Weekly Learning Update

6th December 2024

Nursery

This week, we have been practising our letter formation using the animals from the story of 'From Head to Toe'. For each letter, we have encouraged the children to name, trace it and then independently write it. They have all showed amazing growth with their learning throughout the week and we are all so proud of them. As part of our topic of 'Marvellous Me', we have been looking at people who help us and sharing the importance of understanding who we have around to help us, including our parents and teachers. We have also been learning the numbers for our birthdays and our house numbers whilst trying to write them. Well done Nursery!

Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

What a wonderful week it has been within Reception again!

We have been working very hard practising our Nativity; we cannot wait for you to see it on Tuesday 17th December at 10:00.

English:

We have been exploring non-fiction texts within our learning this week. After researching different facts about a range of bears, we decided to put together our own non-fiction books. This week, we have explored contents pages, the blurb and the importance of a front cover to ensure the reader knows what to expect within their book of choice. The children have created their own non-fiction books about bears, which they cannot wait to share with you!

Phonics:

As we complete our Phase 2 phoneme recap and initial phonemes within Phase 3, we have started assessing children on their blending. Any practice at home with blending and phoneme recognition is much appreciated. We can already see the confidence growing within the children's reading!

Maths:

We have been exploring the pattern within number of one more and one less. The children have enjoyed jumping up the number line for one more and jumping down the number line for one less. It certainly has been an active and engaging week of learning!

During our learning time, we have had some fantastic learning opportunities: there has been lots of lovely writing linked to the cheeky elves and we had our very own toy workshop in the classroom! The children really enjoyed selecting a toy, identifying which teacher it needed to be wrapped for and then wrapping and delivering it. Great work, Reception!

Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

It's been another brilliant week in Year 1!

The children have continued to show amazing growth in Phonics by reading and writing CCVCC words such as stamp, trunk, stand, crisp and crept. We have been encouraging them to remember to blend all of the phonemes they can hear in the word and they have done a super job!

In English, we have started our new text 'Mog's Christmas' by Judith Kerr. We have had lots of fun role playing as Mog, creating story maps and planning out what we are going to write in our letters to Mog to encourage her to come down from the roof.

In Maths, we have begun our unit on Place Value to 20. The children have been counting forwards and backwards to 20, writing numerals to 20 in words and representing numbers in different ways.

In Art, the children have started to create a sculpture of a butterfly using tin foil. We are excited to see how these progress over the next couple of weeks and we can't wait to show you.

In History, we have been learning more about schools in the Victorian times, drawing on what we experienced on our school trip to help us. We carried out a drill, did some rote learning and then looked at objects to decide if they were from the past or present.

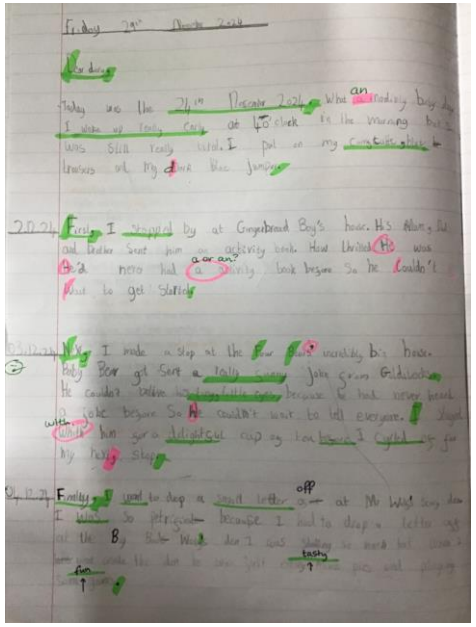
In RE, we have been looking at Hindu home shrines. We looked at lots of different examples to compare similarities and differences.

In Science, the children have explored what a herbivore, carnivore and omnivore is. They were able to identify and classify different animals based on what they found in some 'animal poo'!

We have also been pleased to see the huge effort that all of the children are putting into their homework and we wanted to say a huge thank you for all of your support with this.

Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

English – Diary entry – We've been all riding our post bike all around the fairy tale character village, fighting against incredible snow and wind, making sure that all the packages and letters arrive in time for Christmas to characters such as Little Red Riding Hood, Humpty Dumpty, The Four Bears and The Gingerbread Boy. The children displayed an excellent grasp of all the skills we have been working on during our English work this week!



Maths – Subtraction – Everybody in Year 2 has been putting the skills we have developed over the course of our addition and subtraction unit to good use this week! Our learning has seen us take on column subtraction with exchanging before moving on to solving missing number problems! We have also started our next unit which is all about money; the children have shown great knowledge and understanding of coins and their values this week.

Our PSHE learning was all about bullying both online and in person as well as how people can deal with those negative experiences. We discussed who to seek help from if people experienced bullying issues and developed our understanding of why these behaviours might happen.

We managed to finish our puppets in our Design and Technology learning this week and I'm sure you'll agree that the results are fantastic!

During our Science learning this week, we have learned all about how animals have developed adaptations based on their environment so that they are able to survive and sometimes even thrive!

Cinderella was in our school Friday morning to put on a pantomime show for all the year groups and we are very thankful for all the hard work and effort put in by the PTFA so that we could have such an amazing experience!

Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

We have had another brilliant week full of learning!

In English, we have been writing our opening to our own story. We have tried to incorporate a range of grammar that we have learned previously such as using inverted commas for speech, conjunctions and fronted adverbials.

In Maths, we have been adding and subtracting 2 digit and 3 digit numbers as well as learning our number bonds to 100. The children were also able to show addition as commutative and could write a range of number facts for different number families.

In Geography, we completed our fieldwork where we observed the population of different features of our environment depending on the time of day. We will then use these observations to represent our findings and discuss this next week.

In Science, we looked at muscles in the human body and how they work. We discovered that muscles work in pairs and that they only ever pull. We looked further into the biceps and triceps and looked at how these muscles contract and relax when the arm is bent or straight.

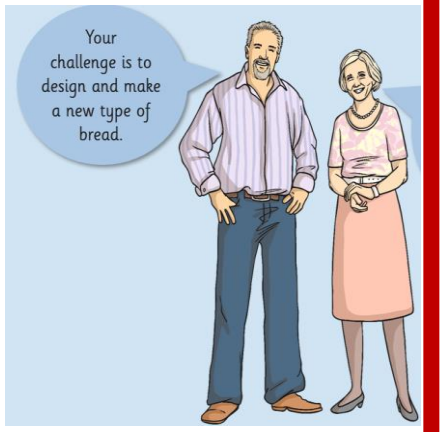
In RE, we looked at how nature and seasons are important in our own worldviews and represented this in different ways within our worldview lenses.

On Friday, we also enjoyed a trip to St John the Baptist Church in Hillmorton to enjoy a Christmas Experience. Here, we discovered more about the Christmas story and what it means to Christians.

Year 4 (Turing Class and Tagore Class)

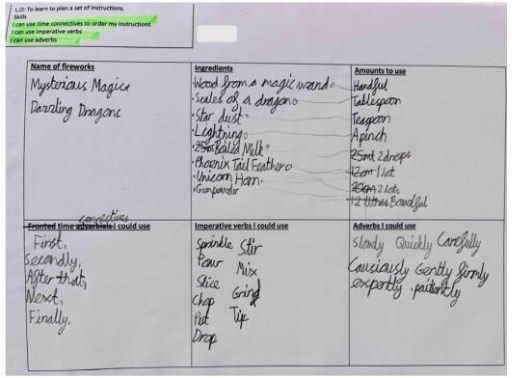
Year 4 have had another fantastic week of learning.

In English, we have been working towards writing a set of instructions for making a firework. Inspired by our text, The Firework Keeper's Daughter, we first thought of creative names for our fireworks such as 'Flaming Dragon's Breath' and 'Dazzling Dragons'. In keeping with the theme of the book, we then thought of imaginative ingredients that we could use, such as 'a sprinkle of volcanic ash and scales of a dragon'. We planned some of the language features that we would need to include to write a good set of instructions, including adverbs and imperative verbs. We look forward to putting all ideas together next week to write our full set of instructions.



In D&T, we finally had the opportunity to complete our bread project. We received a special challenge from two familiar faces. We were tasked with designing a bread roll, measuring the ingredients and then mixing, kneading and baking our rolls. Finally we had the opportunity to taste and evaluate our creations! We hope that you enjoyed the samples that we brought home.

In Geography, we have learned how rivers can change over time. We focussed on flooding; we explored the causes of flooding and the devastating impact that it can have on people and the environment. We reflected on recent events in communities close to ours, where floods caused damage to homes and left people without shelter. We remembered them in our thoughts and prayers in our collective worship.



Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Gandhi Class)

Another busy week in Year 5! This week, after the tremendous successes of Assessment Week, we have persevered with our Maths and English work.

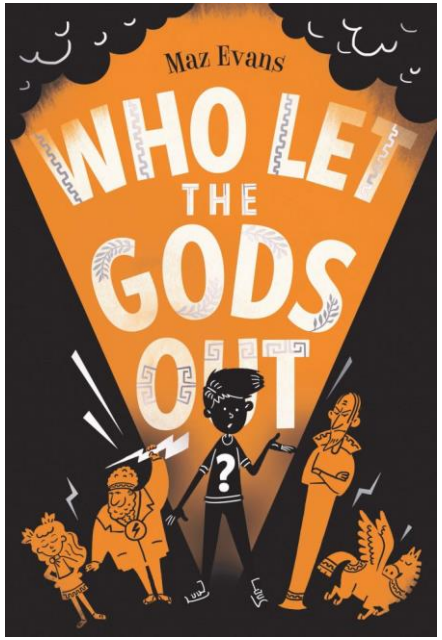
In Maths, we have focused on subtraction of fractions, including mixed numbers and improper fractions. We have used our knowledge around finding common denominators to successfully subtract a range of fractions where the denominators are different.

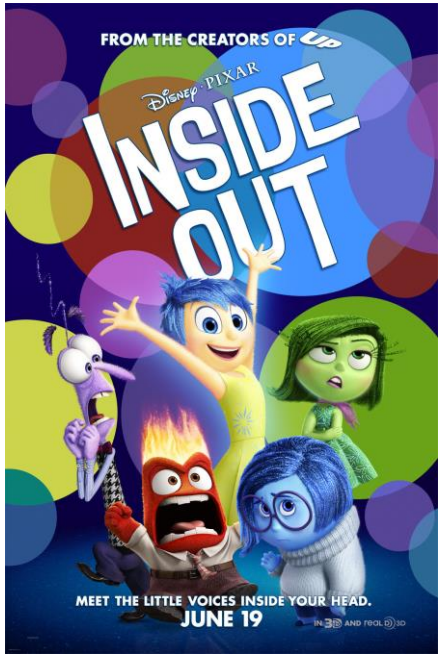
In English, we have started a new writing unit based on Who let the Gods Out?. This time our writing focus will be around discussion writing, as the Zodiac Council discuss: Should Virgo be allowed to keep her kardia? This week we have explored different features of discussion texts and we have used conjunctions and adverbials to connect and contrast ideas.

In History, we enjoyed delving into the world of Greek mythology and drawing on our prior knowledge of different Greek gods. We discovered the role of religion in Ancient Greek life and the importance of the Gods for the way their world works.

In PSHE, we have been using Inside Out to help us to explore emotions and how change can affect people and their emotions. We have discussed different strategies to manage big feelings and look forward to taking this further next week!

In RE, we had great fun debating a range of ethical and moral dilemmas. We used our own world view to approach these situations and then considered how people of different religious world views would respond to those situations.

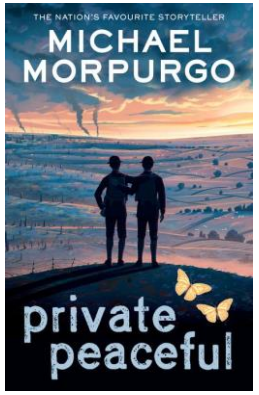




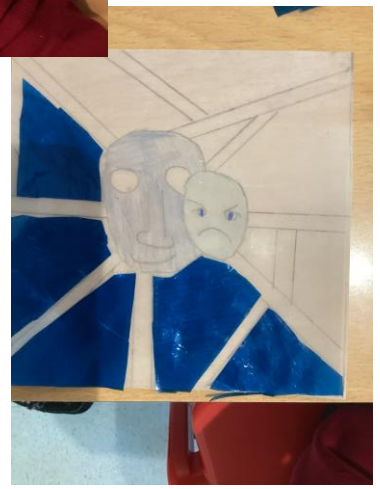
Year 6 (Pogson Class and Ahmad Class)

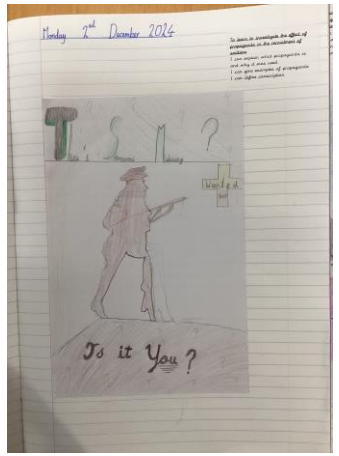
It has been another productive week in Year 6!

In English, we have been reading and exploring the key structure and features of WW1 letters to and from the trenches. We then learnt how to use emotive language to write our very own letters in role as one of the characters from our class text, Private Peaceful. The children had to think about their power as writers and how they could use carefully selected vocabulary to elicit a specific emotion in their reader.



In Maths, we have finally completed our unit on Fractions and shifted over into focusing on converting units of measurement. We took the time to explore ways in which to convert between different metric units of measurement for mass, capacity and length. We then learnt how to convert between metric and imperial units of measurement. This was later applied to a range of multi-step word problems!





In History, we have continued our learning about WW1 by exploring the impact and experiences linked with rationing and propaganda. After finding out more about the function of propaganda posters and newspapers to encourage men to join the army, we looked at some of their typical features, slogans, symbols and purpose of posters. The children then had the chance to create their very own propaganda posters.

In RE, we took the time to dive deeper into the beliefs and practices carried out by those with a Muslim worldview. We explored how Mecca is a significant place to Muslims through finding out more about the Hajj, Ka'bah and the rituals that take place on this significant pilgrimage. We then considered the spiritual meaning of this religious journey and how it is an opportunity for Muslims to not only think about the past but also consider their future.

Finally, in Art, the children have started making their final designs inspired by Roman Halter. We are so impressed with what they have created so far and cannot wait to see what their pieces look like when combined together to form a group sculpture.

Collective Worship

During collective worship this week, the children have been singing the classic carol Silent Night as well as the much-loved Jingle Bells! Later in the week, we learnt how to sing It was on a Starry Night.

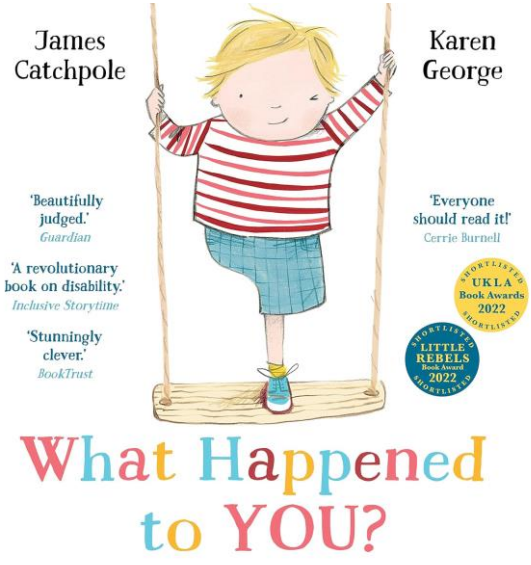
Collective worship at St Gabriel's always aims to be **inspirational** for all, **invitational** to all and **inclusive** of all.

Recommended Read

'**What Happened to You**?' by *James Catchpole*

Every time Joe goes out the questions are the same . . . what happened to his leg? But is this even a question Joe has to answer?

A ground-breaking, funny story that helps children understand what it might feel like to be seen as different.



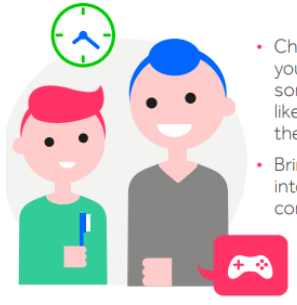
Online Safety

Here are some tips on how to create a great environment for children to talk about online safety:

1 TALK EARLY AND OFTEN

- Talk with children from an early age to make it easier to maintain good communication
- Have bitesize conversations that are relevant to them

2 CHOOSE THE RIGHT TIME



- Choose to talk when you are due to spend some time together, like over a meal or during their bedtime routine
- Bring digital experience into normal, everyday conversations

3 OPEN UP AND SHARE TOO

- Model the behaviour you want them to show by sharing about your day
- Be open and encouraging to make them feel supported

4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR YOUR CHILD

- Ask open-ended questions
- Ensure that your child feels listened to rather than cornered
- When they start talking, hold off with questions and really listen
- Be prepared, calm and patient with them

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.6%
This week's attendance	94.6%
Latest Local Authority ranking	17th out of 194 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?

PTFA NEWSLETTER

Friends of St Gabriel's C of E Academy

w/e 6th December 2024 | PTA@stgabrielscofeacademy.org

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone that got involved in our fundraising events last week.

On Thursday evening we had 24 people attend our wreath making event. There are now some beautiful wreaths on the doors of the attendees. The evening raised **£183!**

Friday after school we had our donut and hot chocolate cone sale where we raised **£210!**

Today is also the day where the children will be watching this years Pantomime at school...this event was fully funded by the PTFA again this year. We hope that all the children enjoyed this opportunity.

Santa Claus is coming to town

We are pleased to announce that the PTFA and Rugby Heritage Lions will be welcoming Santa Claus and Mrs Claus to the Barn in Houlton between the 13th and 15th December.

There are various hour long time slots available.

£10 per child
£5 for babies and preschoolers

To book search Friends of St Gabriels PFTA on Facebook or check the class WhatsApp groups and you will find the booking link.

50% of the profits will go to the PTFA

Asdas cash pot for Schools has now ended.

Thank you to everyone that picked us. We are pleased to announce that we have raised **£174.58** and we expect to receive the cash in the Spring term.

EVENTS

Full details and how to book to follow

- **Friday 13th - Sunday 15th December:** Santas Grotto at the Barn

PTFA

Today, the children loved watching Cinderella. Thank you so much to the PTFA for organising and funding this pantomime – the children absolutely loved it!

Family Support

Here are some top tips and advice from Warwickshire County Council and partners to help everyone stay safe this December.

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

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