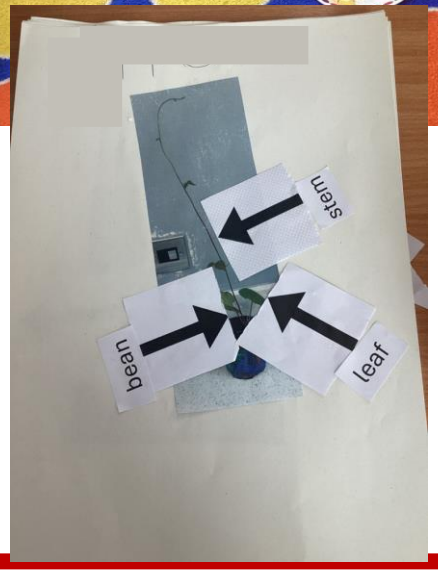
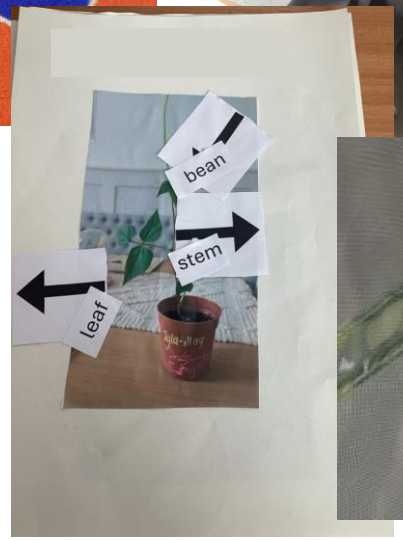
Weekly Learning Update

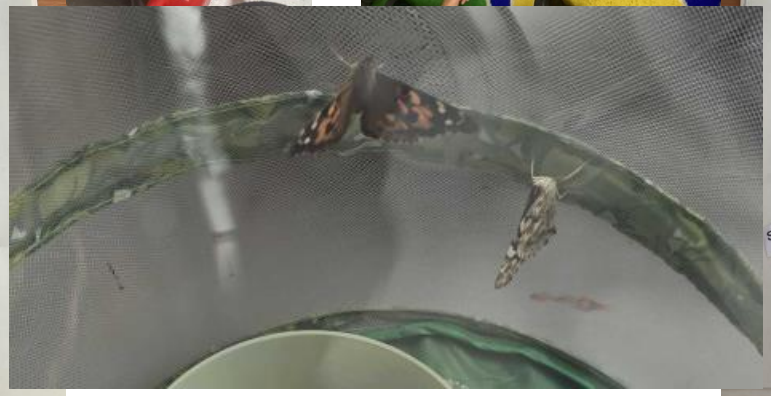
6th June 2025

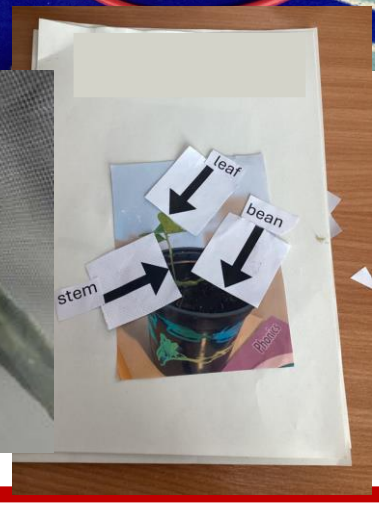
Nursery

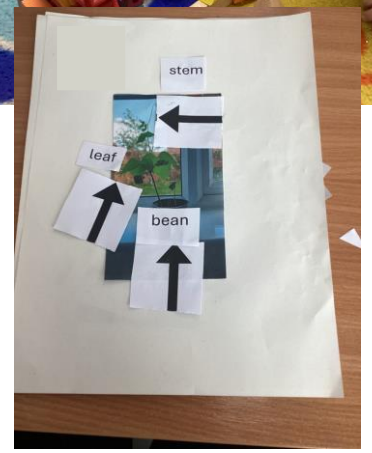
This week, we have been focusing on sharing updates about the beanstalks that we took home; we shared pictures of them and even labelled them during our English sessions. We explored healthy and unhealthy foods this week, leading on to a tasting session where we tried a range of different fruits and vegetables. The children were encouraged to feel, smell, taste and explain their thoughts about each one! Some amazing news this week is that we now have three butterflies; we will be releasing them next week!





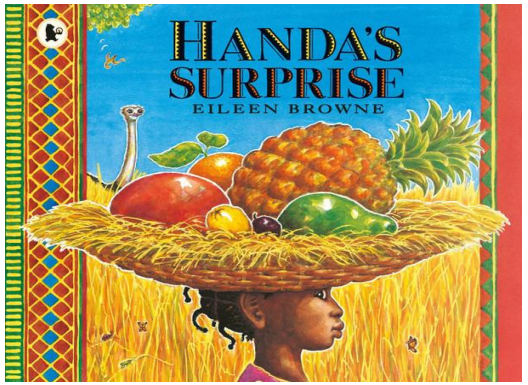






Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

It has been a fantastic first week back in Reception.



English:

We introduced our new key text: 'Handa's Surprise' by Eileen Browne. We began our whole class story maps. We also thought about the illustrations providing more information than the text and the children began writing sentences to describe the illustrations.

Phonics:

We are focusing on Phase 4 phonics.

Maths:

We have begun to explore numerical pattern. This week's focus is on odd and even numbers. Time has been spent focusing on even numbers being evenly shared between two, whereas odd numbers cannot be. Children have enjoyed identifying that numbers ending 0,2,4,6 and 8 are even and numbers ending 1,3,5,7 and 9 are odd. There have been lots of opportunities to use concrete resources to explore the concepts.

PE:

Our new skill focus this half term links to games. The children have enjoyed exploring working collaboratively and developing hand-eye coordination.

On Friday, we took part in Reception's second school trip. We were very excited to go to Twycross Zoo! There will be lots of photos shared on Tapestry, as well as on our learning update next week.

Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

It has been a super first week back for Year 1!

In English, we have started our new book 'The Secret Sky Garden'. The children have enjoyed making inferences and predictions, as well as getting in the role of the character of Funni to imagine how she might have been feeling and what she might have been saying. We focused on her in a little more detail and the children wrote some amazing character descriptions.

In Maths, we have been recognising the place value of numbers to 100, as well as comparing them using the language of 'greater than', 'less than' and 'equal to'.

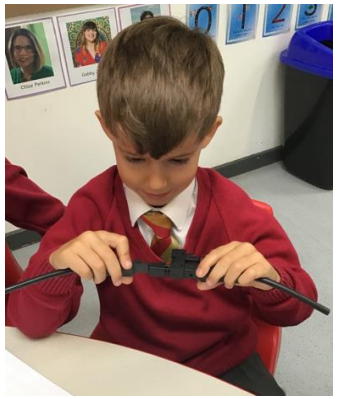
In Science, we went on a walk around school to recognise deciduous and evergreen trees.

In History, we started our new topic, 'Kings and Queens'. We focused on the role of a monarch and started to think about the qualities needed to be a good monarch. The children had lots of fun thinking of rules and laws that they would create if they were a monarch!

In RE, we have been learning to recognise the importance of weddings for those with Christian and Jewish worldviews. We found out what happens at a wedding and the children had a go at role playing a Christian wedding.

We also had some exciting visits from members of our community this week who came to talk to us about their jobs, as part of our whole school Futures' Festival.

A reminder that all Year 1 children will be taking part in their phonics screening check at some point during next week. The Phonics Screening Check is a statutory assessment designed to give teachers and parents information on how your child is progressing in phonics. The check consists of 40 words for your child to read. 20 of those words are real words, and 20 are alien words. The children will complete this one at a time, in a relaxed setting with their class teacher and they have had plenty of practice in doing this so it is absolutely nothing for them to worry about. To support your child in preparation for this, we encourage you to complete the phonics homework sent home this weekend and ensure that your child is well-rested.

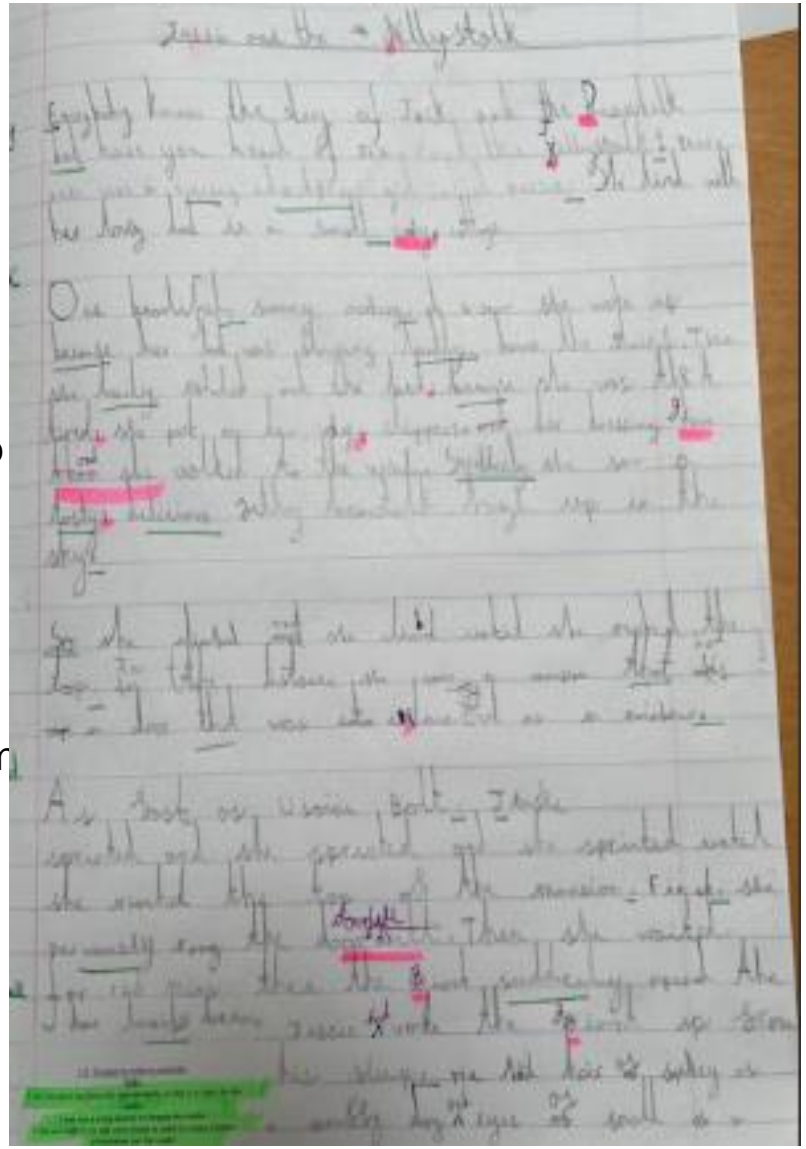


Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

We have had a brilliant first week back.

English:
In English we have continued writing our own versions of Jim and the Beanstalk and have been using suffixes, expanded noun phrases and similes to create a better visualisation for the reader.

Handwriting:
This week we have been focusing on learning to form the letters l, t, i, j, u and y using cursive handwriting.



Maths:
In Maths, we have been learning to measure the mass of objects using standard and non-standard units.

RE:
In RE, we have been focusing on what words in different sacred passages mean and how they influence the actions of people with different worldviews.

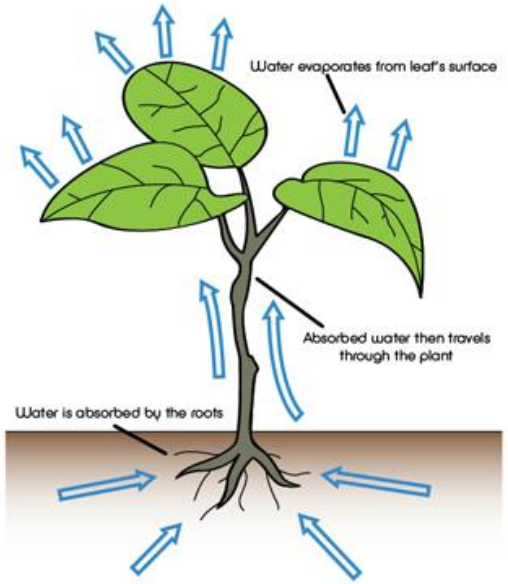
History:
In History, we compared hospitals from the past to the present and reflected on how Florence Nightingale influenced the importance of hygiene today.

Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

In English, we have been looking at the video 'Catch A LOT' for our learning stimulus. It is a short film about a young boy and a man who are out fishing when an unexpected creature shows up. The children will then be using the beginning of the film to help create their alternative endings next week. This week in particular, we have been looking at how cohesion is important within our writing as well as looking at how we can develop character dialogue in our fiction narrative writing.

In Maths, we have started our measurement unit: Mass, Capacity and Volume. This week's focus has been reading scales to measure the mass of different objects.

In Geography, we are comparing our local area with an area in North America. This week, we have been using maps, globes and atlases to locate North America and Mexico.

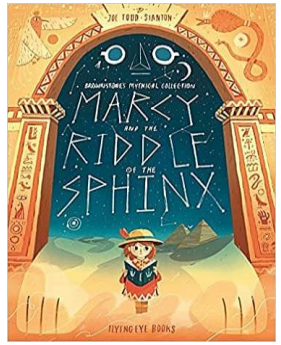


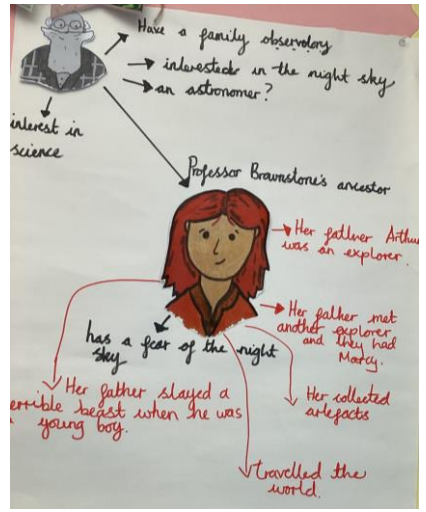
In Science, we have been continuing to develop our understanding of plants. This week, we have looked at water transportation in plants. We discovered how water is absorbed through the roots, transports up the stem and is then evaporated from the leaves.

Year 4 (Turing Class and Tagore Class)

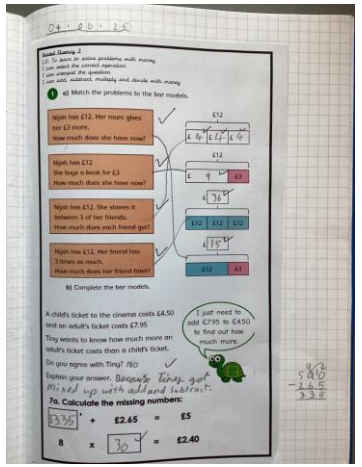
What an exciting start we've had to Summer Term 2! Our first week has been filled with exploration, creativity, and hands-on learning experiences that have truly captivated the children's imaginations.

English - Writing to persuade: We've kicked off our new English unit with a focus on persuasive writing. The children have been introduced to the text Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx, where they are learning how language can be used to influence and persuade. They explored new vocabulary and examined the key features that help to construct powerful persuasive arguments.





Science – Electricity: Our Science lessons continue to buzz with energy! This week, we've deepened our understanding of electricity by building and troubleshooting simple circuits. The children are honing their problem-solving skills as they work to fix circuits that aren't functioning correctly.



Maths – Money: In Maths, the focus has been on solving multi-step problems involving money. The children have been practising and refining the skills necessary to tackle complex calculations with accuracy. We also continue to focus on our times tables as we prepare for the Multiplication Tables Check. Thank you for all of the practice at home; please keep encouraging your child to keep logging on to TTRS to master their times tables.

RE – Kingdom of God: In Religious Education, our journey continues with the exploration of the Kingdom of God. The children have been engaging in lively discussions about the big question: "What Kind of World Did Jesus Want?" They have begun to understand how people with Christian worldviews strive to follow in Jesus's footsteps, using inspired examples to illustrate living out faith in practical ways. This reflective approach is helping them connect spiritual principles to everyday life.

History – Ancient Egypt: Our history lessons have taken us back in time as we begin our Ancient Egypt unit. The focus this week is on chronology and understanding the sequence of events that shaped one of civilization's most fascinating cultures. We were not only fascinated by the mysteries of Ancient Egypt but were also excited to learn about how historical events are recorded and understood in context.

Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Gandhi Class)

In English this week, we have started exploring suspense writing and building tension within our writing. We have started watching a short film called 'Alma', about a young girl who is venturing out in the snow and is drawn to a shop with a familiar looking doll in the window. We have explored how a suspenseful atmosphere was created through the setting and character's actions. We have analysed the features of suspense writing and begun to apply this to our own writing.

In Maths, we have applied our knowledge of addition and subtraction to add and subtract numbers with the same and different number of decimal places. We have applied our knowledge of number facts and place value to support us in using written methods to solve a variety of different calculations.

We have started our Archbishop Young Leaders' Award (AYLA) which we will be working towards during our RE lessons this half term. This week we learnt about what it means to be a leader and discussed the skills associated with leadership. We then discovered more about real leaders in our world today, like Bear Grylls or Malala Yousafzai, and how they inspired change in the world. Over the next term, we will be working towards completing a community-based project in our classes.

In History, we have investigated how the Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms began to follow Christianity, and how this impacted Britain. We learnt that missionaries from other Christian countries came to England and Scotland to teach the Anglo-Saxons about Jesus' teachings and the Bible.

Year 6 (Pogson Class and Ahmad Class)

What a busy first week back it has been this week!

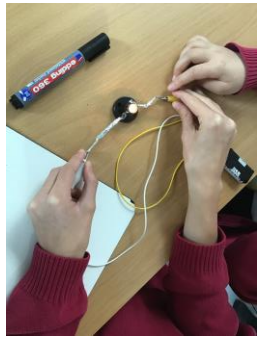
In English, we have been preparing to write to entertain by spending our time watching Dave Egger's short film, 'Francis'. Each day we have looked closely at specific scenes within the film to explore how the creator skilfully builds tension and suspense in order to hook the viewer. We then moved on to explore similes, metaphors and personification and their function in effectively creating atmosphere within our writing before we moved on to planning our own narratives, inspired by the film. Next week, we look forward to getting writing!

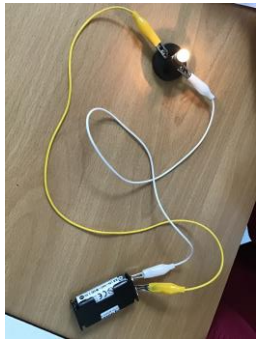
In Maths, we have started a very exciting project, called 'Make £5 Grow'. This week, we focused on the features of an enterprise and what specific skills are needed in order for teamwork to be successful. Next week, the children will be placed into groups to choose a product they want to create based on their very own market research.

Science this week was focused on our final unit of 'Electricity' where we recapped on our learning from Year 4 by creating a range of simple circuits. Throughout the lesson, we recalled some of the key components of circuits and what is needed to make a circuit work properly before creating our own.

In Geography, we began our final unit, 'Coasts', as we investigated the key different types of weathering and erosion. The children were presented with four stations where they modelled and observed physical, chemical and biological weathering as well as erosion and how this can alter landforms in different ways.

Finally, in RE, we have been finding out more about different organised worldviews and how they might have changed or stayed the same over time. This week's focus was the Sikhi worldview, where we looked at the concept of equality and sewa (service), which remain as a core aspect of the faith, but how these services have altered with the new generation.





Collective Worship

During collective worship this week, we spent some time learning about water safety. We thought about how much fun playing and swimming in water can be, especially during the summer months, whilst also recognising the need to keep safe.

On Friday, our Eco Council led collective worship teaching the children all about the work they do to support the school environment. They also shared tips about how others can support in school too.

Congratulations to all of the children who received a Head Teacher's Award this week!

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

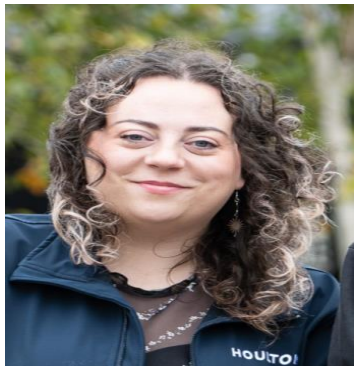
Futures' Festival

On Thursday, we celebrated our Futures' Festival. A range of visitors came to visit classes to talk about their careers, inspiring the children to think about their dream job. Children also spent time working alongside their class teacher to learn more about a range of careers and how learning at school provides a good foundation for enabling children to fulfil their ambitions.

Sally Dicks-

Director of Archaeology and Heritage, RPS

Allan Levy- Photographer



Elly Humus- Community Development Lead

Billy Davidson- Project Manager

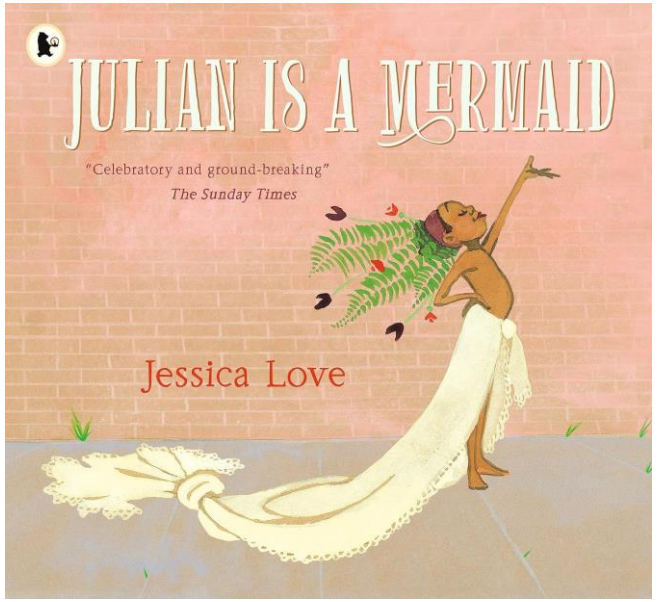
Jaimala Parmar-Executive PA- WAGO

Romy Ashmore-Hills- Business Founder

Recommended Read

‘Julian is a Mermaid’ by *Jessica Love*

While riding the subway home with his Nana one day, Julian notices three women spectacularly dressed up. Their hair billows in brilliant hues, their dresses end in fishtails, and their joy fills the train carriage. When Julian gets home, daydreaming of the magic he’s seen, all he can think about is dressing up just like the ladies and making his own fabulous mermaid costume. But what will Nana think about the mess he makes – and even more importantly – what will she think about how Julian sees himself?

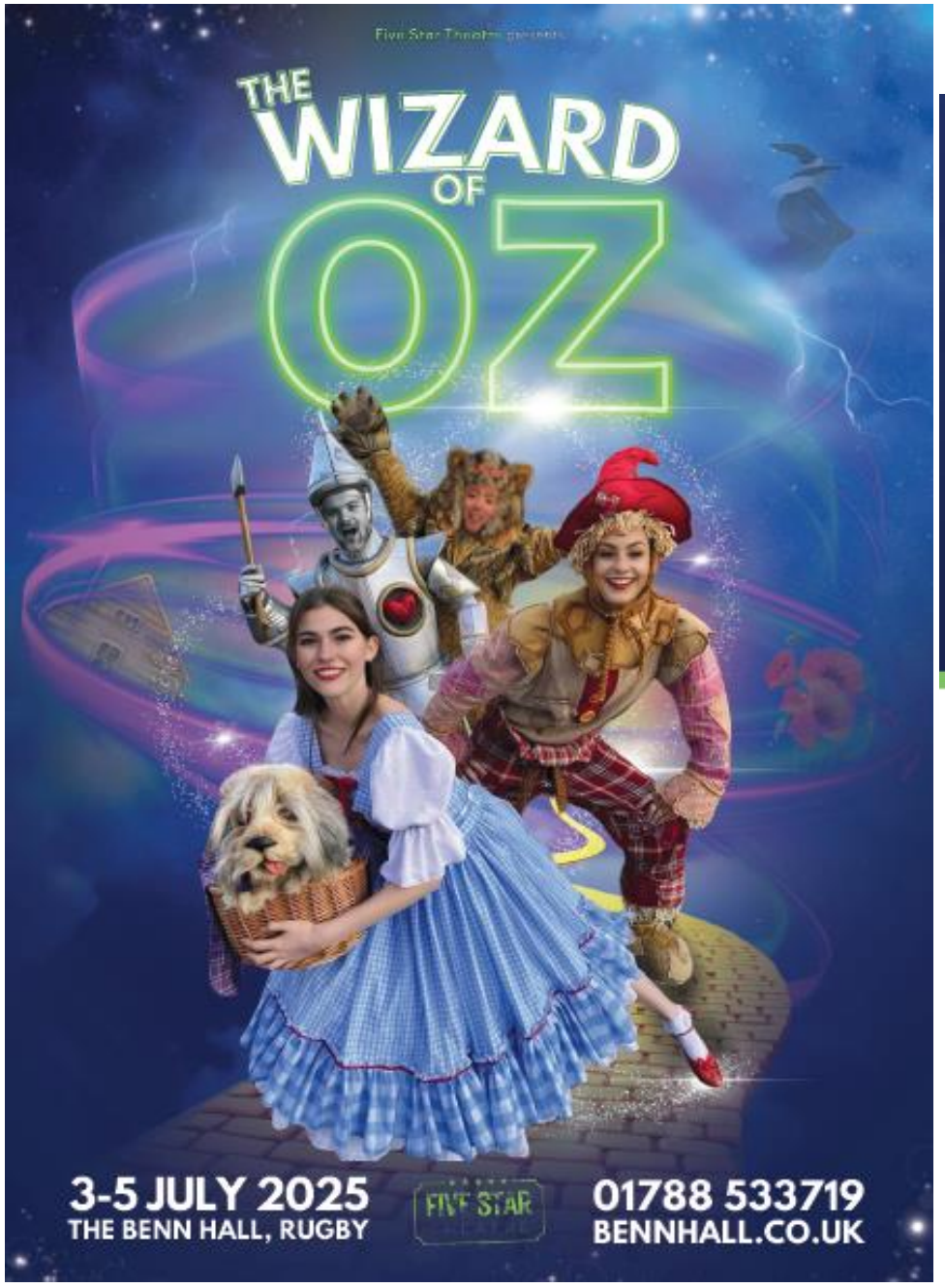


Online Safety

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media, and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed. In the below guide, you’ll find tips on a number of potential risks such as bullying, inappropriate content and unknown members.

https://nationalcollege.com/guides/group-chats

Local Events



Step into a world of wonder as **The Wizard of Oz** comes to life on stage in this unforgettable family adventure! When young Dorothy Gale is swept away from her Kansas farm by a tornado, she finds herself in the dazzling Land of Oz – a place filled with talking animals, walking scarecrows, good and wicked witches and things magical to behold.

To find her way home, Dorothy must follow the Yellow Brick Road to the mysterious Emerald City where the great Wizard might just hold the answers. Along the way, she makes unforgettable friends and faces thrilling dangers including the Wicked Witch of the West...who is desperate to steal her magical ruby slippers.

Packed with heart, humour and iconic songs, this timeless tale is a must-see for audiences of all ages. Join us for an enchanting theatrical experience and rediscover the lesson we all need to remember – there really is no place like home.

Performance Dates & Times

Thu 3 July	-	7:30pm
Fri 4 July	-	7:30pm
Sat 5 July	2:30pm	7:30pm

Ticket Information

Standard: £19.50
Concession: £17.50

Box Office: 01788 533719
(Open Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm)

Book Online: bennhall.co.uk

This amateur production of *The Wizard of Oz* is based on the novel by L. Frank Baum with music by Harold Arlen, E. Y. Harburg, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Stephen Schwartz

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.5%
This week's attendance	95.4%
Latest Local Authority ranking	13th out of 196 schools
Latest National ranking	Top 10% 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:

- Child safety week
- Communication workshop
- Health and wellbeing fair

and much more!

The Family Information Service (FIS) supports families across Warwickshire with information and signposting. You can get in touch with the team by emailing fis@warwickshire.gov.uk, calling 0800 408 1558 or finding support at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies.

This month's special edition of the Family Information Service newsletter focuses on the holiday activities and food (HAF) programme.

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