes such as trust, obedience and promises.

Well done to everyone for another fantastic week!





Year 4 (Tagore Class and Turing Class)

It has been a brilliant week in Year 4 and the children have worked incredibly hard across all areas of learning.

In English, we have been busy writing our information reports all about animals in the circus. The children have shown great focus when researching, organising information and presenting their ideas clearly. On Wednesday, we were very lucky to take part in a video call with the charity Born Free, who shared even more information about animals in captivity and the effects this can have on them. This was a fascinating and thought-provoking experience, which really deepened the children's understanding and enriched their writing.

In Maths, we have continued our learning on decimals. The children have been making wholes using tenths and hundredths, before moving on to partitioning decimals using different strategies, including part–whole models. They have shown excellent perseverance when tackling increasingly challenging problems.

In Science, we started our exciting new topic on electricity. We began with a knowledge harvest, which prompted lots of thoughtful questions and discussion. This week, we investigated whether different items need electricity to work and then grouped them based on whether they use mains electricity, batteries or are non-electrical.

In Geography, we learned more about the River Nile. The children used their new knowledge to complete a fact sheet, showcasing key information about its location, features and importance.

In Music, we continued our work on the pentatonic scale, making links to musical notation. The children then composed their own pieces using the pentatonic scale and showed real creativity and confidence in their compositions.

We have had such a fantastic week, and the children have also been working extremely hard on their times tables practice – brilliant effort all round!

Keep up the amazing work, Year 4!

Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Rauf Class)

It has been another busy and productive week in Year 5.

In Maths, we have moved on to the topic of Statistics where the children have been learning how to gather, organise and present data in different ways. They have explored how to draw line graphs accurately and have practised interpreting information presented in both line graphs and tables.

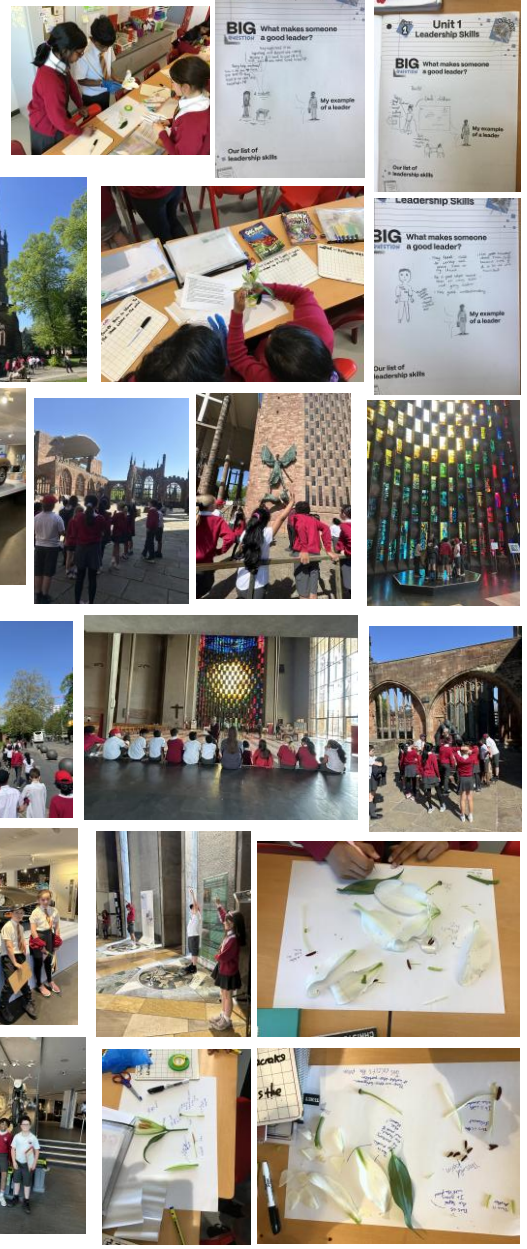
In English, the children took on the role of Beowulf and wrote their own persuasive speeches to convince King Hrothgar to allow them to fight the monster, Grendel. They have worked incredibly hard to incorporate a range of persuasive techniques, including exaggeration, the rule of three and emotive language, to make their writing as convincing as possible.

In Geography, the children were challenged with an inquiry question focused on the impact of tourism on the population of Coventry. They designed their own fieldwork plans and then carried these out during our class trip to Coventry on Friday. During the visit, they explored a range of popular tourist destinations and collected data to help them understand the impact tourism has on the city.

In Science, we have been learning about different types of plants. The children explored the features of flowering plants and used their observation skills to dissect a lily, identifying the key parts of the plant.

In RE, we were excited to begin our first lesson on the Archbishops' Young Leaders Award. The children explored the question, "What makes a good leader?" and considered different scenarios to help them develop their leadership skills. They also thought about how to include and encourage others. We look forward to seeing how they apply these skills throughout the term as they work towards completing the award.

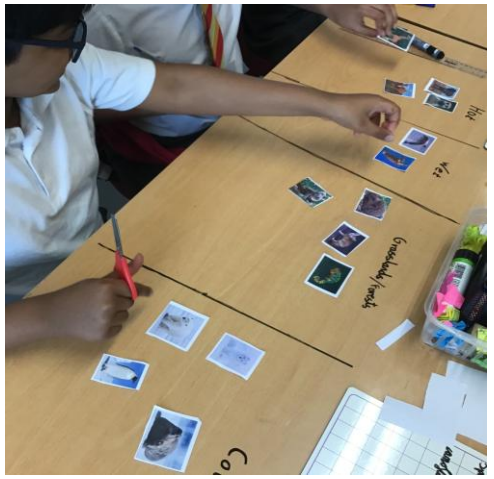
Finally, in PSHE, we discussed different types of risk. The children defined what risk means and sorted various situations based on their level of risk. They then suggested ways to manage these risks safely and effectively.

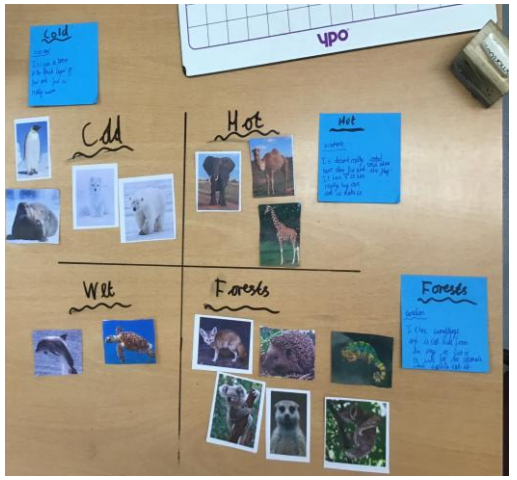


Year 6 (Pogson Class and Walker Class)

We are so proud of how hard the children have worked this week! From Monday to Thursday, the children have been busy taking part in Mock SATs, so that they could experience what SATs will be like in a couple of weeks time. They have then worked collaboratively with their peers to mark their assessments and identify areas for improvement, which has shown great growth.

In Science, we have been grouping animals and other living things based on where they live and how they have adapted to these environments. After this, we had to justify our ideas based on our scientific knowledge.





Collective Worship

This week, Braille Class led Friday's Celebration Collective Worship. They spoke about Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale. Well done, Braille Class!

During Worship Through Song, the children sang 'From the Tiny Ant'.

Collective worship at St Gabriel's always aims to be **inspirational** for all, **invitational** to all and **inclusive** of all.

Understanding and Supporting Anxiety Workshop

On Tuesday 5th May, between 1.30 and 2.30pm, we are hosting the second part of an online workshop: **Understanding and Supporting Children aged 3-11 years with Anxiety**. This is in partnership with the Mental Health in Schools Team.

Workshop Aims:
Session 2- To learn strategies to manage anxiety in children. To explore further support available.

If you would like to attend the workshop, please get in touch with the school office, who will send a link for a Teams meeting. If you attended Part 1, a link will be sent to you.

Upcoming Dates

Friday 8th May: Attenborough Class Celebration Worship

Friday 15th May: Rauf Class Celebration Worship

Friday 22nd May: Anning Class Celebration Worship

Parking

To help keep everyone safe during pick-up and drop-off times, we kindly remind all parents and carers to park safely and considerately.

In particular, please avoid blocking driveways and ensure crossings are kept clear.

Thank you for helping us to keep our community safe.

Recommended Read

From the author and illustrator of 'Sleep Tight, Disgusting Blob', Huw Aaron returns with another wildly funny and imaginative picture book.

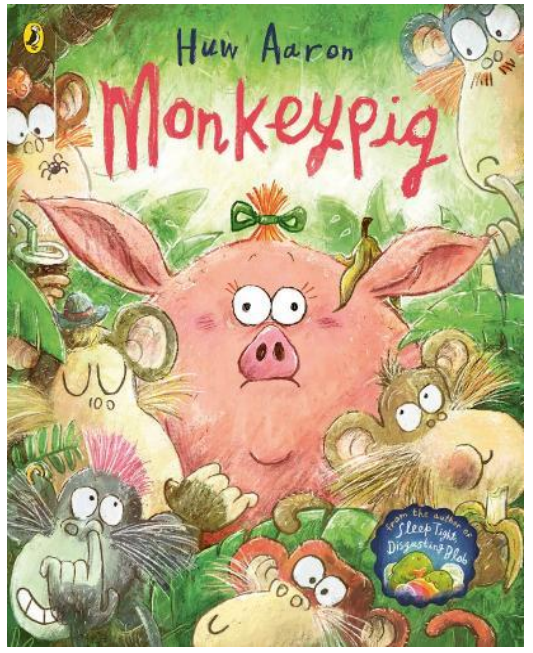
Molly lives high in the jungle canopy with the other monkeys - swinging, dancing, and being delightfully silly among the treetops.

But Molly has a secret.

Molly... is a pig.

When Norman begins to suspect that an imposter has snuck into the troop, he decides to put everyone to the test with a series of very serious monkey challenges.

Will Molly manage to keep her secret safe or is she about to be found out?



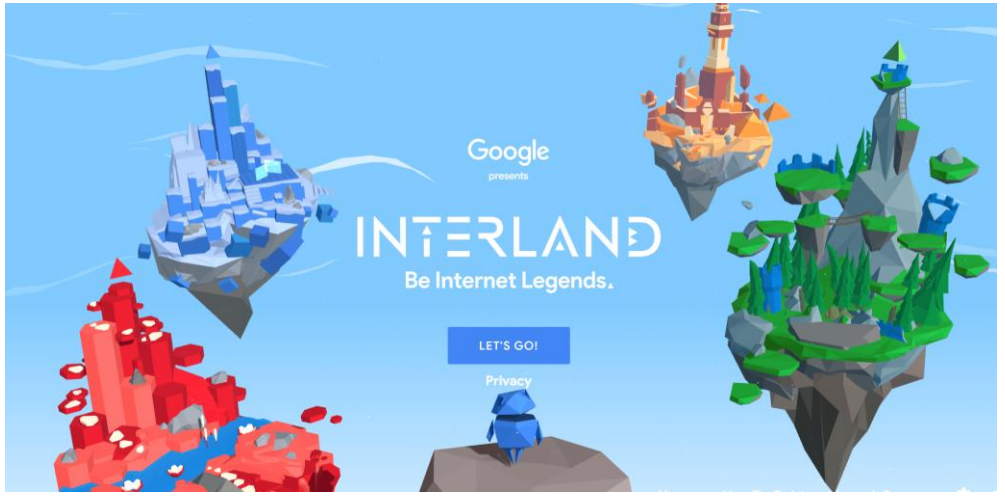
Online Safety

Google's Interland is a free, child-friendly online game designed to teach internet safety and digital citizenship. It is part of Google's *Be Internet Awesome* programme and is aimed mainly at primary-age children.

What is Interland about?

Interland is set in a colourful virtual world made up of different lands. In each area, children play games that help them learn how to stay safe, kind and smart online. The learning is delivered through play, problem-solving and storytelling, making tricky online safety concepts easy to understand.

https://beinternetawesome.withgoogle.com/en_uk/interland/



BOOKDROP

We're excited to share the latest issue of BOOKDROP, a free children's book newsletter for families by Authorfy.

This month features an exclusive Q&A with author Mel Taylor-Bessent, offering insight into her writing process, inspiration and latest work. Readers can also enjoy a special extract from her new book *Riley Wright is Always Wrong*, providing a glimpse into her engaging storytelling.

In addition, there is a showcase of new children's books for all ages, highlighting exciting recent releases to inspire young readers. The newsletter also includes a selection of book reviews and recommendations to help guide the next reading choice.

Be sure to explore May's Books of the Month, as well as Mel Taylor-Bessent's top tips for writing, which offer practical advice and inspiration for aspiring writers.

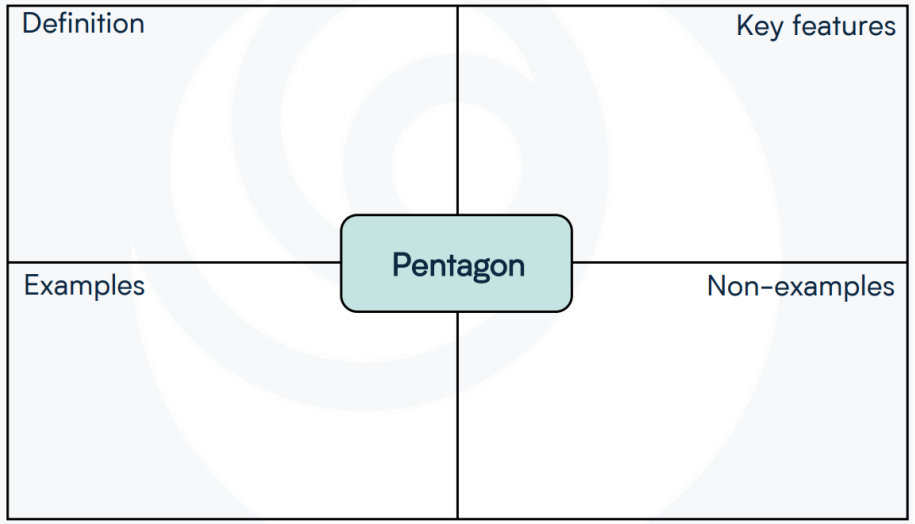
Follow the link here: http://authorfy.com/bookdrop-newsletter/

We hope you enjoy exploring this month's issue together and discovering some wonderful new reads!

Maths Problem of the Week

KS1

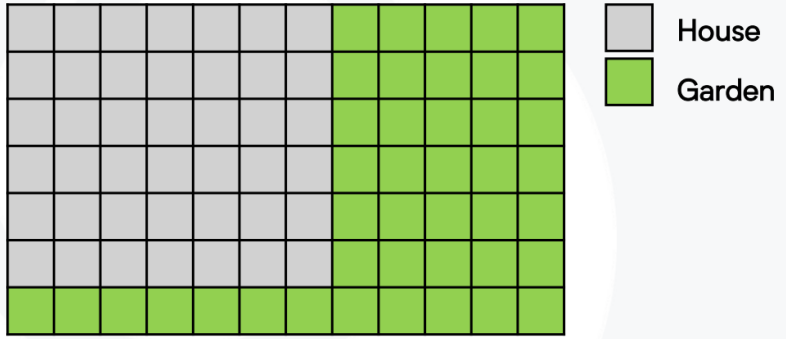
Complete the Frayer model.



Create your own Frayer model for a different 2-D or 3-D shape.

LKS2

The image shows the plot of land where Mr Trent lives.



a) What is the area of Mr Trent's garden in squares?

b) Mr Trent extends his house into his garden by an odd number of squares greater than 10 but less than 20

What could the new areas of the house and the garden be?

UKS2

A baker is preparing boxes of pastries.

- Box A contains $2\frac{1}{3}$ kg of pastries.
- Box B contains $3\frac{1}{4}$ kg of pastries.
- Box C contains $1\frac{5}{6}$ kg of pastries.

She moves $1\frac{2}{3}$ kg from Box A to Box B.

a) What is the total mass of Box A and Box C now?

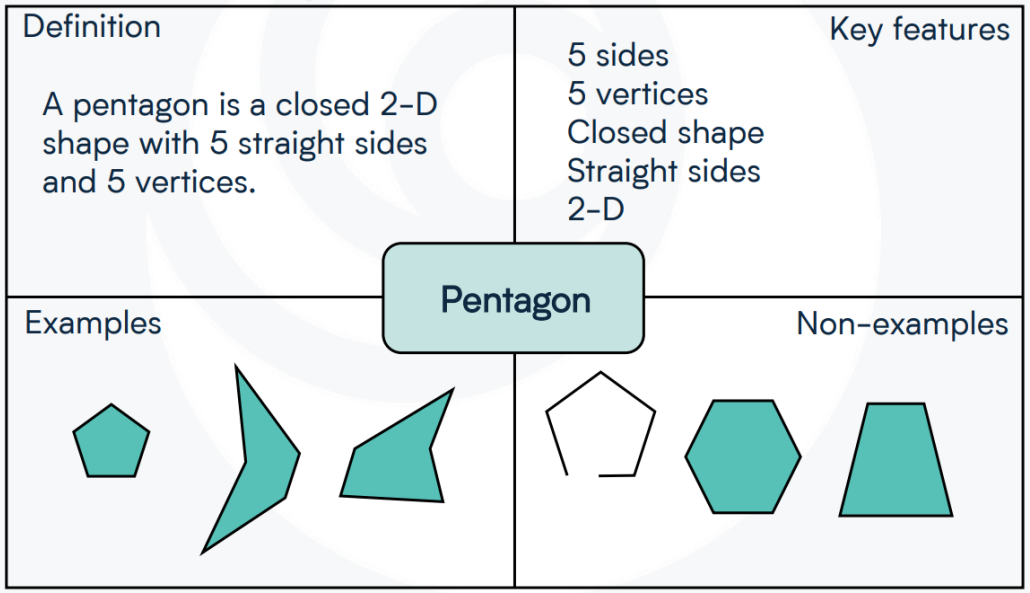
b) She then adds some more pastries to Box C.

The total mass of all three boxes is $9\frac{1}{2}$ kg.
What was the mass of the pastries added to box C?

Answers

KS1

Multiple possible answers e.g.



LKS2

a) 42 squares

b) Multiple possible answers

Extension	Area of the house	Area of the garden
11 squares	53 squares	31 squares
13 squares	55 squares	29 squares
15 squares	57 squares	27 squares
17 squares	59 squares	25 squares
19 squares	61 squares	23 squares

UKS2

a) $2\frac{1}{2}$ kg

b) $2\frac{1}{12}$ kg

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.3%
This week's attendance	97.5%
Latest Local Authority ranking	32nd out of 196 schools
Latest National ranking	Top 10-20% of schools

Outstanding	**100%**	190 days of full learning All lessons complete
Very Good	**98%**	186 days of learning 4 days and 20 lessons missed
Good	**96%**	182 days of learning 8 days and 40 lessons missed
More needed	**94%**	178 days of learning 12 days and 60 lessons missed
Concerning	**92%**	174 days of learning 16 days and 80 lessons missed
Very concerning	**90%**	171 days of learning 19 days and 95 lessons missed

Whole school target is 96%

National research shows, on average, children who meet expected standards in reading, writing and mathematics have higher attendance than those who did not.

Please contact the school for support and advice if you are concerned about your child's attendance.

NHS England has provided helpful guidance for parents and carers when making the difficult decision regarding not sending a child to school.

NHS guidance- Is my child too ill for school?

Family Support

This week's Family Information Service newsletter includes information about:

•Whitsun half term activities at Warwickshire Country Parks
•Be Water Aware week
•Child Trust Funds

and much more!

Worried about a Child?

If you have concerns that a child is suffering any form of abuse, neglect or cruelty, contact the Warwickshire Children and Families Family Connect immediately by calling 01926 414144. Lines are open Monday to Thursday 8.30am - 5.30pm, Friday 8.30am-5.00pm.

If you need to get in touch out of usual office hours, please contact the Emergency Duty Team immediately by calling 01926 886922.

If you think that a child is at immediate risk, contact the police immediately by calling 999.

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