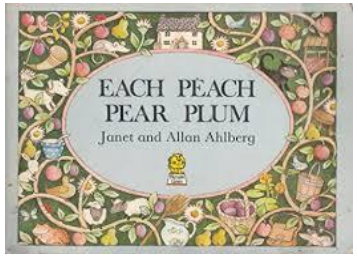
Weekly Learning Update

7th November 2025

Nursery

It has been wonderful being able to welcome the children back to Nursery after the half term. The children have come back eager and enthusiastic to access the new learning.



In English, we have introduced our new key text *Each Peach Pear Plum* by Janet and Allan Ahlberg. The children have enjoyed beginning to sequence the events of the story and familiarise themselves with the story.

In Maths, we are exploring touch counting and sequencing numbers. The children have enjoyed putting the correct number of objects to the corresponding numbers.

The children have enjoyed accessing the range of different learning opportunities this week. They have been able to mark make with paint dabbers to create their own large-scale fruits. In our creative area, we have been creating some large-scale festive artwork as well as individual wands. In our investigation area, we have been exploring floating and sinking and the children have been using different materials each day to create their own boats.

Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

We have had a super start to the term!

In Phonics, we have revisited the phonemes e, u, r and h.

We have focused on blending for reading and segmenting for spelling and we are super proud of the children's progress, especially in their writing.

In English, we started exploring our new book *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen. We have begun learning the different parts of the story using actions and have created our own story maps to help us remember the sequence. We have also been learning to write simple sentences using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops.

In Maths, we have started matching numerals to quantities. The children have had lots of fun using different mathematical resources to represent numbers and have become experts at touch-counting to check they have the correct amount.

In R.E, we focused on Aesop's Fables and how stories can teach others a special message. We thought about the message that we would like to share if we created our own stories. The children came up with lots of different ideas such as love, kindness and helping others.

Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

We've had a lovely start to the new half term and it's been so nice to see the children back, settled and ready to learn.

In Maths, we've been exploring number bonds to 10. The children have used counters in tens frames to represent different combinations and have compared number bonds using the equal to (=) and inequality (<, >) signs. We've also done some problem solving using concrete counting objects – it's been brilliant to see their reasoning skills developing!

Our new English unit is based on *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* by Beatrix Potter. We started by making predictions about what Peter might do next once he sneaks into Mr McGregor's garden. The children then created their own story maps to sequence the key events. We've also been learning about the features of a narrative and worked in groups to match examples – lots of great teamwork and discussion!

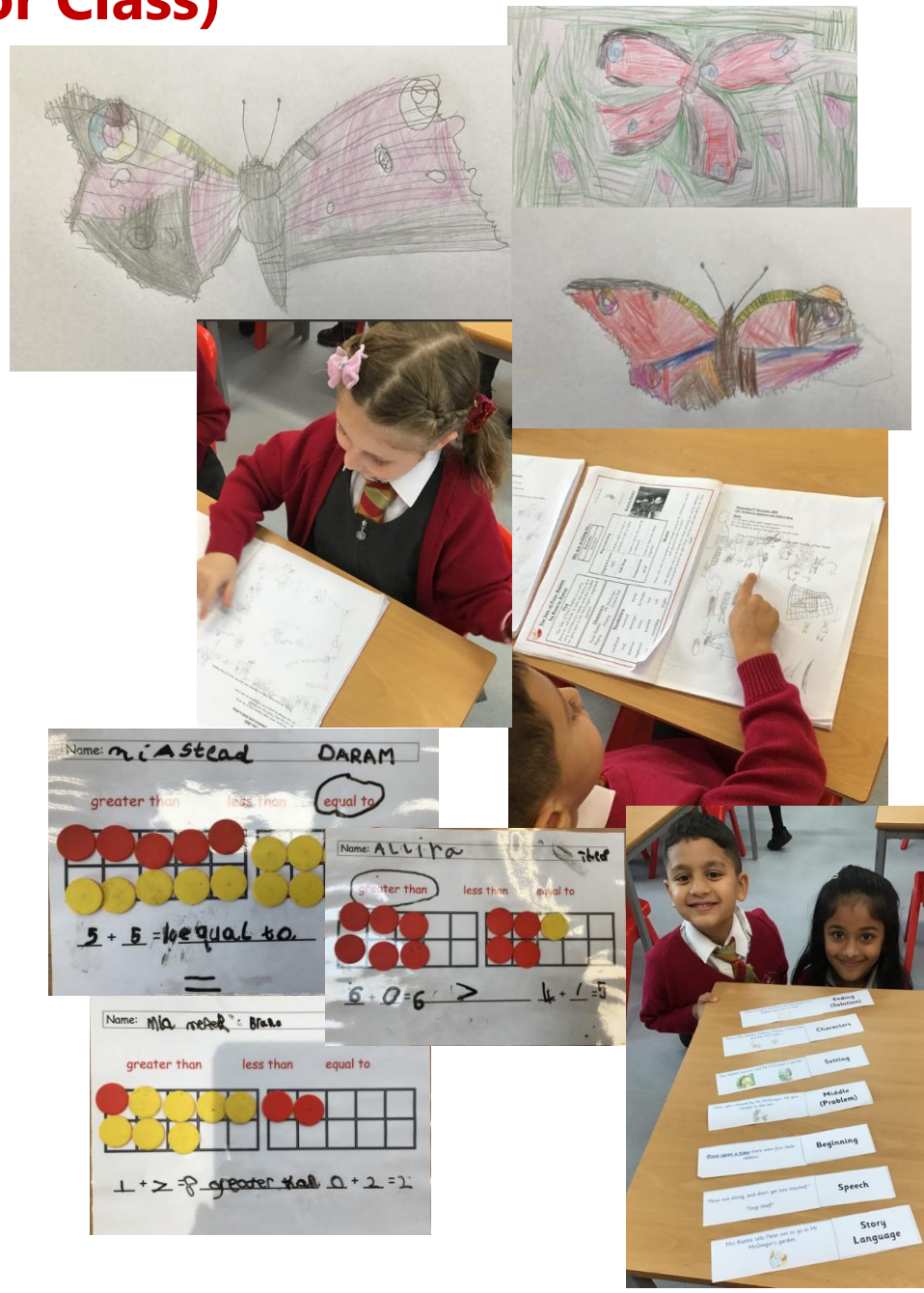
Nativity rehearsals are underway! We've started learning the songs for our upcoming performance of *Knock, Knock!* and the children are loving adding actions to the music. It's shaping up to be a fantastic show – they're very excited to perform it for you!

In Art, we've been looking closely at butterflies and exploring the patterns and symmetry in their wings. The children used their drawing skills to create their own butterflies, paying close attention to detail and taking real care with their work – they look beautiful!

We've introduced the terms *past* and *present* as we begin our learning about the Victorians in History. The children thought about their own lives and created timelines of key events so far. We're all looking forward to our trip to St John's Museum next Wednesday – it'll be a great opportunity to find out more about what life was like in Victorian times.

In RE, we've been thinking about rules and why they're important in helping us live well. The children reflected on values that matter to them and rated which ones feature most in their lives. Their ideas were thoughtful and insightful – a lovely way to start the term.

Thanks as always for your continued support. We're looking forward to a fun and busy few weeks ahead!



Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

Year 2 have had an exciting first week back after October half term.

In English, we have begun our new text – The Bear and the Piano by David Litchfield. After hearing the opening lines of the story and discovering that a bear had found something strange that made an awful 'plonk' sound, the children were challenged to uncover which instrument it was talking about – of course, it was the piano! We have since then explored the story in more detail and even held a debate about whether the bear should go to the city to perform or stay in the forest. We inferred the bear's feelings throughout the story and recalled the events.

In Maths, we are continuing our learning on addition and subtraction. This week's focus has been to subtract and crossing 10. It has been a bit tricky in places but the children have worked really hard to continue their great progress from before half term.

We were thrilled to begin our new learning in History. After receiving a cryptic message that hinted to a dangerous plot in 1605, we were asked to solve many riddles, anagrams and uncover secret messages to work out our new topic. The secret message read 'Remember, remember, the 5th of November', which told us we must be learning about the Gun Powder Plot!

Our Science topic this term is living things and their habitats. Our first lesson involved exploring our outdoor areas in search for things that are either living, dead or never been alive.

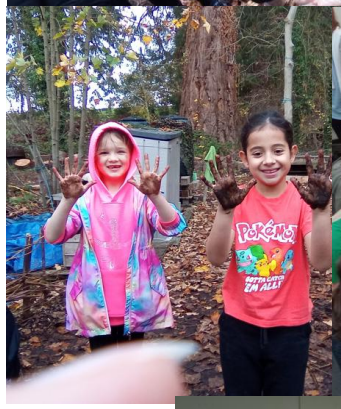
Finally, we began our new DT project on puppets! The children enjoyed exploring different puppets and the purpose of them. They created mood boards to show what they learnt!

Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

Year 3 have had a brilliant start to the half term. We had an amazing day at Compton Verney on Wednesday for our Stone Age Day! The children were a real credit to St. Gabriel's and staff at Compton Verney praised them for their respect, manners and kindness.

Throughout the day, the children took part in a variety of hands-on activities to enhance their learning about the Stone Age - from preparing a fire and building a settlement, to making bread, creating cave-style paintings and crafting clay necklaces and pots. They also had the opportunity to handle a range of artefacts, thinking carefully about what they were made from and how they might have been used.

It was such a wonderful experience that really brought their learning to life in such an engaging and memorable way.



Year 4 (Tagore Class and Turing Class)

Welcome back, Year 4!

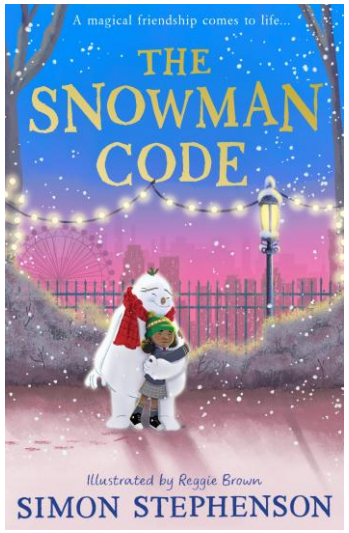
Our Autumn Term 2 started us off on a new learning journey and a new book for our English and Reading lessons. Our new book is called the Snowman Code and it is all about a magical snowman helping a young lady named Blessing. We have learned about the features of an instructional text, including imperative verbs and time adverbials. We even wrote down some of the rules from the code!

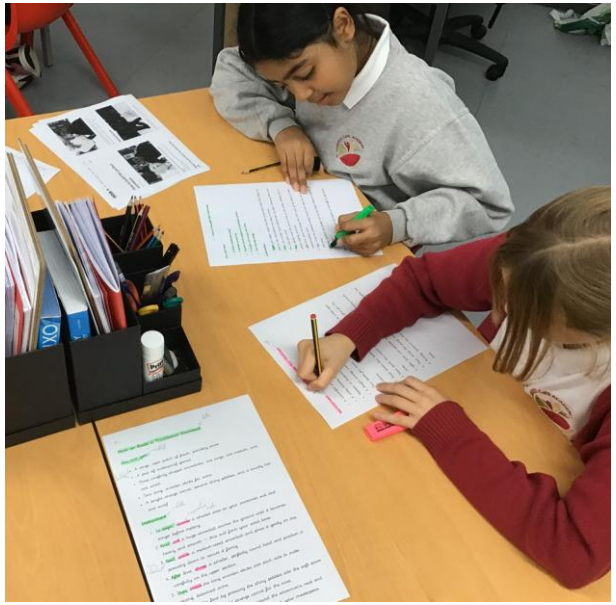
In Music, our learning was all about the Pink Panther theme and we learned about the effect of different instrument sounds.

In Maths, we started and finished the new unit all about Area and learned about how the space inside a 2D shape can be measured.

During our RE learning this week, we explored the meaning of God to those who have the organised worldview of Islam.

In Science, we learned about the different states of matter and how their particles are organised.

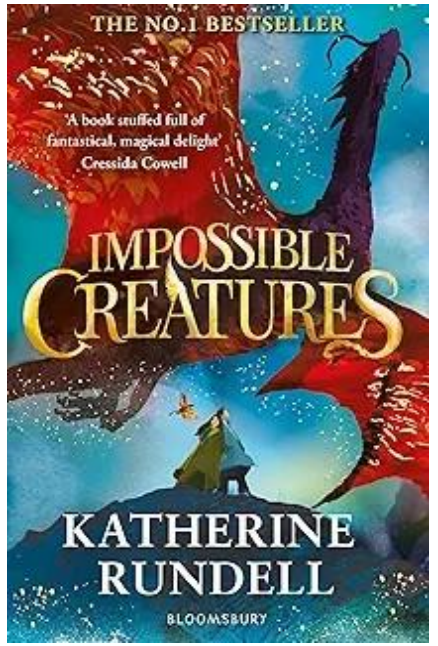


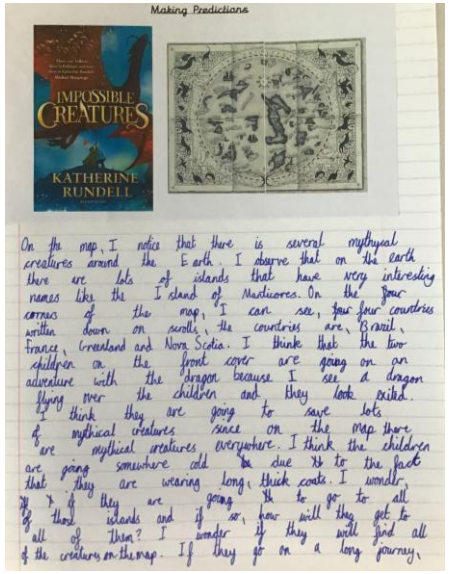


Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Raúf Class)

It has been lovely to welcome the children back this week. We hope you all had a restful half-term.

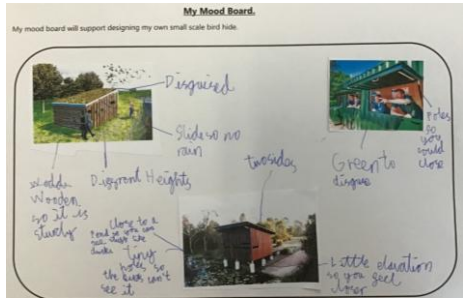
In English, we have started our new book, Impossible Creatures, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the front cover and selected sections to make predictions about the story. They've also practised inferring details about the characters. We've had great fun learning about the mythical creatures featured in the book and are looking forward to creating our own imaginative creatures in coming weeks.



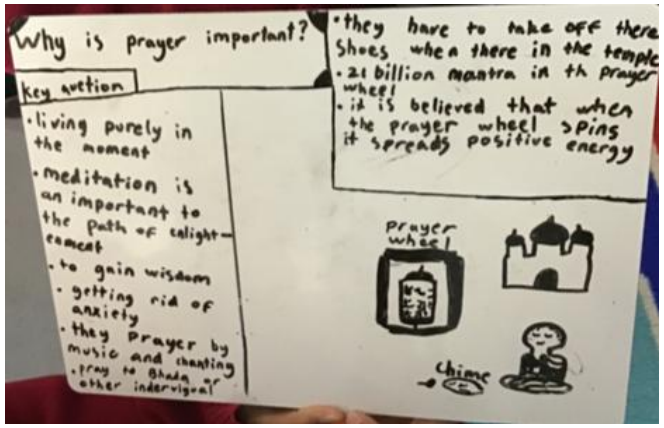


In Maths, we have now completed our unit on multiplication and division. The children have been practising how to multiply and divide by 10, 100, and 1000. We discovered how useful a place value chart can be to help visualise moving digits to the left or right.

In Geography, we have written persuasive adverts inviting tourists to visit Greece. The children included exciting activities and attractions to showcase what makes Greece a fantastic travel destination.



In DT, in preparation for building our own small-scale bird hides later this term, we explored a variety of existing designs. We discussed important features such as camouflage and used these insights to develop our own design criteria.

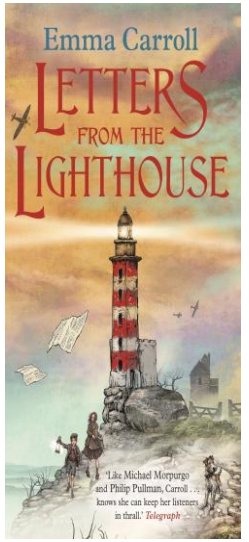


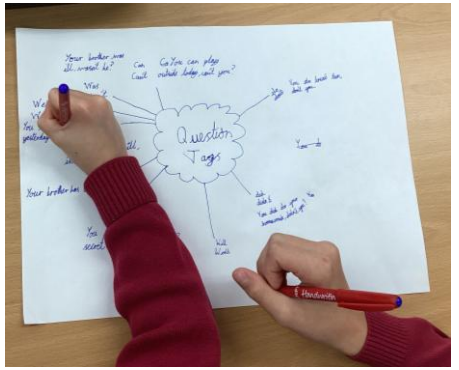
In Music, we learned about Spiritual and Gospel music and enjoyed listening to examples of these. We have begun learning about the composer Kirk Franklin and are looking forward to listening to more of his songs next week.

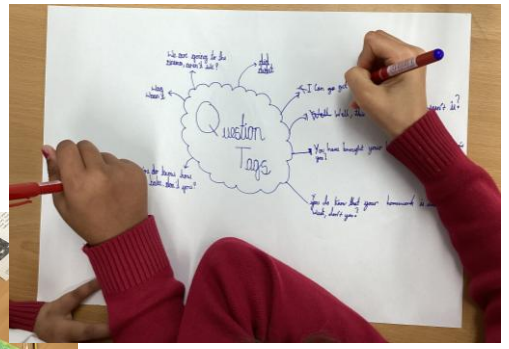
Year 6 (Pogson Class and Walker Class)

We hope you all had a restful half-term break. It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school this week!

In English, we have started our new book, *Letters from the Lighthouse* by Emma Carroll. We began the week by making inferences about how Olive and her brother, Cliff could be feeling after being evacuated from their home in London due to the dangers of war. We used role play to develop our empathy towards these characters. We have also explored how the author uses question tags and have started to apply these to our own writing.



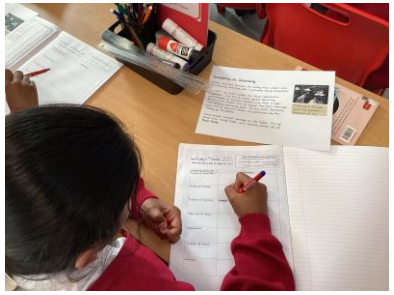


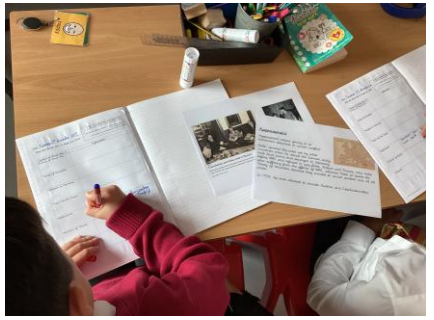


In Maths, we have consolidated our knowledge of simplifying fractions using our previous knowledge on common factors. We have progressed from this to represent equivalent fractions on a number line, comparing and ordering fractions based on their denominator and then on their numerator.

In History, we have started our new topic on World War II. As an introduction to our new unit, we have researched the different causes of the war by studying a range of primary and secondary sources. We challenged ourselves by ranking the causes most to least influential in the war breaking out.

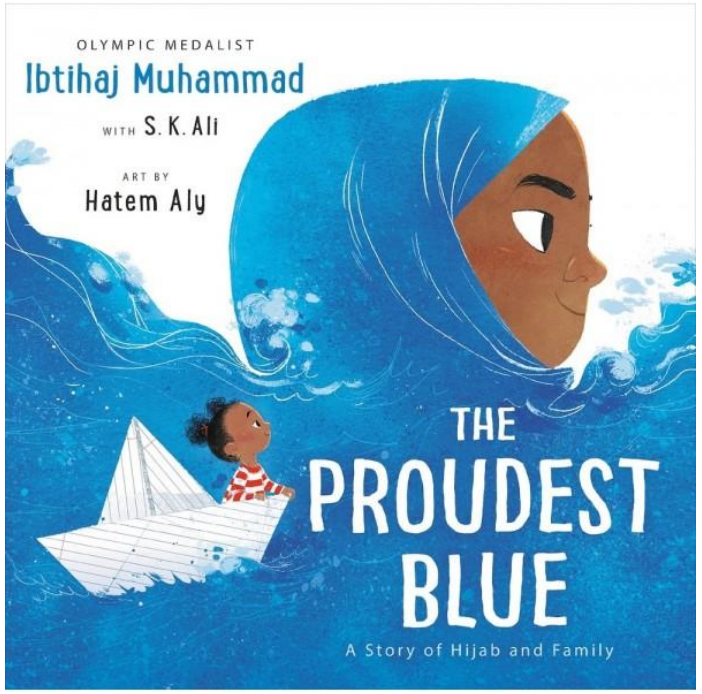
In Science, we have also started a new topic. This half-term our focus is on Light. This week, we have investigated how light travels in straight lines. We have been able to use simple scientific diagrams to represent how light travels from the light source to our eyes.





In Music, we have listened to *Shadows* by Lindsey Stirling. Her music is inspired by a range of genres, such as country music, electric dance music and rock. We compared *Shadows*, which is a fusion of all three genres, to pieces of music that are one of the other genres.

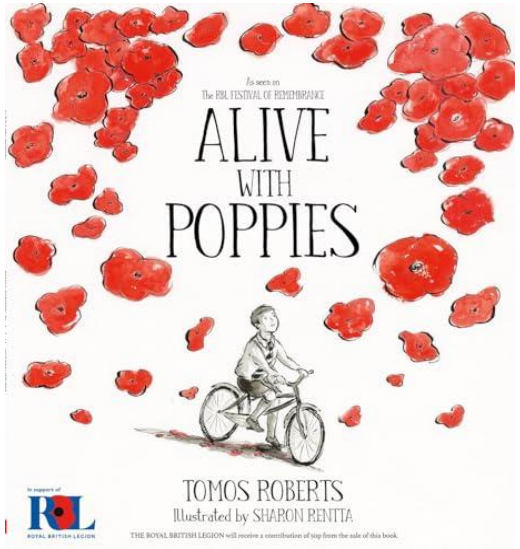
Collective Worship



In our *Worship Through Story* session, we shared *The Proudest Blue* by Ibtihaj Muhammad. Through the character of Faizah and her admiration for her sister Asiya's hijab, the book gently explores themes of self-respect, courage and standing strong in the face of unkindness.

Our discussion encouraged children to reflect on the importance of being proud of who they are and respecting others' differences. It was a meaningful opportunity to celebrate diversity and kindness within our school community.

During this week's Celebration Collective Worship, Walker Class led a reflective and moving session focused on Remembrance Day. The children read *Alive with Poppies* by Tomos Roberts—a powerful poem that helped us all consider the importance of remembering those who have served and sacrificed.



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

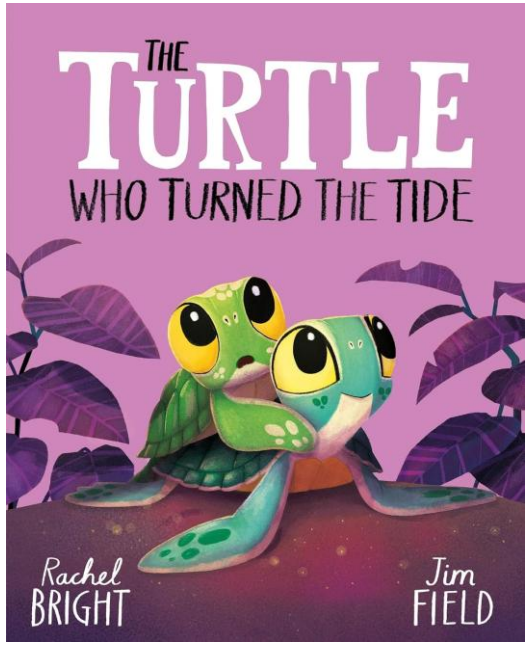
Recommended Read

The Turtle Who Turned the Tide by Rachel Bright and Jim Field

A whole ten years after The Lion Inside published, we now have a wonderful new addition to the world of Rachel Bright and Jim Field.

It's the night of the great hatching and Tula and Tiny the turtles both begin their race to the sea, cheered on by the other animals. Tula is about to win but when she realises Tiny is lost, she has a choice to make, and her decision will inspire others to care for each other.

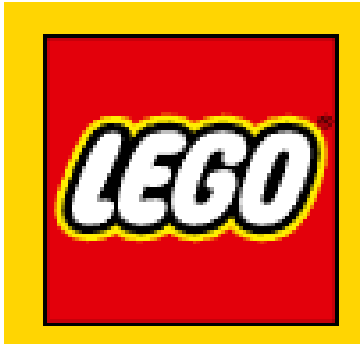
This is a lovely book with a poignant message and beautiful illustrations that will inspire conversations about doing what is right vs what is easy.



Online Safety

Lego have created games and tools to help families to navigate the online world in a safe and fun way. Why not explore their website or app to find out more. There is lots of information to support you from tips on screen time to staying safe on social media.

[Play safe online - Sustainability - LEGO.com]



Maths Problem of the Week

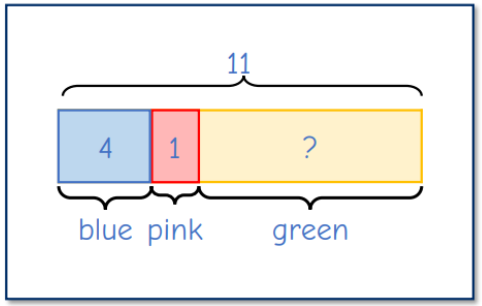
KS1

1 Mo has 11 sweets.

4 of the sweets are blue and 1 is pink.

The rest are green.

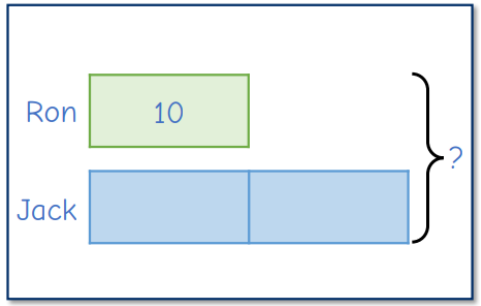
How many sweets are green?



2 Ron makes 10 snowballs.

Jack makes twice as many snowballs as Ron.

How many snowballs do Ron and Jack make altogether?



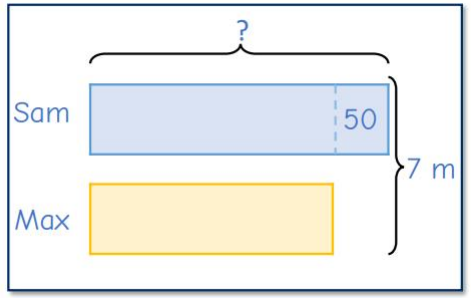
KS2

3 Max and Sam are making paper chains.

Sam's chain is 50 cm longer than Max's chain.

The total length of the paper chains is 7 metres.

How long is Sam's chain?

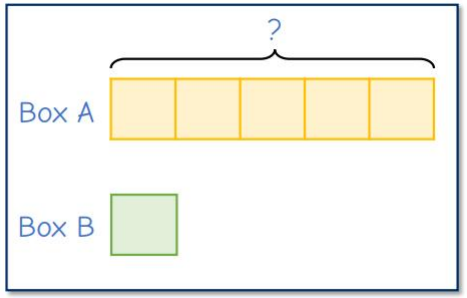


4 There are 5 times as many baubles in box A as box B.

28 baubles are moved from box A to box B.

Both boxes now have the same number of baubles.

How many Baubles were in box A at the start?



Challenge

5 Mr Rose has three parcels to post.

Parcel A and B together have a mass of 12 kg.

Parcel A and C together have a mass of 16 kg.

Parcel B and C together have a mass of 14 kg.

What is the mass of each parcel?

Answers

1. There are 6 green sweets.
2. Ron and Jack have 30 snowballs.
3. Sam's chain is 375cm long.
4. Box A contained 70 baubles.
5. A = 7 kg B = 5 kg C = 9 kg

Community Events

We are accepting donations of pre-loved items, in good condition, to be sold on the day, including:

- Books (for all ages)
- Toys
- School uniform

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.

Please complete the form below to offer support during the event or in preparations leading up to it.

Christmas Fair Support – Fill in form

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

Autumn Term 2: Key Dates

Monday 10th November: Odd Socks Day – Anti-Bullying Week
To help raise awareness in a fun and inclusive way, we are inviting all children to come to school wearing odd socks. This simple gesture celebrates individuality and reminds us that it's okay to be different.

Thursday 13th November: Festival of Peace and Community
This is an opportunity in school for children to learn about each other's backgrounds and celebrate this.

Friday 14th November: Children in Need and Pogson Celebration Worship
Help us raise money for Zoe's Place as part of our fundraising efforts for Children in Need by coming to school in non-uniform. Payment is to be made through Arbor.

Thursday 20th November: Year 5 & 6 Reading Event
This will take the form of a mini escape room, where you and your child will work together, using problem-solving, reading skills and book knowledge to solve puzzles and crack codes. This will take place at 4:15pm and will finish by 5:30pm.

Friday 21st November: Malala Celebration Worship

Thursday 27th November: Wreath Making Workshop

Friday 28th November: Tagore Celebration Worship

Thursday 4th December: Christmas Fair

Friday 5th December: Braille Celebration Worship

Wednesday 10th December: Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner Day

Friday 12th December: Attenborough Celebration Worship

Tuesday 16th December: Nursery and Reception Nativity

Wednesday 17th December: KS1 Nativity

Supervision on the Playground

At the beginning and the end of the school day, please ensure that children are closely supervised by parents or carers on the playground.

We kindly ask that children do not play on the equipment before registration and after dismissal.

For everyone's safety, children should remain in close proximity to parents and carers at all times and must not leave the school gates without an adult nearby.

If your child is scooting or cycling to school, we strongly encourage them to wear a helmet. We also ask that children do not ride their scooters or bikes on the site.

Thank you for your support in keeping our school community safe.

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	95.4%
This week's attendance	96.1%
Latest Local Authority ranking	55th out of 196 schools
Latest National ranking	Top 20-30% 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

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.

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

✉office@stgabrielscofeacademy.org ☎01788 222405