Weekly Learning Update

6th September 2024

Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

It has been a super first week in Reception! The team are very proud of how well the children have settled into their new school routine and how they have supported each other.

The children have enjoyed getting to know the Reception team and exploring the different areas of the classroom.

The children have started making some great friendships and have learnt lots about each other and the Reception team.

We have started working in small groups and setting challenges for the children, which they have thoroughly enjoyed accessing!

We have focused on some name recognition activities and remembering the routines of the classroom - there are a lot!

We can't wait for next week and building on the timetable with the children.

Important Information

We hope you can make it to our Tapestry Information Meeting on Tuesday 10th September at 4:00pm in the large hall. Please use the Community Entrance.

Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

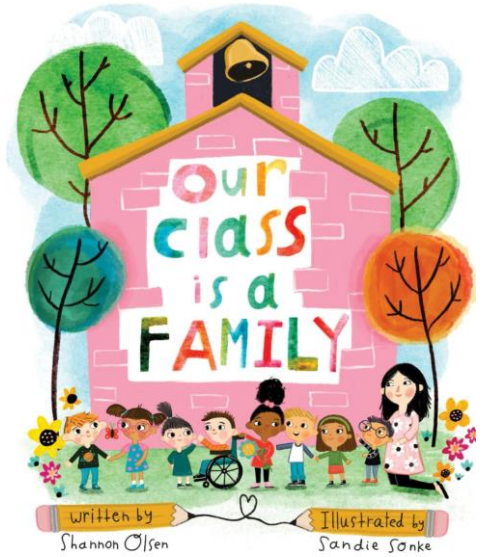
Year 1 have settled in extremely well and are becoming familiar with their daily routines. We are so proud of them! It's been wonderful to see them adjust so quickly, and they are already showing great enthusiasm. We are excited to begin our curriculum learning next week and look forward to the fantastic year ahead!

Important Information

We hope you can make it to our Year Group Information Meeting on Tuesday 10th September at 3:30pm to find out more information about Year 1. The session will be repeated at 4pm for those who need to attend more than one meeting. Please come to Windsor Classroom.

Our PE day is Friday. For this half term, children need to come into school wearing their school uniform and bring their PE kit in to change into.

Homework and reading books will start from next Friday 13th September. Homework will come home on a Friday and be due in by the following Thursday.



We read the book 'Our Class is a Family' and talked about how we are all here for each other at school, like a family. We created our own houses with pictures of our class community.

We also talked about our school vision and values and created freeze frames to show what these might look like.

Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

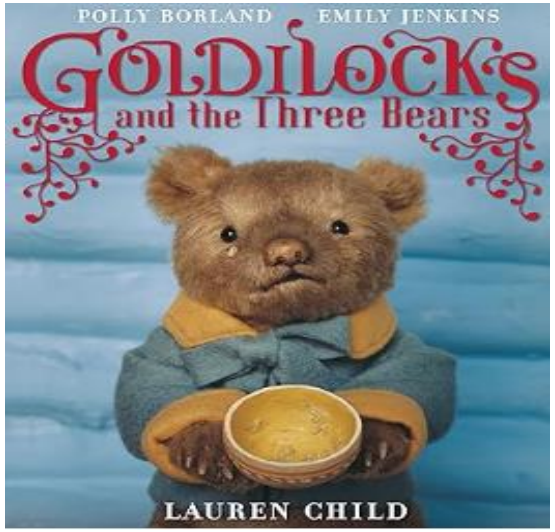
Year 2 have settled in extremely well and have had a super first week. We are so, so proud of them! We have already starting learning lots already and can't wait to continue next week!

Important Information

We hope you can make it to our Year Group Information Meeting on Tuesday 10th September at 3:30pm to find out more information about Year 2. The session will be repeated at 4pm for those who need to attend more than one meeting. Please come to Braille Classroom.

Our PE day is Friday. For this half term, children need to come into school wearing their PE kit and bring their school uniform to change into.

Homework and reading books will start from next Friday 13th September. Homework will come home on a Friday and be due in by the following Thursday.



English

We have started our English learning journey with Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We have made predictions using clues we could find in the text and on the front cover.

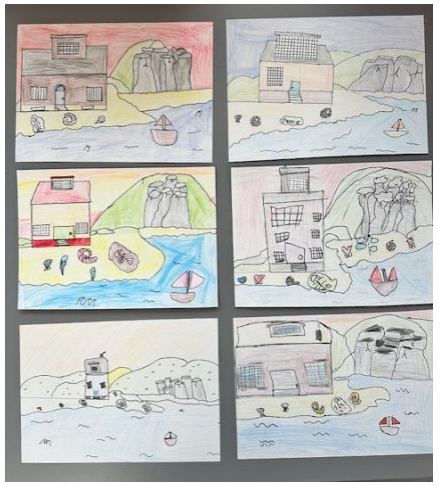
During our first week, we revisited some key skills from our Maths learning in Year 1 and showed tremendous recall!

We also unpicked the symbolism of our school crest. We discussed how the leaf represents growth and rebirth and how the three people represent family and our community. We also discussed how our vision statement encompasses all that we do at school.

Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

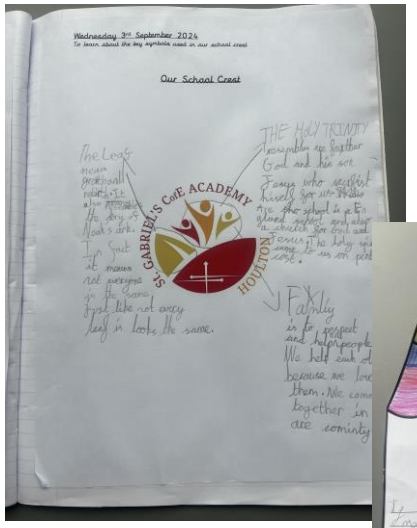
We are so proud of how well all the children have settled back into school and started Year 3.

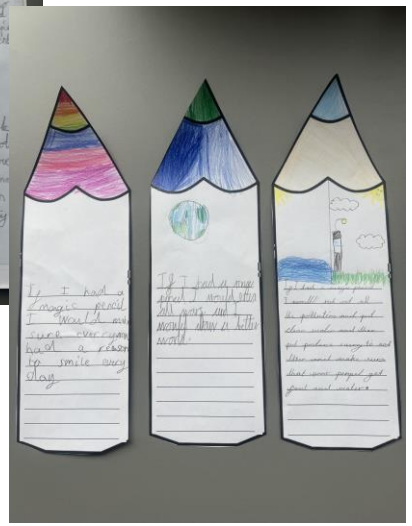
We have had a super busy week filled with lots of activities and have been getting to know our new classes.



Anning Class have spent some time learning about Mary Anning and where she was from. We discovered she was a palaeontologist from Lyme Regis in Dorset and she discovered the first skeleton fossil of an ichthyosaurus. The children then used an image of the shoreline of Lyme Regis to create their own picture symbolising Mary and her life.

Malala class have spent some time finding out more about Malala Yousafzai, who their class is named after. Together, we read the book 'Malala's Magic Pencil' and the children used this as inspiration to design their own pencils, sharing their dreams and goals for the future.





This week, we have also spent some time exploring our school vision and values. We also took some time to explore our own worldviews and how we are all unique. The children also enjoyed exploring our school crest in more detail and finding out what each part of our school crest represents.

We hope you can make it to our Year Group Information Meeting on Tuesday 10th September at 3:30pm to find out more information about Year 3. The session will be repeated at 4pm for those who need to attend more than one meeting. Please come to the Year 3 classrooms for this meeting.

Year 4 (Turing Class and Tagore Class)

We are so impressed with all of the children in Year 4 as they have settled into Year 4 brilliantly. We have all has a fun week catching up after the holidays and getting to know each other.

Turing Class have spent some time learning all about Alan Turing. We learnt why he was significant using different sources of information. We used this information to create a fact file.

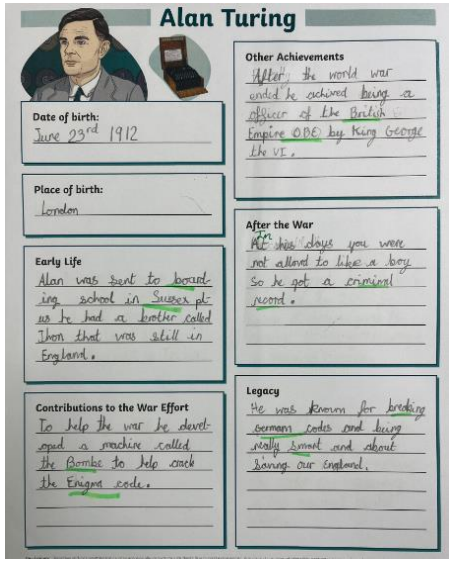
Tagore Class also learnt about their class name: Rabindranath Tagore. We read some of his famous poetry.

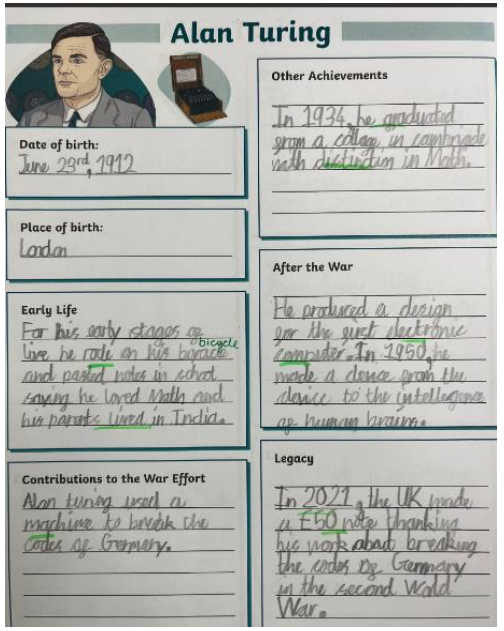
We also reflected on the summer holidays, writing about some of the things we got up to. In addition to this, we created self-portraits to reflect our image and personality.

We have spent time getting to grips with our new routines and affirmed our class rules. We brought our school vision to life through role play and still images.

On Friday, we took part in a RE lesson where we explored our school crest and thought about what the different images could symbolise. We also discussed what different worldviews were in preparation for our new unit.

We hope you can make it to our Year Group Information Meeting on Tuesday 10th September at 3:30pm to find out more information about Year 4. The session will be repeated at 4pm for those who need to attend more than one meeting. Please come to the Year 4 classrooms for this meeting.





Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Gandhi Class)

Year 5 have had a phenomenal first week back! We are really proud of every pupil as they have all settled into the new year like they have never been away! It has been lovely to get to know everyone in Year 5 and we are very excited for the year ahead together!

This week, we have spent time learning all about our class names. In Attenborough class, we researched facts about David Attenborough's life and then we used these facts to create a paw print with pictures of animals. In Gandhi class, we learnt about his life and explored the meaning behind several of Gandhi's famous quotes and then we used this to create an inspirational quote display.

In both classes, we also reminded ourselves of our school values and vision and we discussed how we can demonstrate our values and vision throughout our school day.

We have also read and explored The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse and created our own pieces of artwork in the style of the illustrations in the book.

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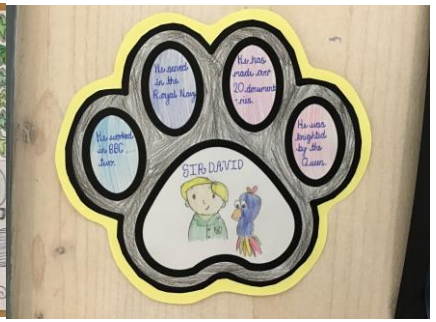
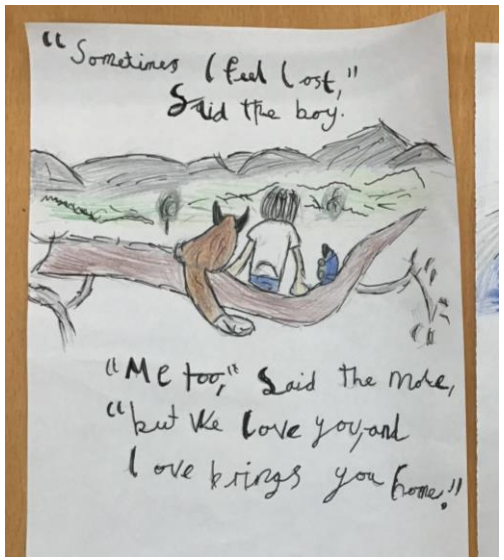
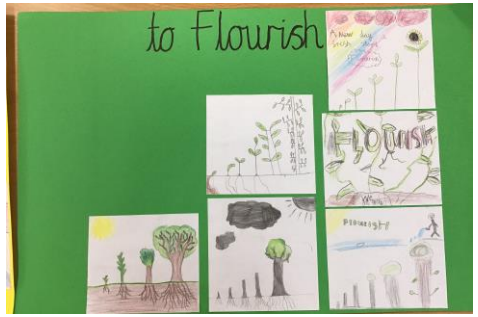






Year 6 (Pogson Class and Ahmad Class)

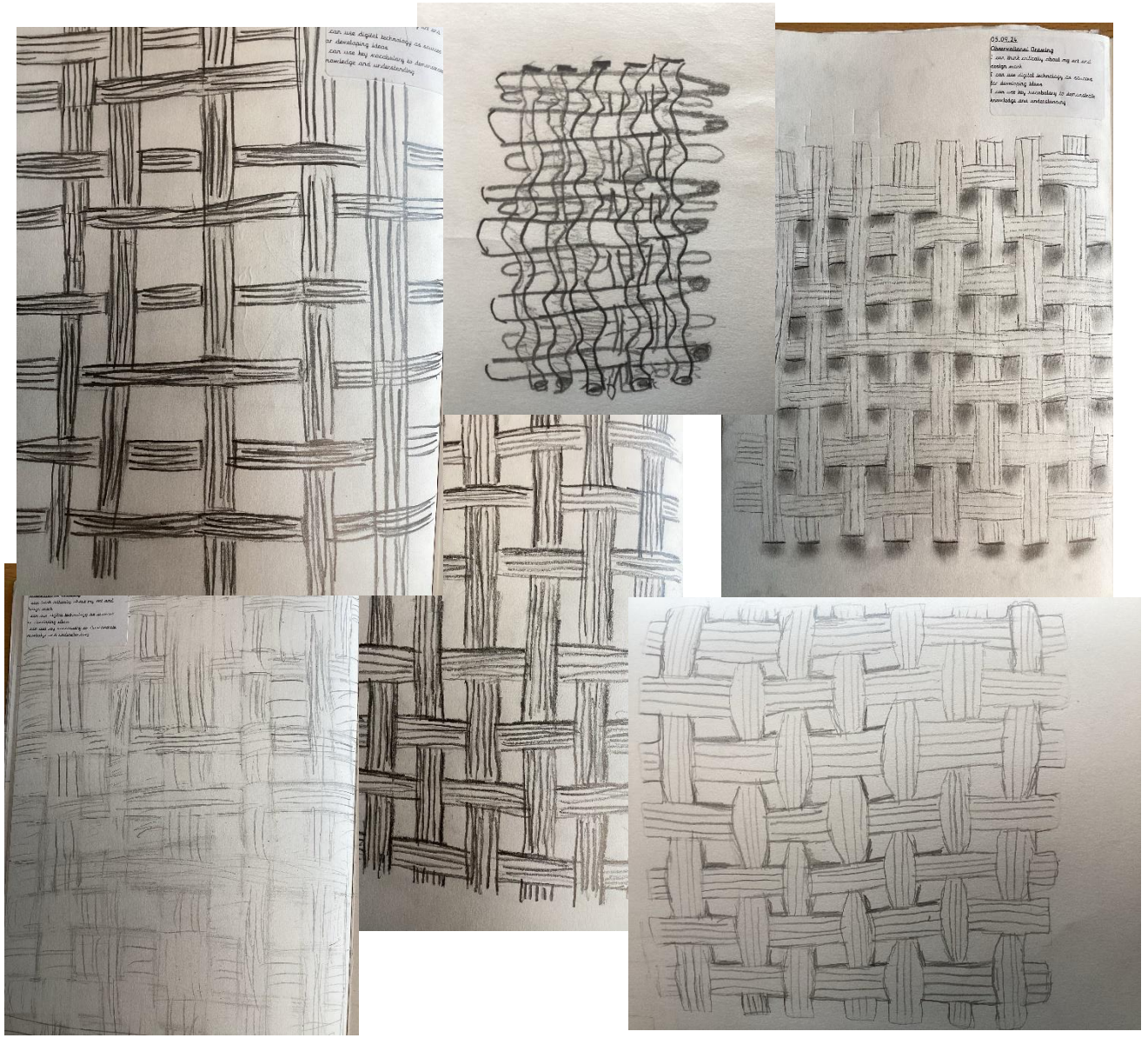
What a fantastic first week it has been with our brand new Year 6 classes – Ahmad and Pogson!

We have enjoyed taking part in a variety of activities this week about our school, including our vision and values. We discussed where our vision came from and spoke about how Jesus decided to wash his disciples' feet during the last supper and why it was significant. Furthermore, we spoke about what "To love one another. As I have loved you" means for us at school and how we can live out our vision.

We introduced our Art and Design topic this week and the children completed some observational drawing. The images they observed were linked to the skill and focus artist they will look at later on in the term.

In Maths, Year 6 have recapped their prior learning related to Place Value, which is our first topic. Year 6 impressed us with their understanding of the unit, as well as their speedy recall of times tables! In English, we introduced our first text – Macbeth – as the children made predictions based on details stated and implied. During Story Time this half term, Year 6 will be enjoying some of William Shakespeare's classics.

We hope you can make it to our Year Group Information Meeting on Tuesday 10th September at 3:30pm to find out more information about Year 6. The session will be repeated at 4pm for those who need to attend more than one meeting. Please come to the Year 6 classrooms for this meeting.



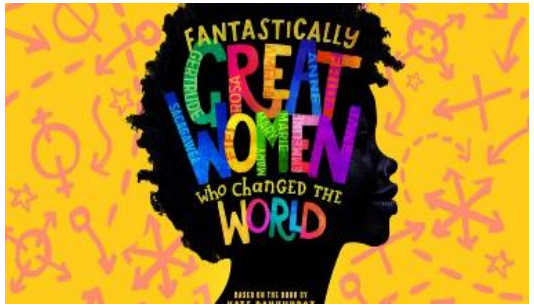
Collective Worship

During collective worship this week, we have been celebrating the children's return to school and the exciting challenges which lie ahead for the new year.

This year, we have introduced a new Collective Worship experience on Tuesdays called Spiritual Story Time. Mrs Roberts reads stories from across the globe to develop children's understanding of different cultures, belief systems and positive impact in the world. This assembly aims to reflect the value in the diversity of our community.

Steve Gold led Wednesday's assembly linking the new beginning of the year to the story of Creation in the bible.

Children have enjoyed singing together during our worship through song assembly on Thursday. This week, we sang Fantastically Great from the musical Fantastically Great Women Who Changed the World.



Friday's Celebration Assembly provided an opportunity to celebrate individuals who have personified our school vision and values.

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

Whole School Attendance	
This week's attendance	96%
St Gabriel's Attendance 2023-24	95.5%
National Attendance 2023-24	94.5%

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?

Online Safety

Statistics show that 47% of children between the ages of 3 and 10 own a mobile device. Internetmatters.org has a useful guide for age-appropriate social media apps that can provide safe environments for your children to communicate and share experiences with each other.

PTFA

What's it like to live in Houlton?

We're back after three years! Tell us what you think about your home and neighbourhood and we'll make a £1.50 donation to a local charity!

Resident Review is a survey that gives you the opportunity to provide feedback about your life in Houlton.

Its purpose is to help you to influence what happens in your local area and for Urban&Civic to make improvements to Houlton and other similar developments. We carried out this survey three years ago at Houlton, and we're returning to see how things have changed in the time since.

The survey has been created by the Quality of Life Foundation, an independent charity and research organisation that engages communities, delivers services and influences policy so together we can create healthy homes and sustainable neighbourhoods that improve people's quality of life.

A link to the survey can be found here: https://residentreviewhoulton.commonplace.is/
After completing the survey, you'll be able to choose from the below list which charity you would like your donation to go:
1. OurJay Foundation: https://www.ourjay.org.uk/
2. Our local Air Ambulance Service: https://theairambulanceservice.org.uk/your-local-air-ambulance/
3. Back and Forth (Men's Mental Health): https://www.backandforthmmh.co.uk/

The survey closes at the end of September and results will be shared with you and Urban & Civic - but any comments will remain anonymous.

We'll be organising pop-ups in your local area so you can come and chat to us in person. Please look out for further news and dates via the survey platform and local news.

We hope to hear from you!

Family Support

Click on the picture to view a special edition of the Family Information Service newsletter, focussing on money.

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