Weekly Learning Update

7th March 2025

Nursery

We have celebrated a range of special days this week: St David's Day, Shrove Tuesday and World Book Day!

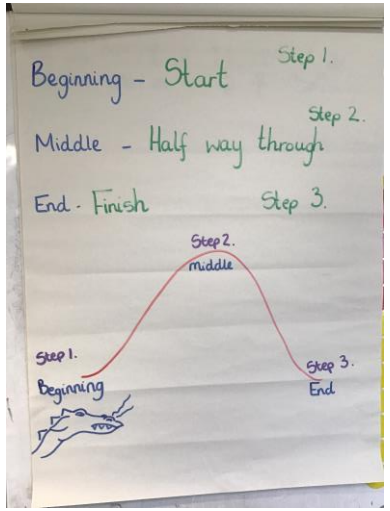
The children have taken part in a range of activities relating to the special events and showed amazing cutting skills and pencil control. The children also enjoyed retelling their own stories.

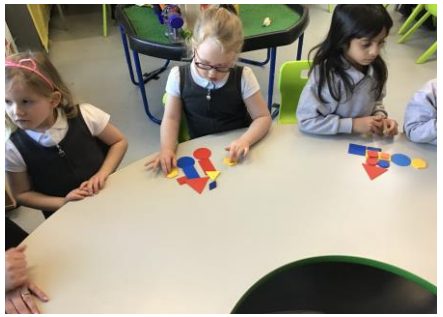
We have explored mosaic creations on the Maths table this week, discussing 2D shapes and creating some beautiful African mosaic patterns to represent our topic of 'Amazing Africa'.

The children have been working hard in Maths with their number recognition and using the animals from our key text 'Handa's Hen' to support this.

Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

We have had such a super and busy second week of our Spring 2 half term! We have spent time reflecting on Shrove Tuesday and the start of Lent and Christian worldviews. We have thought about the significance of the start of Ramadan and Islamic worldviews. We also really enjoyed celebrating World Book Day!





English:

We have focused on the concept of sequencing this week and understanding the importance of a plot within a story. We have thought about our key text 'George and the Dragon' and explored how it has a beginning, middle and end. We have introduced a story mountain. Children have identified the beginning of the text and how this introduces the characters. The middle of the story and the height of the mountain is where the problem is introduced and the end of the story, where we climb down the mountain, explores the solution. Children have enjoyed exploring sequencing and used their skills of exploration to look at a range of books during World Book Day and identify the beginning, middle and end.

Phonics:

We have continued to revisit Phase 3 and children have been challenged with utilising these graphemes when writing a range of words and sentences.

Maths:

Our focus has been subtraction by counting back. Children are holding the first number in their head and then counting back with the second number. Children have explored doing this by using number lines as well as circling the quantity to match the second number and then counting back.

As our school trip to Warwick Castle gets nearer, we have explored features of castles in different ways, including creating our own castles out of 2D shapes. We have also really enjoyed accessing our outdoor area.

Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

We are incredibly proud of the children this week for the growth they have shown in their reading. During our Phonics lessons, we have been consolidating all of the phonemes we know by reading a selection of real and alien words. The children have all remembered to use their sound buttons to sound out the words three times and then blend the words to read them. We have been so impressed!

In English, we have continued to read The Sea Saw by Tom Percival. The children were so excited to read to the end of the story to find out what happened! We then had a focus on the prefix 'un' and the children wrote sentences about what the sea did and how and the bear and Sofia might have felt.

In Maths, we have been focusing on how many tens and ones there are in numbers to 50. The children have partitioned numbers using Base 10, place value counters and part-whole models to support them.

In History, we have been learning about toys in the past. The children made their own cup and ball toy after exploring toys that would have been used in Victorian times.

In RE, we read the story of Noah's Ark and discussed how this story appears in the Bible, the Torah and the Qur'an. We thought of similarities and differences and created story maps to help us to retell the story. In our Class Worship time this week, we have also been discussing Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday as we move into the season of Lent.

We also celebrated World Book Day this week! We had lots of fun listening to stories, creating our own front covers, taking part in an illustration masterclass and sharing our favourite stories with each other. It was a great day!

Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

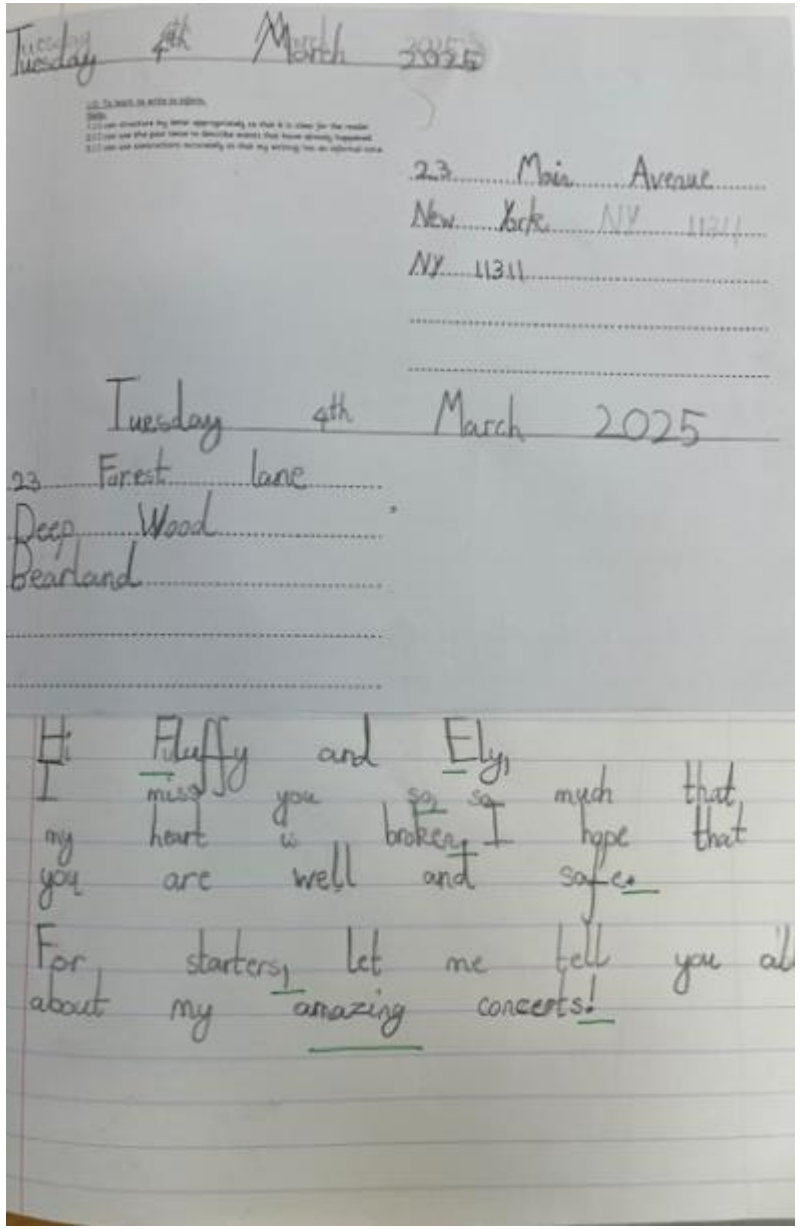
Phonics:
In Phonics this week we have learnt that:

-The grapheme or makes the phoneme er in words like work and word.

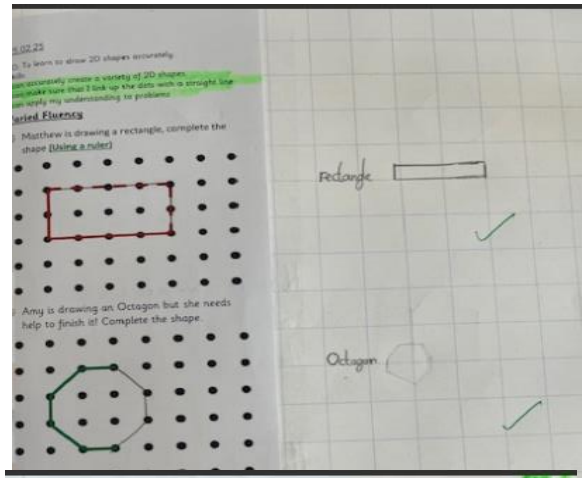
-The grapheme our makes the phoneme er or u in words like journey and colour.

-The grapheme s makes the phoneme zh in words like television and usual.

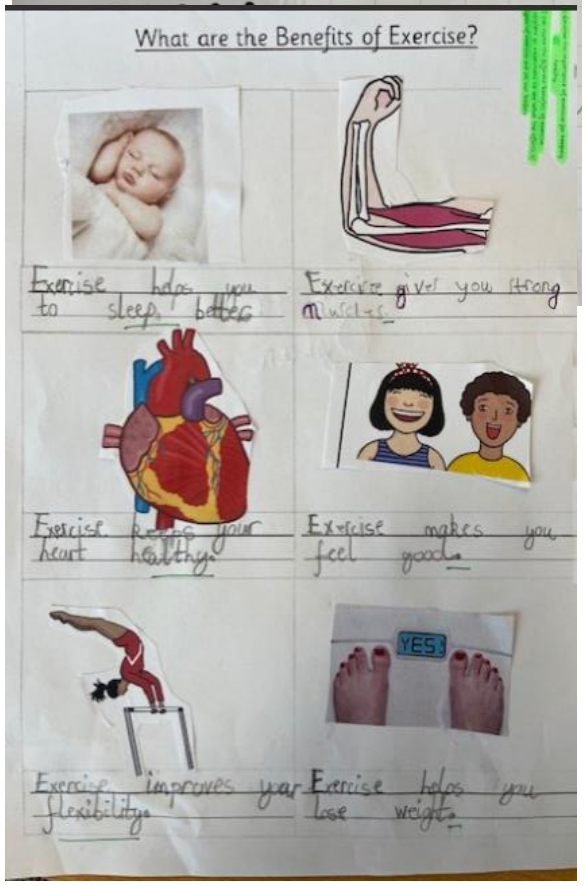
English:
In English, we have started writing a letter as if we are the bear from our 'Bear and the Piano' book, recounting his adventure in New York.



Maths:
In Maths, we have been drawing and sorting 2D shapes.



Science:
In Science, we have been learning about the importance of exercise and we created posters to explain the benefits.



World Book Day
The children had lots of fun creating their own bookmarks linking to the theme 'Read Your Way'.

Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

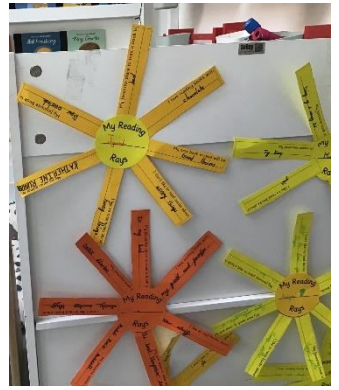
In English, we have explored why writers use adverbials and direct speech in their writing, especially in a narrative text type. We used pictures from the book 'Journey' as a stimulus to help us craft and write our own adverbials linking to the pictures. We also inferred from the pictures some character dialogue ready to write our own narratives next week.

In Maths, we have started our unit on 'Fractions'. This week, we have been understanding denominators and how these represent the number of parts a whole has been split into. We have also explored the definition of unit and non-unit fractions and have started to order and compare fractions.

In RE, we had a visit from the wonderful Mrs Pandey. Mrs Pandey spent time sharing with us worldviews within Sanatan Dharma regarding Ahimsa and how this principle is used to create peace in the world through the act of non-violence.

In PE, we have been practising and developing our skills linking to tennis. This week, we were focusing on hitting the ball back accurately using a racquet.

In History, we explored the War of the Roses and discovered why this was a significant event in British history and how it changed the monarchy at that time.



On Thursday, Year 3 enjoyed celebrating World Book Day. As the theme this year was 'Read Your Way', the children created their own personal reading rays which represents them as a reader. These have then been put up on display in our classroom reading areas.

Year 4 (Turing Class and Tagore Class)

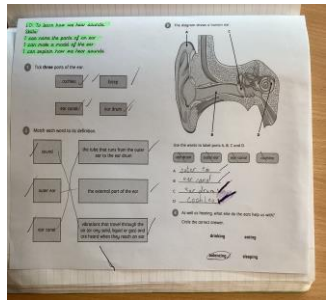
This week Year 4 have been buzzing with enthusiasm and curiosity, and every day has been a new adventure!

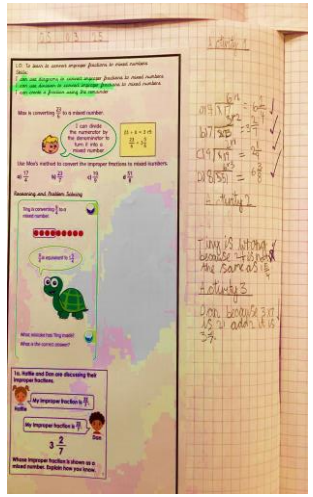
In Science, we dove into the fascinating world of sound. We not only named the various parts involved in the hearing process, like our eardrums and cochlea, but we also got our hands dirty making clay models. It was brilliant to see everyone's creativity come to life, and the buzz of excitement filled the classroom as we shaped our models. We really enjoyed articulating how sound travels and the importance of each part,.

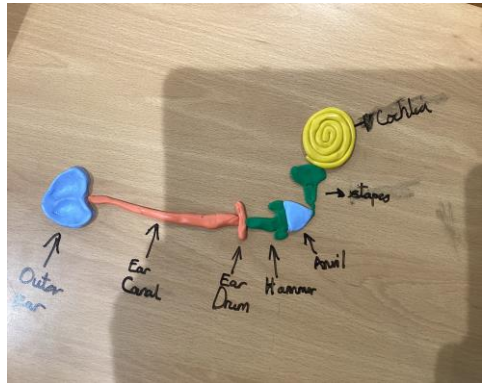
Maths has also been equally engaging, as we tackled fractions. We've been mastering the art of converting improper fractions into mixed numbers and vice versa. It's been a bit of a challenge, but we have really risen to it! Using visual representations, such as fraction bars, has made such a difference in helping everyone grasp the concepts then going further to apply our knowledge to tackle problem solving and reasoning questions.

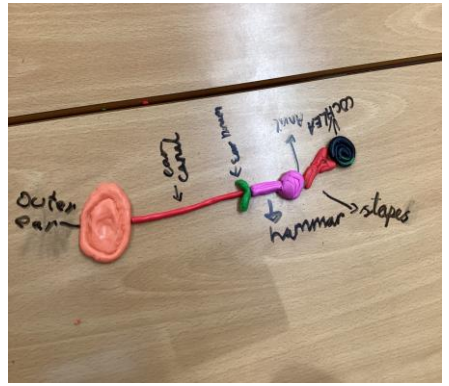
In RE, we delved into food choices and exploring whether they stem from spiritual or religious beliefs. We learned terms like kosher and halal, and it sparked some great discussions about what makes food permissible for different worldviews. We were eager to share some of own experiences and insights, and it was heartwarming to see the children engage so thoughtfully with such an important topic. This discussion was incredibly valuable as it further embedded our understanding of the richness and diversity of the world around us.

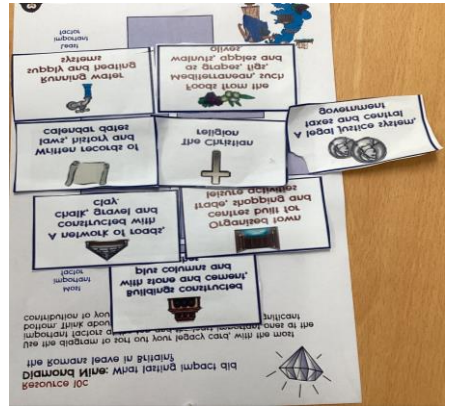
Finally, in History, our Roman unit has continued to unfold. This week, we've been discussing the lasting legacy of the Roman Empire and how this changed Britain. We had some fantastic debates in class, with everyone justifying their viewpoints and evaluating the various impacts – from architecture to governance. The enthusiasm was palpable as we brought together everything we've learned, and it really reinforced the idea that history isn't just about dates; it's about understanding how the past shapes our present.





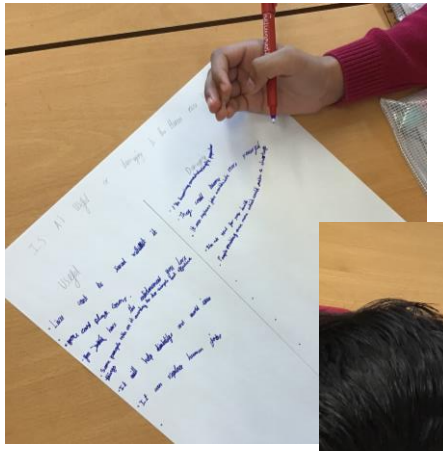


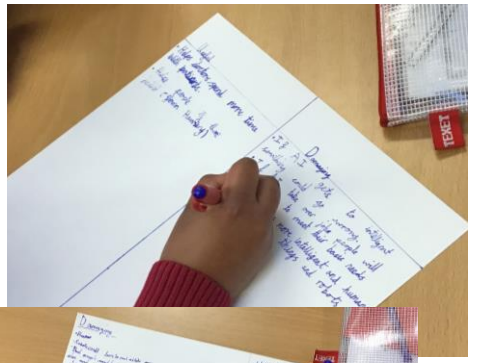


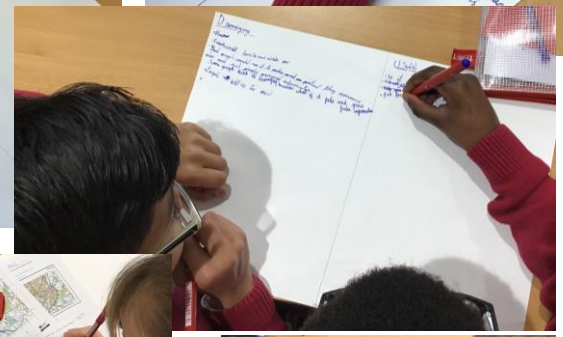


Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Gandhi Class)

In English, we have been debating the question, 'Is Artificial Intelligence useful or damaging to the human race?'. We have had some excellent discussions about this! We have learned that scientists are developing ways to create sustainable fuels using artificial leaves and plants, and that the creation of electric cars is also supporting our climate. On the other hand, AI can negatively impact people's physical and mental health because people can become addicted to it or become too dependent on it to complete day-to-day tasks.



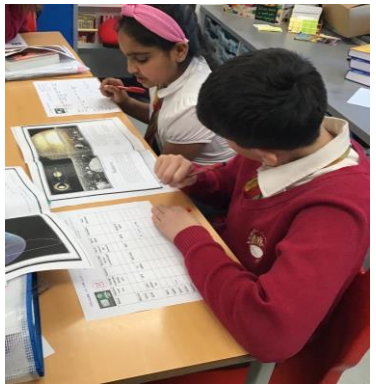




In Maths, we have been exploring equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages. We have represented this using bar models, fraction walls and hundred squares. Yesterday, we moved on to our new unit on perimeter and area, specifically focusing on the perimeter of rectangles.

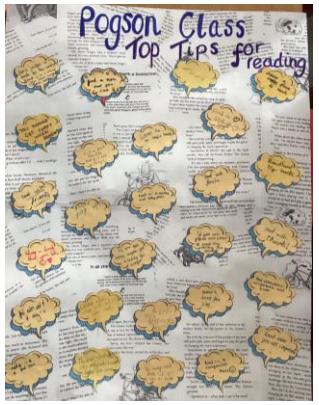
In Geography, we have been using 4-figure grid references on OS Maps to locate human and physical features in Coventry. We first used the 2 digits of the Eastings, followed by the 2 digits of the Northings to locate the bottom-left corner of the square we want.

In Science, we have started our brand new topic on Earth and Space and we have learnt the order of the planets. We used secondary sources to gather information about each planet then used this information to create a scaled model of the solar system in the classroom.



Year 6 (Pogson Class and Ahmad Class)

It's been a great week in Year 6. In English, we have been developing our skills of writing to entertain as we have been thinking more specifically about how to use dialogue to convey character. We also explored the use of both technical vocabulary and punctuation and how this can have an impact on the reader. We look forward to planning and writing our own discovery narratives over the following weeks!



In Maths, we have been finding out more about percentages and how to find percentages of amounts. We did this by finding links between percentages and fractions and, once confident with finding 10%, 20%, 25%, 50% and 1%, we were then able to identify different methods to find more complex percentages of amounts. You might like to ask your child about how they did this at home!

In Science, we explored the concept of adaptation and how living things respond to some of the typical pressures within different environments. We used a range of secondary sources of information to find out more about vegetation within the desert and rainforest and how it is specifically suited to the environment it is in.

In our further exploration around the concept of Jesus as king in RE, we spent this week discussing one of the famous parables used by Jesus to describe what the kingdom of God is like: The Parable of the Great Feast. The children did an excellent job recognising the key symbols within the story and finding the many different layers of meaning linked with these symbols.

In Art, we have been finding out more about the famous artist Henri Rousseau. We looked at some of his famous works and created information pages on them.

Finally, we have enjoyed taking part in World Book Day this week! We had a wonderful time talking about the importance of reading and sharing some of our favourite books with each other!

Collective Worship

On Wednesday, Rev. Steve Gold led collective worship teaching the children all about the importance of Lent. The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and is typically a time when people challenge themselves to give up something or commit to positive actions. This year, Lent coincides with the month of Ramadan where members of our Islamic community fast during day light hours. We would like to wish everyone taking up a challenge at this time of year the very best of luck.

This week, Gandhi class led Celebration collective worship and taught the school all about the importance of Fair Trade.

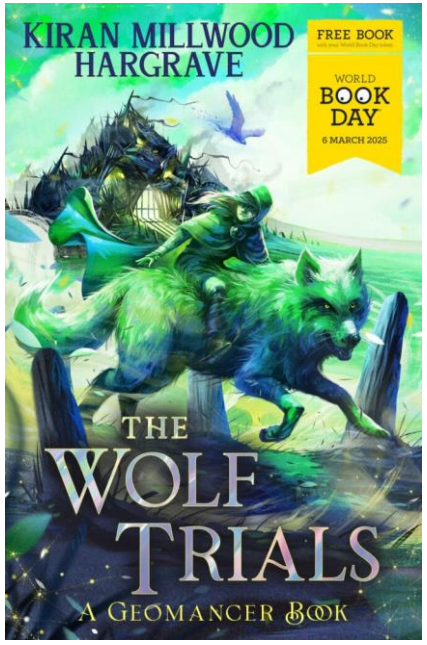
Collective worship at St Gabriel's always aims to be **inspirational** for all, **invitational** to all and **inclusive** of all.

Recommended Read

This week it is World Book Day and to celebrate it, our recommended read this week is from a book that has also been recommended by the organisation that runs the day.

It is called: 'The Wolf Trials' by Kiran Millwood Hargrave and is available as a £1 book under the World Book Day tokens!

Eira longs to see the world, but as the daughter of the fearsome Wolf Queen she's lived all her life concealed in the Castle of Broken Boats at the heart of her mother's kingdom. New subjects and prisoners arrive daily, and no one but traitors and Ryders leave. The Ryders, an elite group of sea wolf-riders who are the Wolf Queen's most trusted warriors, are selected at a young age after proving themselves in the wolf trials. With her mother away in battle, Eira decides to disguise herself and participate in this year's selection – but will she succeed? Will she be recognised? And most importantly of all … will she survive the wolf trials?



Online Safety

According to Ofcom, 90% of children are watching online videos and browsing the internet regularly.

Children may love to stream videos and look up information, it's a fun way to learn and relax after all but they must be guided. The e-space is filled with inappropriate content and dangerous material. It is important that parents and teachers are able to steer their pupils and youngsters, towards the right places when online.

Internet Matters has published a guide dedicated to supporting adults in setting digital boundaries for children, so that they can make smart choices and build healthy online habits. In the Internet Matters guide you'll find practical tips on managing content access, the use of safety controls, advice on setting boundaries and ways to educate children on how to stay secure online.

If interested please follow the link below:

https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/by-activity/watching-and-browsing-online-a-parents-guide/

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.2%
This week's attendance	96.3%
Latest Local Authority ranking	15th out of 188 schools
Latest National ranking	Top 10% of schools

NHS guidance- Is my child too ill for school?

To coincide with Lent, we are launching an attendance award from **March 5th to May 14th**. Our goal is to use this special period to celebrate fantastic attendance across the school.

Here's how it will work:

- **Weekly Draws:** Each week during Lent, one child from each Year group (R-6) who has attended school every day that week will be entered into a draw to win a **book** of their choice.
- **Grand Draw:** Children who achieve full attendance for the entire 40 school days (from March 5th to May 14th) will be entered into a special draw for another chance to win a free book.

Family Support

Click here to read a special edition on the Family Information Service newsletter.

The topic of this month's edition is **child safety and accident prevention**, with a focus on **poisoning**.

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