Weekly Learning Update

5th June 2026

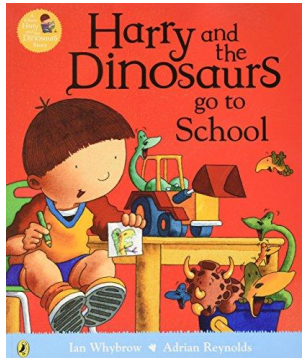
Nursery

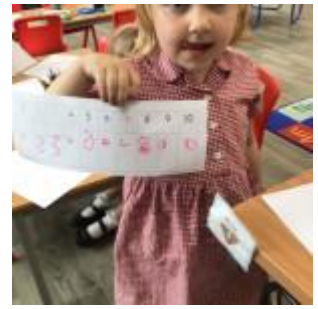
It has been a fantastic return to school, from the half term holiday. The children have returned with an eagerness to challenge themselves within their learning and have sought opportunities within the classroom environment as well as guided group sessions.

We have launched our new key text, Harry and the Dinosaurs go to School by Ian Whybrow. The children have explored the sequence of the story, recalling the events within the book, and then discussing the children's favourite elements of the story.

In Phonics, we have been focusing on verbal sounds and differentiating sounds. We have explored the way in which different sounds can be made verbally and the children have enjoyed exploring animals within this. Time has been spent focusing on a range of animals and the sounds they make, and from there, the children have attempted to replicate the sounds of these animals.

It has been a great week of accessing a range of different activities during Continuous Provision. The children have enjoyed honing their fine motor skills by cutting out specific shapes to make their own caterpillars. Maths challenges have linked to numeral formation and representing the correct number of dots to numerals. The children have also been exploring observational drawings by observing plants. Activities have also included exploration of feelings and emotion and creating their own party invites within the role play area.

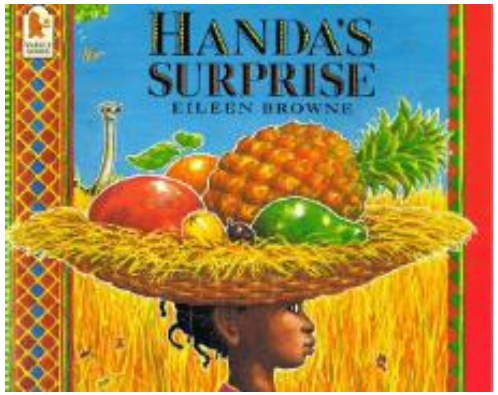




Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

What a wonderful first week back Reception have had! The children were excited to see all the new learning linked to our new text 'Handa's Surprise'.

In English, we have used our new story to write sentences about the main events.



In Maths, we have been learning to identify 2D shapes. The children have developed an understanding of properties. They were able to use the shape's properties to describe it to others. We went on a shape hunt around the classroom identifying squares, triangles, rectangles, circles and hexagons.

In Expressive Arts, we explored Petrit Halilaj artwork and were inspired by his drawings of animals, where he had represented himself as the animal in his art. We drew pictures of animals to represent us. The children had some wonderful reasons for choosing different animals.

Next week is King Class' Collective Worship and we look forward to welcoming their families in to celebrate with us.

Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

This week has been a great start to our final half term in year 1!
This week, we began our new unit based on the beautiful book *The Secret Sky Garden* by Linda Sarah. The children made thoughtful predictions about the story and demonstrated fantastic skills when inferring what the main character might be like. They then used their ideas to create their own character descriptions, showing creativity and an increasing ability to describe personality and appearance in detail.

In Maths, we explored ordinal numbers, practising how to correctly identify the position of objects both with real (concrete) resources and in pictures. Following this, we started our new unit on place value for numbers from 50 to 100. The children worked on ordering numbers, counting forwards and backwards and using a hundred square to help them understand how numbers change when we count. They showed great enthusiasm and growing confidence with these larger numbers.

We began our new history topic on Kings and Queens. The children learned what a monarch is and discussed the roles and responsibilities they have. They particularly enjoyed imagining themselves as a monarch for the day and coming up with their own rules. There were some very creative and interesting ideas!

In Science, we continued our learning about plants by exploring the school grounds to identify evergreen and deciduous trees. The children used their growing knowledge brilliantly, alongside careful observation skills, to distinguish between the different types of trees. They were able to spot key features, such as whether trees kept or lost their leaves, and showed great enthusiasm while investigating the natural environment around them.

A big well done to Windsor Class for their curriculum collective worship. They did a fantastic job showcasing our recent learning on plants and our English work linked to the beach trip. Thank you to all who were able to attend - it was lovely to see you there and share in the children's achievements.

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Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

It's the final half term of the year and Year 2 have already got stuck into some fantastic learning this week!

In English, we have started to explore a new book called "The Invisible" by Tom Percival. We used our detective skills to make predictions about the story. We learnt about adverbs and how they can be used to describe actions. We then applied these to write a recount about our morning routines.

In Maths, we have finished our learning on Time, looking at minutes in an hour and then hours in a day. We have started our new unit about statistics, learning what tallies are and interpreting tables.

In Science, we have planned an investigation ready to take part in next week. We are going to be testing materials to see if they are suitable for a raft.

In PSHE, we explored how someone's mood can change due to their behaviour or the behaviour of others. We created stickers to offer support to children in school who may be experiencing uncomfortable feeling.

In Geography, we are learning about how to conduct fieldwork in the local area. In this week's lesson, we recapped our previous learning about physical and human features.

We are really proud of how the children have returned to learning after the half term holiday and we look forward to the fantastic progress we are going to make this term!

Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

It's been a lovely first week back and we are proud of how the children have returned to school.

In English, we have started our new text The Wild Robot by Peter Brown. We began with an exciting "breaking news" report about something mysterious that washed up on an island overnight. The children carefully examined clues and made thoughtful predictions about what it could be. We then moved on to designing our own ideas of what the robot might look like, using powerful adjectives and strong verbs to describe both appearance and movement. We have also been exploring the key features of a character description and have begun focusing on how to use ambitious, powerful adjectives to bring our writing to life.

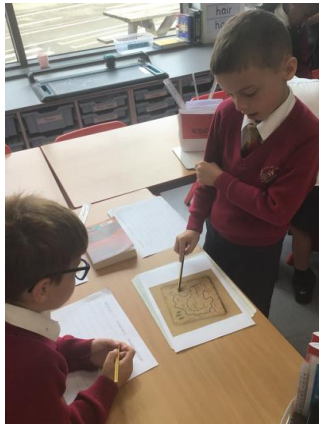
In Maths, we have continued work on capacity and volume, measuring accurately in millilitres and litres and comparing amounts.

In Music, we enjoyed echo warm-ups using shakers and have started playing crotchet and quaver patterns using notes A and C, following simple chord changes and keeping a steady rhythm.

In Geography, we have started our Local Area and North America topic. We used maps and globes to locate Mexico and identified some of its major cities.

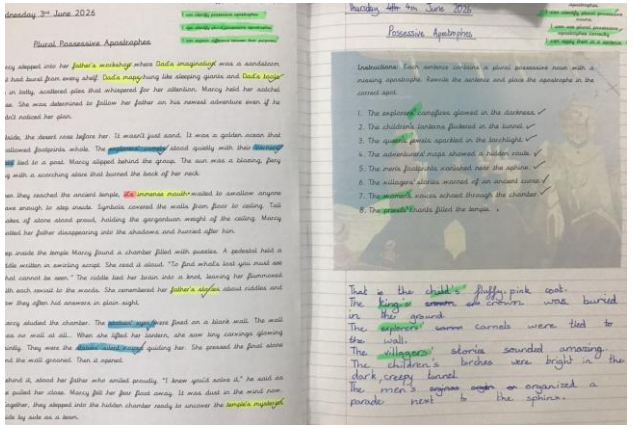
In PSHE, we have been learning to recognise physical differences between boys and girls, use the correct names for body parts and understand that some parts of our body are private

We are looking forward to a busy and successful final half term together!

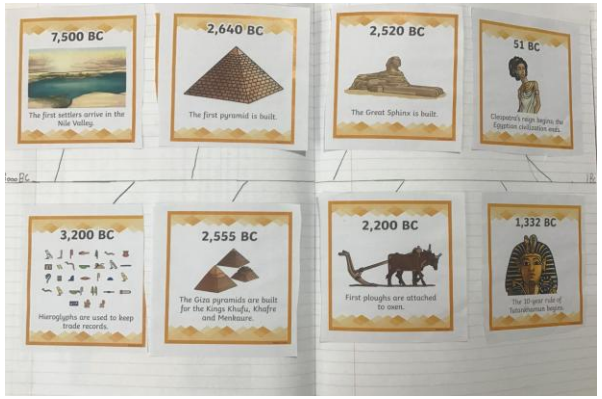


Year 4 (Tagore Class and Turing Class)

We are very proud of the thoughtful ideas the children shared this week as we began reading Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx. They used evidence from the text to make sensible predictions about what might happen next and showed growing confidence in explaining their reasoning. Alongside this, we also learned how to use possessive plural apostrophes accurately and applied this new skill successfully in our written work.

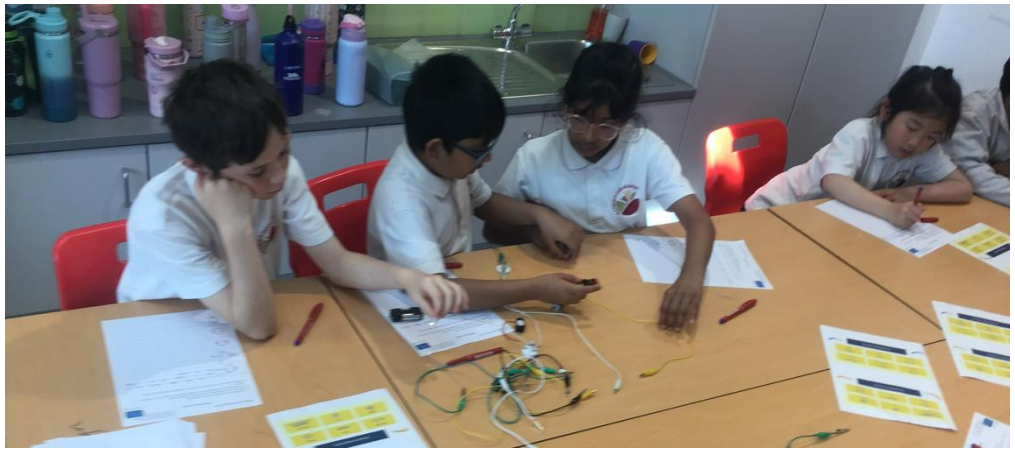


The children showed great enthusiasm as we started our new unit on time. We learned how to convert 12-hour times into 24-hour times and approached this new challenge with determination. It was wonderful to see their confidence increase as they practised and applied their understanding throughout the week and we are super proud of the progress they have made.



Building on our previous learning about electricity, the children further developed their understanding of how circuits work by investigating and diagnosing faults in a range of circuit setups. Their resilience and problem-solving skills were particularly impressive as they worked methodically to identify issues and explain their findings. This took a lot of effort and use of our scientific skills.

During Art this week, we explored the fascinating history of masks and their significance across different civilisations around the world. We asked thoughtful questions, made interesting comparisons and developed a deeper understanding of the cultural and historical importance of masks.



We put in a super effort when we created a world history timeline to discover where the Ancient Egyptians fit within the wider story of human history. Through this activity, we strengthened our chronological understanding and developed our ability to place historical events in context. The children's attention to detail and growing historical awareness was fantastic to see.

Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Rauf Class)

This week has been another fantastic start to the final term of the year and the children have thrown themselves into their learning with enthusiasm and curiosity.

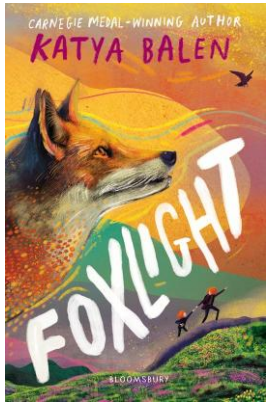
In English, we have begun exploring our new class text, *Foxlight* by Katya Balen. The children have been introduced to the two main characters, Fen and Ray, who live in a lighthouse alongside many other found children who do not have a mother. As we have delved into the opening chapters, the children have been developing a range of reading skills, particularly inference and prediction. They have explored the thoughts and feelings of the characters and justified their ideas using evidence from the text. We look forward to uncovering more of Fen and Ray's story in the coming weeks.

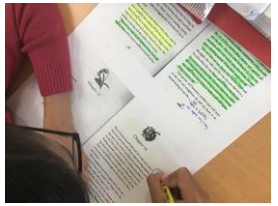
In Maths, we have continued our learning on decimals. The children have been practising how to add and subtract decimals with both the same and different numbers of decimal places. They have worked hard to remember the importance of lining up decimal points when using formal written methods and have shown increasing confidence when applying these skills to problem-solving activities.

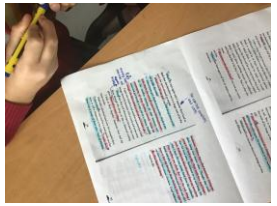
In History, we have continued our learning about the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons. This week, the children used a range of historical sources to investigate whether the Vikings were simply raiders or whether there was much more to their civilisation. We had some excellent discussions about how different sources and perspectives can influence our understanding of the past and why it is important to think critically when examining historical evidence.

In Science, we began our new topic, *Animals Including Humans*. The children explored the gestation periods of different animals and considered the enquiry question: *Is there a relationship between an animal's lifespan and its gestation period?* Using a set of data, the children plotted scatter graphs and looked for patterns and trends. They discovered that there appeared to be only a very weak relationship between lifespan and gestation time, whilst also identifying several outliers within the data.

Finally, in PSHE, we continued our learning about mental and physical wellbeing. The children explored both the benefits and potential risks of spending time outdoors and discussed ways to stay safe while enjoying outdoor activities. We also spent time learning about consent and the importance of respecting other people's boundaries. The children considered how respecting personal boundaries contributes to positive relationships and overall wellbeing. This is an important topic, and you may wish to continue these conversations at home to help reinforce the key messages discussed in school.







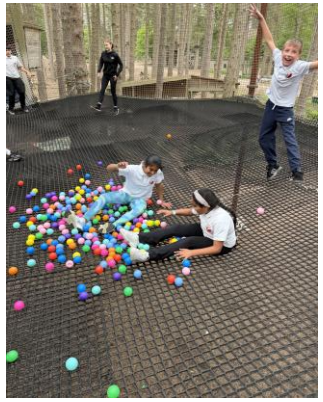
Year 6 (Pogson Class and Walker Class)

It has been lovely to welcome the children back this week for the final half term of the school year.

In English, the children have been working independently and with a partner to edit and re-draft pieces of writing from across the year. They have used their knowledge to show excellent growth and make fantastic improvements to their balanced arguments, fables, campaign leaflets and persuasive speeches. The children considered their vocabulary choices and how it would support the different purposes of writing, alongside a range of punctuation and other grammar features for effect.

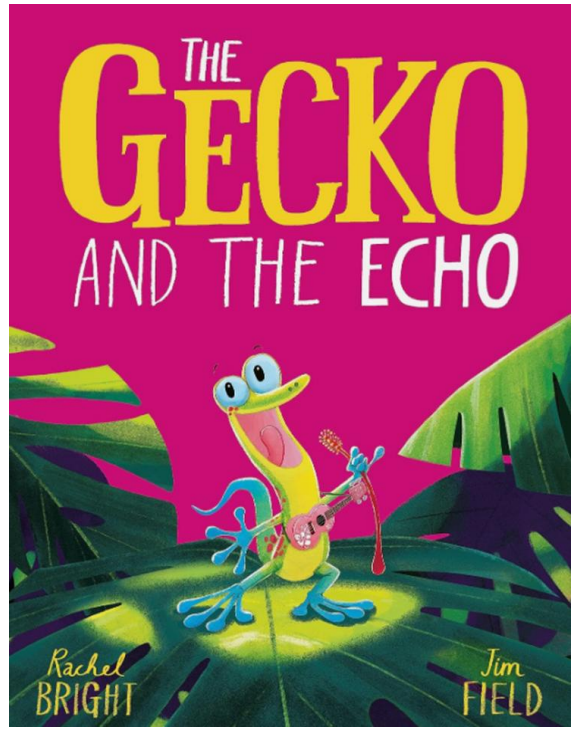
In Science, the children have finished their unit about Evolution and Inheritance. They have explored how living things inherit certain characteristics from their parents, which will enable them to survive. Cross-breeding dogs are a key example of how there are certain characterstics which are more advantageous or desirable than others. The children have also explored Darwin's Theory of Evolution and have written a balanced argument to consider the points for and against this scientific theory.

Pictures from our trip to Go Ape before May half term:



Collective Worship

During Worship Through Story this week, we have been reflecting on some of our school values: Respect, Love and Community. We read The Gecko and The Echo by Rachel Bright, which tells the story of Goldie – a gecko who loves the spotlight! By the end of the story, Goldie learns that kindness and connection echo back far louder than applause.



This week, Windsor Class led Celebration Collective Worship, Sharing their learning from the last few weeks, including their exciting beach trip last half term! Well done.

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

St Gabriel's Summer Fair

We are hosting our Summer Fair on Friday 19th June! We are kindly asking for support from our community to help raise funds for further enrichment opportunities and school projects.

Are you able to donate a prize for our raffle or know someone who could? Perhaps a product, voucher or service?

We also have stalls available for local businesses to sell their products.

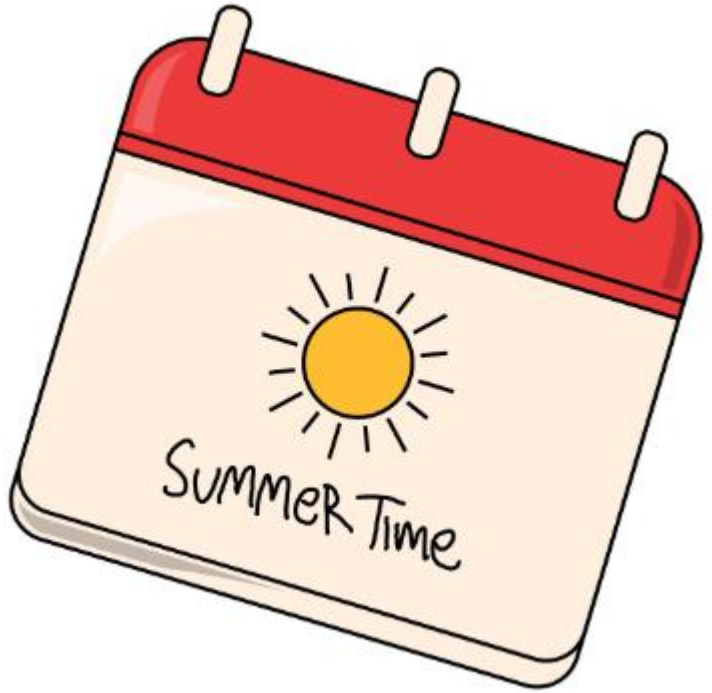
Thank you in advance for supporting our fundraising efforts, which will contribute towards further enrichment opportunities and school projects for the children.

For more information, or to offer your support, please contact office@stgabrielscofeacademy.org

Key Dates

Friday 12th June – Non-Uniform Day (Bring a Bottle)
The children are welcome to come to school in non-uniform and bring a bottle to collect donations for our St Gabriel's Summer Fair tombola and raffle.

Friday 12th June – King Class Celebration Worship
Friday 19th June – Bell Class Celebration Worship
Friday 19th June – Summer Fair
Thursday 25th June – Teddy Bear's Picnic Reading Event (Reception)
Friday 26th June – Parks Class Celebration Worship
Friday 3rd July – Tagore Class Celebration Worship
Monday 6th July – Year 6 Enterprise Afternoon
Wednesday 8th July – Transition Day
Friday 10th July – Kerr Class Celebration Worship
Friday 10th July – Nursery Graduation
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

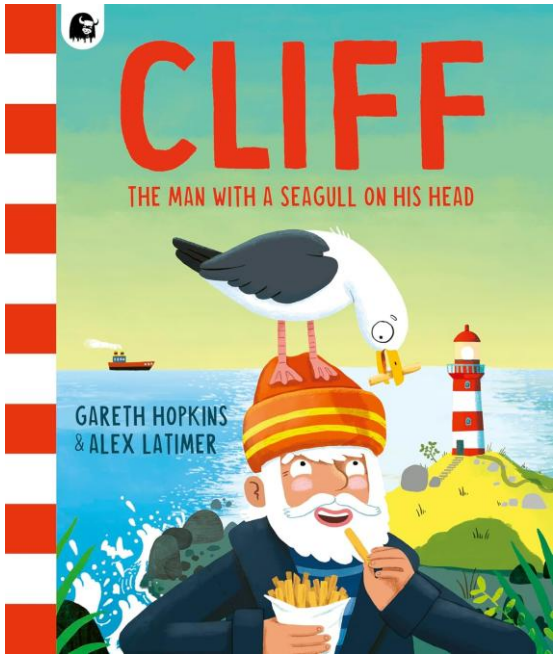


Recommended Read

Cliff – The Man with a Seagull on his Head by Gareth Hopkins and Alex Latimer is a warm, humorous and beautifully illustrated picture book about a lonely fisherman whose life changes when a seagull lands on his head and refuses to leave.

What begins as an unusual encounter grows into a heart-warming friendship, despite the disapproval of the local townspeople, who see the bird as nothing more than a nuisance. When a storm arrives and Cliff needs help most, his unlikely companion proves the power of kindness, empathy and true friendship in unexpected places.

We are really lucky and excited to be welcoming local author Gareth Hopkins to St Gabriel's on Friday 3rd July for a workshop with Reception to Year 3. Please see letter sent home today for details and information on how to order books for the event. Gareth will also be available after school to sign books with Hunt's Bookshop. More details to follow on this!



Online Safety

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year.

While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and overuse.

See the below guide to explore the key risks and find out how to support safe use:

https://nationalcollege.com/guides/generative-ai-safety

Exciting Reading Event!

Hunt's Bookshop would like to invite you to a magical storytelling adventure with author Bec Manser on Saturday 20th June.

Join Bec as she takes the children on an exciting journey into Dryda Forest to uncover the secrets of the Wildheart Rangers. In this interactive session, Bec will share her path to becoming a published author and explain why she describes herself as "half sparkle and half spooky." Children will discover the inspiration behind Wildheart, from Bec's love of nature and wildlife to her fascination with haunted places, paranormal mysteries and all things spooky. They will also meet the memorable characters from the story and learn why creating diverse and inclusive characters is so important. There will be plenty of opportunities to get involved, including creating a very own Wildheart Ranger character with Bec's guidance.

After the session, children will have the chance to have their books signed by Bec. Copies of Wildheart can be pre-ordered in advance to guarantee a signed copy or purchased on the day (subject to availability).

Event Details

- **Date:** Saturday 20th June
- **Time:** 11:00am–12:00pm
- **Venue:** To be confirmed upon booking

A £1.00 admission fee applies, which can be redeemed against the purchase of a book on the day.

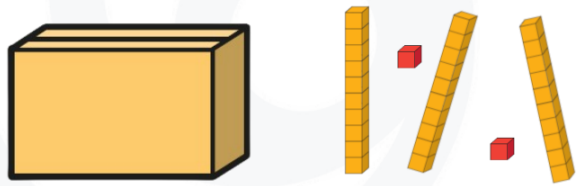
This event is perfect for children who love nature and wildlife, enjoy creative writing, or simply can't resist a good spooky story. For further information and to book tickets or order a book, please visit: https://huntsbookshop.com/collections/childrens-storytime/products/a-magical-storytelling-aventure-with-bec-manser-saturday-20th-june?variant=58102311485821

Maths Problem of the Week

KS1

Max uses ten pieces of base 10 to make a number.

He puts five pieces of base 10 inside the box.



What numbers could Max have made?

What do you notice about the digits of these numbers?

What numbers could Max **not** have made?

LKS2

Whitney is thinking of a number.

- Rounded to the nearest 100, the number is 5,000
- Rounded to the nearest 1,000 the number is 5,000
- The tens digit is double the ones digit.

a) What could Whitney's number be?

b) Whitney's number has a digit sum of 22
What is Whitney's number?

UKS2

A, B and C are integers.

A is a number that rounds to 500,000 to the nearest 100,000
B is a number that rounds to 460,000 to the nearest 10,000
C is a number that rounds to 500,000 to the nearest 1,000

a) What is the greatest possible value of A plus B plus C?

b) What is the smallest possible value of A plus B subtract C?

c) What is the greatest possible value of A plus C subtract B?

Answers

KS1

37, 46, 55, 64, 73, 82

The digits all sum to 10

Max could not have made 19, 28 or 91 or any number where the digits do not sum to 10

LKS2

a) 4,963
4,984
5,021

b) 4963
4 + 9 + 6 + 3 = 22

UKS2

a) 1,515,497

b) 404,501

c) 595,498

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.4%
This week's attendance	96.3%
Latest Local Authority ranking	25th out of 195 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?

Attendance Update from Warwickshire County Council

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.
Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.
Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is the parents' responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.
All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

- Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total).
  - First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.
    - Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.

- Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.

- Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): A penalty notices will be not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.

St Gabriel's CofE Academy, Houlton Way, Houlton, Rugby, CV23 1AN

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Family Support

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

- Child Safety Week
- Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice 5th birthday celebrations
- Sensory friendly school leavers prom

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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