Weekly Learning Update

3rd July 2026

Nursery

It has been a fantastic and a cooler week in Nursery. We were able to round off a hot week last week, with a water fight, which was still a big talking point this week!

In Phonics, we have been continuing to develop confidence with oral blending and identifying all sounds within a range of different words.

In English, we have been thinking further about our key text and developing oral blending skills and extending this by writing the letters that can be heard from the word.

Also, in PE, ee have been busy preparing for our Sports Day event and the children are gaining confidence with running races track events.

Father's Day event:

Thank you so much for the amazing turn out and support that made our Father's Day events such a success. The children love being able to bring their family into their learning environment and it was brilliant to see some healthy competition with the families as they took part in some races and obstacle courses. Although, the most popular station by far was the build your own ice cream!

Continuous Provision:

We were able to provide some key learning opportunities from last week and linked sun safety to health and wellbeing to making healthy choices. We have spent time thinking about the importance of staying hydrated, wearing sun hats and using sun cream, as well as staying in the shade. The children took all of this on board and enjoyed bringing that into their learning. In our role play areas, we used the sun as inspiration and set up a weather reporting station and sun safety station. Children have been developing narratives in their play within the small world area, practising their touch counting skills in the maths area and refining their fine motor control in the creative area.

Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

This week, Reception have been extremely busy! They have been exploring the antler and identifying which animal it may be from. In the creative area, they have been using different techniques to create a Handa's Surprise scene, from painting using long strokes to layering with tissue paper.

In Maths this week, we have continued our learning of counting in 2s and 10s. The children are fantastic at noticing the patterns and are beginning to apply this knowledge when problem solving.

In English, we have been comparing the fruit in Handa's basket using the conjunction 'but'. We have compared the avocado to the passion fruit, the pineapple to the mango and the banana to the orange. The children have been wonderful at describing each fruit and noticing differences. The children have also enjoyed the writing area, wearing year 1 ties and writing about their new uniform.

We have been preparing for sports day in PE, practising our races and the circuit games. We can't wait for you to join us on Tuesday 14th July.

Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

In English, we have been learning about poetry. We have read a range of poems and explored their different features, thinking carefully about the language poets use to create vivid images and feelings. The children particularly loved listening to the published short poem 'The Lonely Garden', written by a four-year-old child. Inspired by this poem, we have planned our own poems and changed the words to describe a garden that we would like to sit in. The children showed wonderful creativity and enthusiasm as they developed their ideas.

In Maths, we have begun our learning about time. We started by ordering the days of the week and months of the year and solving word problems linked to these. We have also been learning about seconds, minutes and hours, exploring the relationship between them before moving on to telling the time using o'clock times. The children have done a brilliant job and have shown excellent perseverance while tackling this new and sometimes challenging concept.

In Science, we enjoyed an investigation in our outdoor environment to observe where different types of plants grow. We noticed that wild plants were growing in many different areas and discussed the reasons for this, including seed dispersal through the weather and insects. We were also excited to discover lots of striking caterpillars, which we researched and found will grow into cinnabar moths. The children demonstrated great curiosity and excellent scientific skills throughout the investigation.

Well done, Year 1, for another fantastic week of learning!

Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

We have been working really hard this week in Year 2 with lots of fantastic learning happening across both classes.

In English, we have started our final text of the year - If I were Prime Minister by Trygve Skaug. We talked about what we would do if were Prime Minister and we explored an information report. We then had a go at imagining if we were headteacher of St Gabriel's and what we would do if we were in charge of the school. We designed a new school and then used adjectives to describe parts of it.

In Maths, we have started our learning on length and height. We have learnt how to measure lines using a ruler and explored how you might measure items in metres as well.

In Geography, we conducted our local walk around Houlton and identified physical and human features. We spotted many different features of the local area and we noticed there were more human features than physical features.

In Science, we finished off our unit on everyday materials by working together to try to build the tallest tower that is most rigid and could stand by itself. It was tricky, but we used our knowledge of materials to try to make it as tall as possible!

We are very much looking forward to some more fantastic learning next week!

Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

What an exciting week it has been in Year 3! We began the week with a fantastic visit to Thinktank Science Museum, where the children took part in a fascinating Rocks and Fossils Workshop. They became young geologists as they investigated different types of rocks and fossils, asking thoughtful questions and developing their scientific curiosity. The children also enjoyed an engaging Light Workshop, where they explored how light behaves through a range of exciting demonstrations and hands-on investigations. Throughout the day, they explored the interactive galleries, discovering how everyday objects and machines work, experimented in the Science Garden and enjoyed learning about a variety of wildlife and marine life. It was wonderful to see the children so engaged, eager to investigate and enthusiastic about making new discoveries through hands-on experiences.

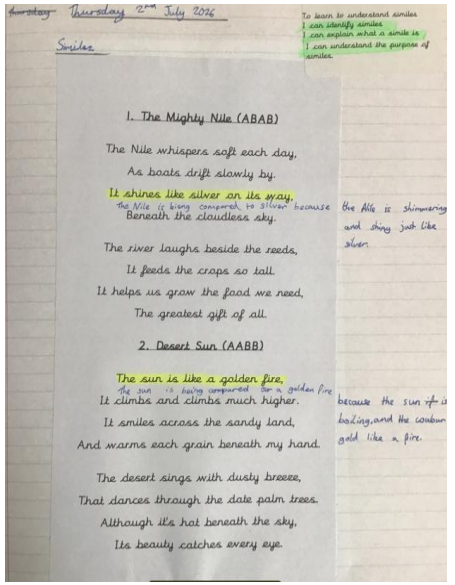
In English, we have been exploring the features of a survival guide inspired by The Wild Robot. The children have identified the key structural features and practised using important grammatical techniques, including imperative verbs, conjunctions and adverbials. They are now well prepared to write their own survival guide for Roz, using everything they have learned to create clear, informative and engaging writing.

In Maths, we have continued our learning about time. The children have been developing their understanding of years, months and days, calculating durations using days and hours, finding start and end times and solving increasingly challenging time problems.

To finish the week, we were delighted to welcome author Gareth Hopkins to school. Gareth shared his wonderful books, Super Mega Tortoise and Cliff: The Man with the Seagull on his Head. He captivated the children with lively storytelling, an exciting quiz and a fantastic draw-along session. The children loved hearing about his journey as an author and illustrator and many left feeling inspired to create their own stories, illustrations and characters. It was a brilliant way to celebrate reading and creativity and we hope it has encouraged many budding writers and artists to continue sharing their imaginations.

Year 4 (Tagore Class and Turing Class)

During English this week, we have been as busy as bees working hard to understand how a writer uses personification and similes to enable a reader to be active in their reading with imagery. First, we spent time identifying them within a text and then moved onto applying them within our own writing. It has been wonderful to see such descriptive and creative writing from everyone as we build excellently towards our goal of creating a poem all about Ancient Egypt.


Similes

1. The Mighty Nile (ABAB)

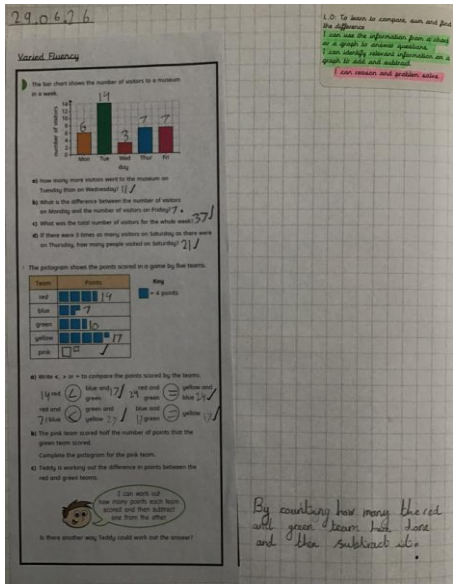
The Nile whispers soft each day,
As boats drift slowly by.
It shines like silver on its way,
Beneath the cloudless sky.

The river laughs beside the reeds,
It feeds the crops so tall.
It helps us grow the food we need,
The greatest gift of all.

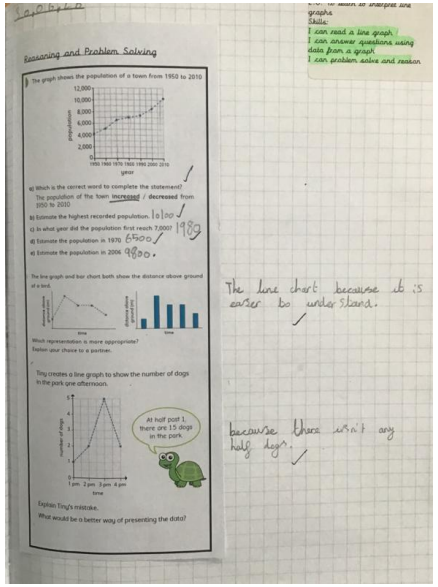
2. Desert Sun (AABB)

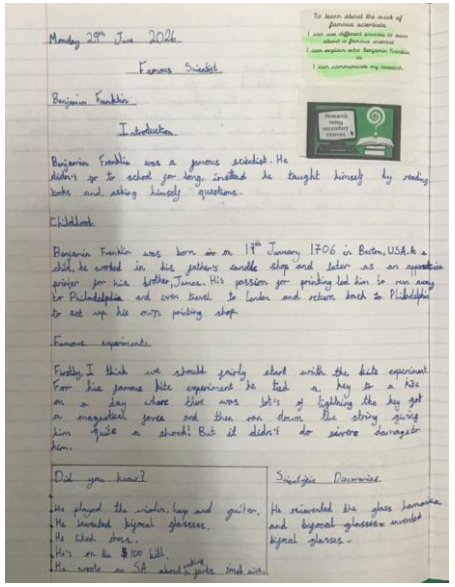
The sun is like a golden fire,
It climbs and climbs much higher.
It smiles across the sandy land,
And warms each grain beneath my hand.

The desert sings with dusty breeze,
That dances through the date palm trees.
Although it's hot beneath the sky,
Its beauty catches every eye.


Varied Fluency

We have shown excellent growth this week during Maths. We have been interpreting tally charts, pictograms, bar chats and line graphs. We spent time learning how to read the different type of data presentations whilst ensuring that we also accurately plot our own data.


Reasoning and Problem Solving


Famous Scientist

Benjamin Franklin

Introduction

Benjamin Franklin was a famous scientist. He didn't go to school for long, instead he taught himself by reading books and asking himself questions.

Childhood

Famous experiments

Did you know?

Scientific Discoveries

We spent our science learning time this week using secondary sources to gather as much information about Benjamin Franklin. After we had gathered all the information we could find, we then built our very own fact files making sure to include key fact such as his date of birth and important scientific contributions as well as bonus facts for our 'did you know' sections!

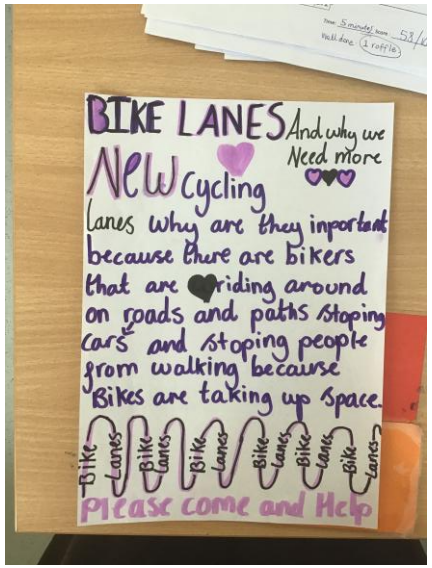
Channelling our inner historians, we delved deep into ancient Egyptian transcription. We continued to develop our understanding of how scribes played a key role keeping records of significant and day to day occurrences. We then shifted our attention towards decoding ancient Egyptian texts as well as creating a few words of our own!

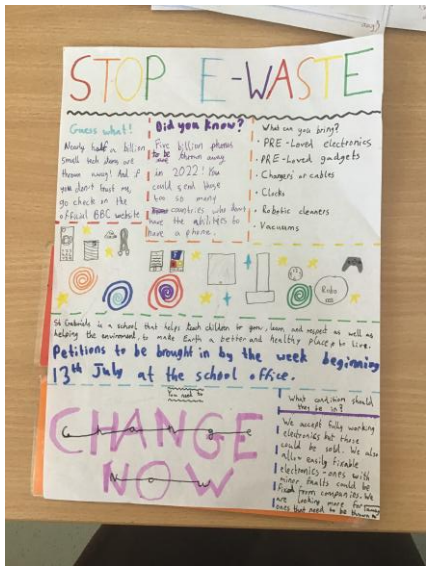
Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Rauf Class)

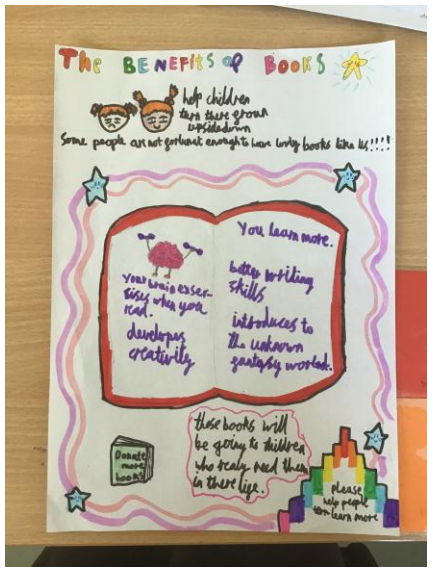
This week has looked a little different in Year 5 as the children have spent much of their time making important preparations for their upcoming Year 5 production.

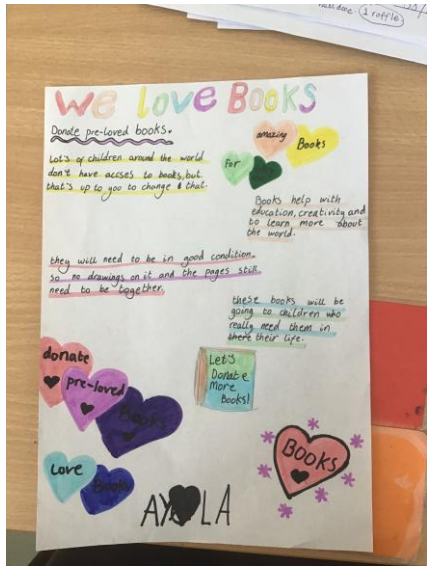
From memorising lines and practising songs to creating props and developing their performance skills, the children have shown fantastic enthusiasm, teamwork and determination. It has been wonderful to see how quickly everything has come together and we are incredibly proud of the effort they have all put in. We cannot wait to share their hard work with you during the performance!

Alongside this, we have also been looking ahead to our Archbishop's Young Leaders Award (AYLA) community project. The children have been busy designing informative and eye-catching posters to promote their chosen project. They have thought carefully about how to communicate their ideas clearly and encourage others to get involved. We look forward to sharing these with the rest of the school next week and seeing the positive impact our project will have within the community.





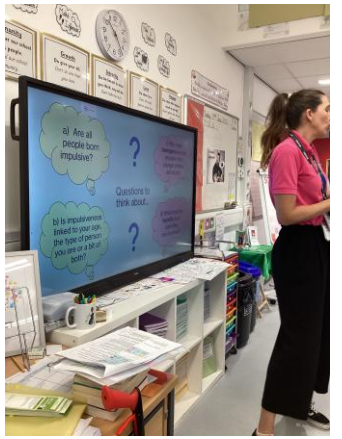




Year 6 (Pogson Class and Walker Class)

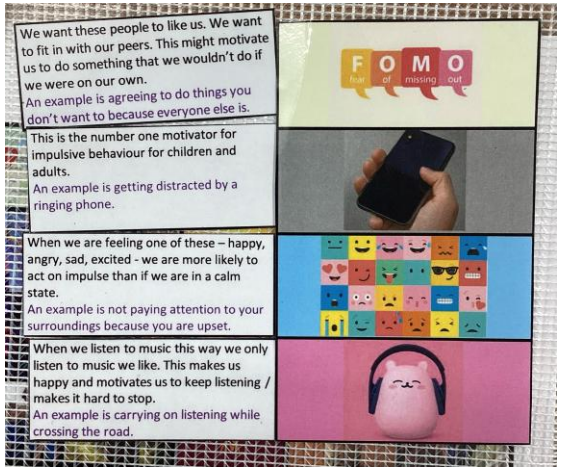
On Monday, we had a Road Safety Workshop, where we learnt about how we can stay safe on the roads. We discussed how to cross the roads safely, whether we are travelling by foot, on a bike or on a scooter. We also discussed how there are different things which motivate us to behave in certain ways, or act impulsively. When people act impulsively, it can lead to unsafe choices. When staying safe on the road, it is crucial that we do not act impulsively or take any risks that could put us in danger.

We have been busy finalising our posters and products for the Year 6 Enterprise Market, which will be taking place on the playground after school on Monday 6th July from 3:30-4pm. We are really excited to sell everything we have worked really hard to make!



This week, we have continued to rehearse our Leavers' Service. We have started to act out different scenes and perform our lines. We are looking forward to performing to the school and our families in the final days of school before the summer holidays.

In Geography, we have learnt about the different coastal defences that are in place to protect our coastlines. Some defences use hard engineering, such as sea walls, groynes, offshore breakwaters and revetments. Other defences use soft engineering, including beach nourishment, dune stabilisation and cliff regrading. After researching about one of these coastal defences, we prepared speeches in small groups to explain it and the importance of it in looking after our coastlines.



From Wednesday to Friday, it was our residential to Swanage! We had such an amazing time. We took part in a range of water activities, archery and even axe throwing, with games before we went to bed on both nights. Having lunch at the beach was a fantastic way to end the trip!

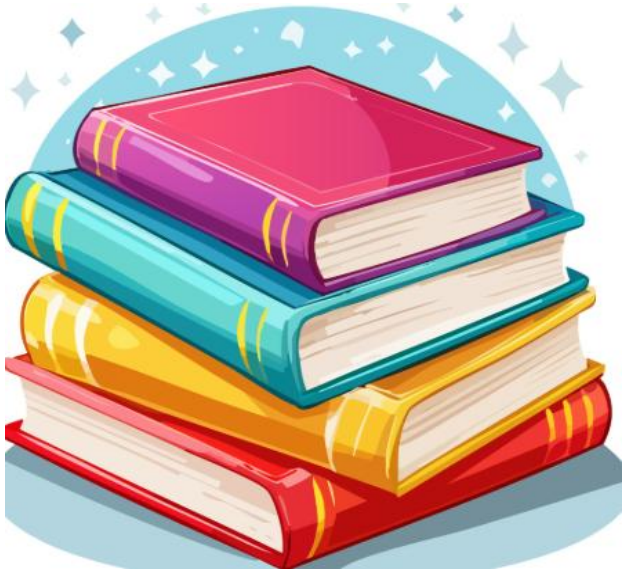
Teddy Bear's Picnic

We would like to say a big thank you to all of our Reception and Nursery parents who joined us for our Teddy Bear's Picnic reading event. It was wonderful to see so many families (and their teddy bears!) coming together to share in a special afternoon celebrating books and storytelling.

The event began with a relaxed picnic in the sunshine, followed by families moving around different areas to listen to stories read by members of staff.

It was a lovely opportunity to enjoy reading for pleasure as a community and share in the joy that stories bring.

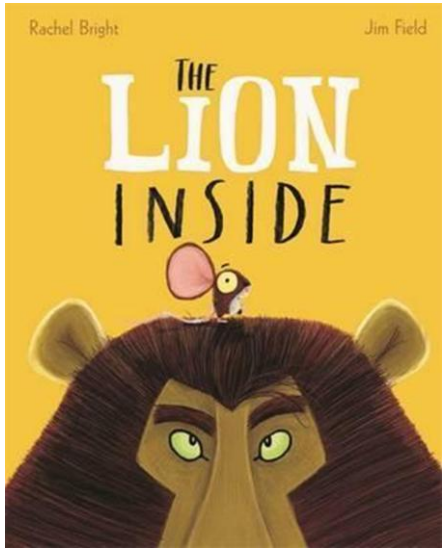
We hope you enjoyed it!



Year 6 Enterprise Market

Collective Worship

We read The Lion Inside during this week's Worship Through Story. We discussed the quote: 'If you want things to change, you first have to change YOU' and how it reflects our school value of Growth.



It was Tagore's Celebration Collective Worship this week, who shared jokes as part of International Joke Day! Well done, Tagore Class.

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

Key Dates

Monday 6th July – Year 6 Enterprise Afternoon

Wednesday 8th July – Transition Day

Friday 10th July – Kerr Class Celebration Worship

Monday 13th July – 'Booknic' for Years 3 and 4

Tuesday 14th July – Sports Day (R-Y6)

Wednesday 15th July – Y5 Production

Wednesday 15th July – Nursery Sports Day

Thursday 16th July – Y6 Leavers' Disco

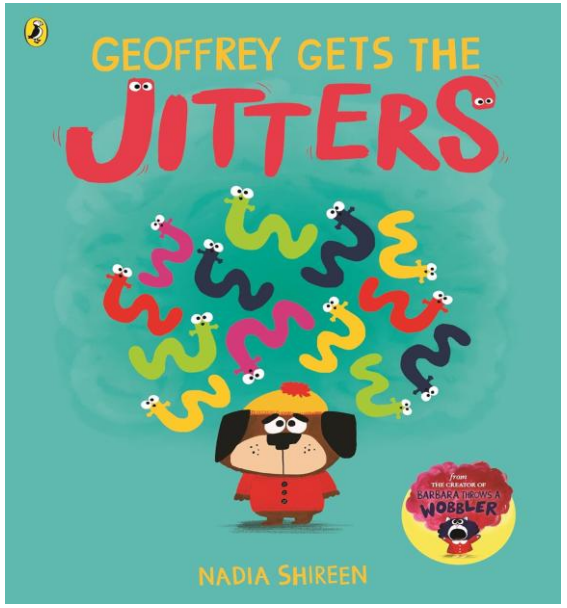
Friday 17th July – Y6 Leavers' Service (9.30am)

Recommended Read

A perfect one to share in preparation for Transition Day next week and as we begin thinking ahead to a new school year...

'Geoffrey's Got the Jitters!' follows Geoffrey as he starts to worry about school. What begins as a funny, wobbly feeling in his tummy soon grows bigger and bigger, until his jitters start talking to him! Realising his worries have got a little out of control, Geoffrey sets off to find a way to face them.

Filled with Nadia Shireen's trademark humour and a wonderfully loveable character, this reassuring story helps children understand that feeling nervous is completely normal and shows them simple, positive ways to manage those big feelings - one jitter at a time!



Online Safety

The internet is a fantastic resource and can be helpful to children and young people in lots of ways, but they can put themselves at risk without realising it.

Here are some guidelines to help your child stay safe whilst using the internet:

G – Ground Rules: it is important to have ground rules.

O – Online safety: activate security settings.

L – Location: keep the computer in the family room. Prevent your child from using tablets in his/her bedroom, alone. Set time limits.

D – Discuss: talk to your child about what they are doing on the internet.

The 'Think You Know' website is a great starting point.

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/

Maths Problem of the Week

KS1

Jo is making bags of sweets to sell.

It takes her 5 minutes to make each bag of sweets.

When she starts the clock shows this time.

She makes 12 bags of sweets.

a) What time will it be when she finishes?

b) What do you notice?

c) What time would she finish at if she made 24 bags of sweets?

LKS2

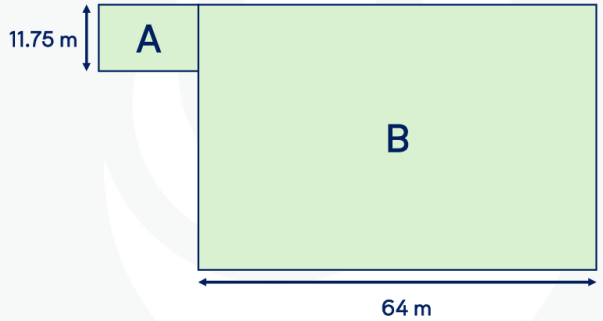
Are the statements always true, sometimes true or never true?

- A polygon has at least three sides
- A quadrilateral is a regular polygon
- If two regular polygons have the same perimeter, they must have the same side length.
- A shape with equal sides is a regular polygon

Explain why for each statement.

UKS2

The perimeter of Shape B is four times the size of shape A.



What is the total area of the shape?

Answers

KS1

a) 10 minutes to 7

b) The minute hand has gone all the way round the clock.

c) 10 minutes to 8

LKS2

A polygon has at least three sides	Always true
A quadrilateral is a regular polygon	Sometimes true
If two regular polygons have the same perimeter, they must have the same side length.	Never true
A shape with equal sides is a regular polygon	Sometimes true

UKS2

ANSWER

3,196 cm^2

Summer Reading Challenge

What is the Summer Reading Challenge?

The Summer Reading Challenge is a fun, free way for children aged 4–11 to stay motivated to read during the summer holidays. Children set their own reading goal and can read anything they enjoy – all books count!

Why should my child sign up?

One in four children haven't reached the expected level of reading by the age of 11 and many will struggle to keep up at secondary school, despite reading for pleasure being one of the single biggest indicators of children's development.

The Summer Reading Challenge helps your child to:

· Build confidence and self-esteem

· Stay prepared to return to school in the autumn

· Settle into a new year group

· Access free books and fun family activities all through the summer at your local library

How can my child take part?

At the library: · Visit Rugby Library from Saturday 4th July to sign up

· Set a summer reading goal and choose from books, eBooks, or audiobooks.

· Receive a special sticker booklet and collect rewards for reading

When does it start?

· Saturday 4 July. Don't miss out – head to the library and sign up this summer!

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.4%
This week's attendance	96.9%
Latest Local Authority ranking	26th 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

Early Help family support workers are available across Warwickshire to listen, offer advice and support around all family parenting and behaviour concerns. Family support workers offer a support helpline open 9am-4pm, Monday to Friday, for telephone advice. They also offer face to face consultations both virtually and in Children & Family Centres.

Call the family support helpline for telephone support or to book a consultation on 01926 412 412. View more information about family support and consultations.

Warwickshire County Council

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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