Weekly Learning Update

8th May 2026

Nursery

It has been a fantastic week in Nursery and with the bank holiday, it has gone by very quickly!

In Maths, we have continued to explore the numeral recognition this week and developing confidence in correctly naming numbers out of order. The children have enjoyed using concrete resources to represent numbers up to 10.

During Continuous Provision, the children have enjoyed their exploration into lifecycles. In the roleplay area, the children have thought about the lifecycle of caterpillars: they have been able to become a caterpillar, create a crysallis and then transform into beautiful butterflies! The children have continued to explore colour as well with opportunities to mix colour within the creative area and to fill the correct coloured cups with matching coloured pom poms.

Some of our Nursery children have been taking part in a Balanceability course that is being delivered through Onside. The children that are taking pat in this course are developing confidence and coordination on balance bikes. They are really enjoying their time on the bikes and learning the skills to develop and move forward with a pedal bike.

Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

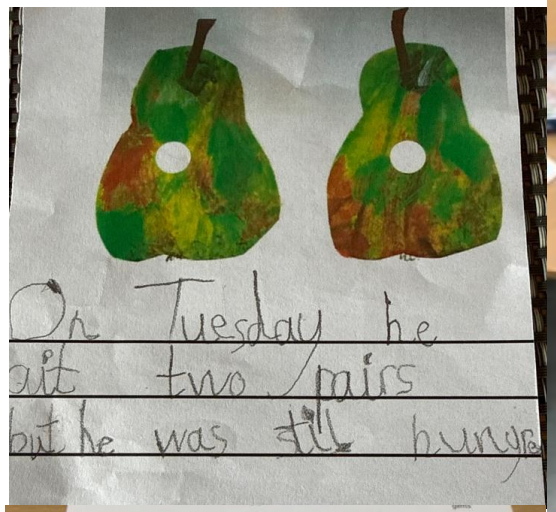
We've had another fantastic week in Reception!

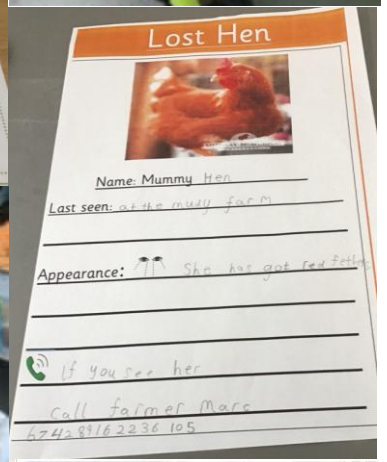
In English this week, we have been learning to write to entertain. The children have really enjoyed using Talk for Writing actions to learn our new story: 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and have started writing sentences from the story.

In Phonics, we have been focusing on blending phonemes, particularly at the beginning of words. The children have been practising reading and spelling words with consonant blends such as br, cl, cr, gr, gl, fl, sl, tw and pr. Some of the words we explored included bright, clap, crab, grab, glass, flat, sled, twin and pram.

In Maths, we have been learning about sharing equally using concrete and pictorial representations. The children had lots of fun spotting when Miss Bailey and Miss Ponter were sharing unfairly and were very keen to explain how to make the groups equal.

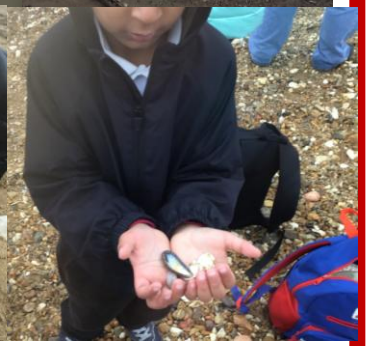
The children have thoroughly enjoyed creating their own Hungry Caterpillar necklaces, developing their creativity and fine motor skills through carefully threading and decorating butterflies using paint.





Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

Wow, what an exciting week in Year One!
On Wednesday, we visited Hunstanton Beach and had a brilliant day out! The weather was very "British" but we didn't let this dampen our spirits. The children loved observing the features of the seaside with the highlight being digging and exploring on the beach. We are so proud of them all! They behaved impeccably and really demonstrated all of our St Gabriel's values.
Well done Year One!



Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

We've had another busy and exciting week of learning in Year 2 and the children have continued to impress us with their focus, curiosity and growing confidence across the curriculum.

In Maths, we have continued our work on fractions, building on last week's learning. The children have been exploring unit and non-unit fractions, learning how to identify them and write them accurately when presented with different parts. We have been thinking carefully about how the numerator tells us the number of parts we have and how the denominator tells us the total number of equal parts in the whole. Using this knowledge, we moved on to learning about three quarters, finding three quarters of shapes and amounts. The children worked hard to remember that they must count all three parts together to find the correct total.

In RE, we have been learning about the Community of the Cross of Nails and its powerful message of peace, forgiveness and reconciliation after the devastation of the Blitz. We explored how this message echoes the forgiveness Jesus showed on the cross and how people with a Christian worldview try to live out these values in their everyday lives. The children engaged thoughtfully and showed great maturity in their discussions.

In History, we learned about the inspiring story of Mary Seacole and her determination to help soldiers during the Crimean War. We explored her courage, strength and resilience in the face of prejudice and racism. The children then stepped into her shoes and wrote in the first person, creating diary entries that described her experiences. They found it fun and exciting to write in a different style for History.

In Art, we have begun planning for our final Monet-inspired piece. Over the past few weeks, the children have explored different media including oil pastels, pencil and water colours. This week, we focused on how Monet created light, shadow and atmosphere in his work. The children experimented with paint and brushes to practise these effects, ready to create their final artwork next week.

Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

It's been another great week in Year 3!

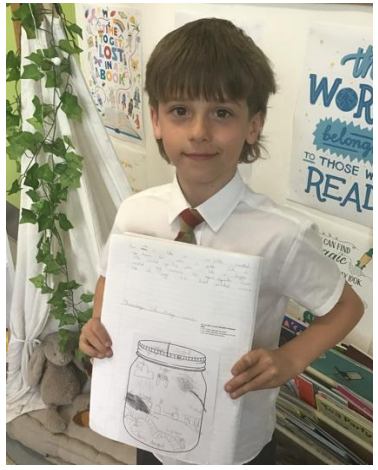
In English, we have started reading My Beautiful Voic*e* by Joseph Coelho. The story follows a young girl who struggles to share her voice and confidence, before discovering the power and beauty of speaking out. The children explored how the girl's voice changed throughout the story and created similes and metaphors to describe it at different moments. They then created visual representations of their own voices and wrote thoughtful descriptions to match.

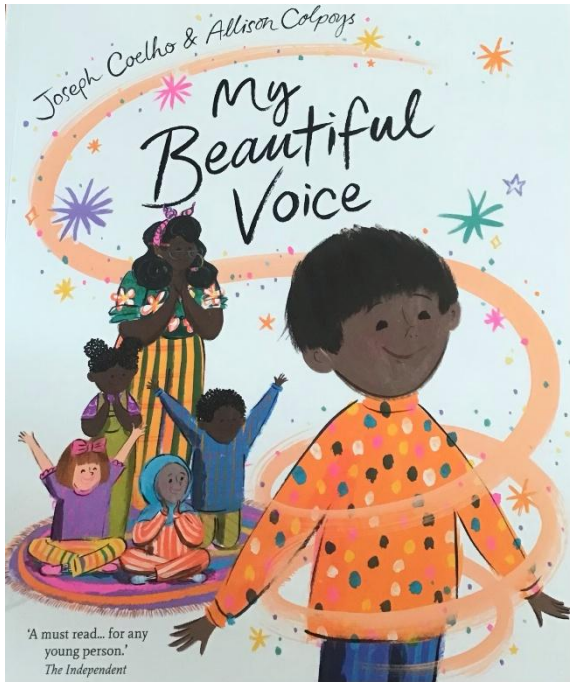
In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of length by adding and subtracting measurements and converting between millimetres, centimetres and metres. We have also been learning about perimeter and practising how to calculate the distance around different shapes.

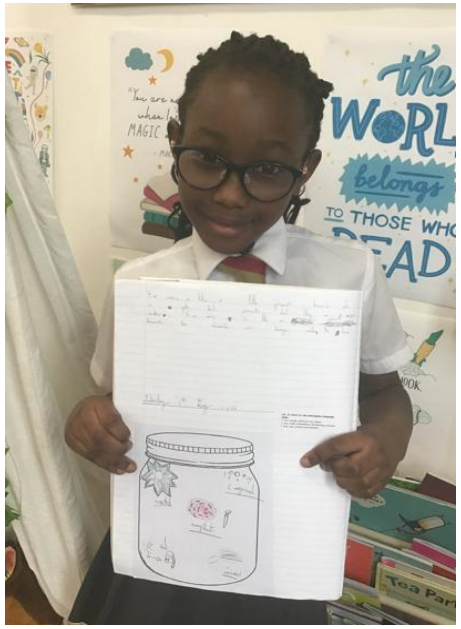
In Science, we have set up an investigation to explore how cress grows in different conditions. The children made predictions and are carefully observing and recording any changes over time.

In PSHE, we discussed healthy and unhealthy choices we can make in our everyday lives. We explored the importance of a balanced diet, regular exercise, getting enough sleep and making positive choices to help us stay healthy and happy.

In RE, we focused on the story of Noah's Ark. The children learned about the meaning of the word "covenant" and discussed why God's covenant with Noah was an important part of the story.







Year 4 (Tagore Class and Turing Class)

It has been another busy and exciting week in Year 4!

In English, we started exploring a brand new class text. We began by carefully examining an image from the story and used it to make thoughtful predictions about what the text might be about. The children enjoyed sharing their ideas and justifying their thinking. We have since read the opening of the story and been introduced to the main characters. Alongside this, we have been focusing on using inverted commas for direct speech. To make this fun and memorable, we used pasta to represent and correctly place inverted commas before applying this skill in our writing!

In our Reading lessons, we have been focusing on the author's use of figurative language to support our visualisation skills, helping us to create clear pictures in our minds as we read. We have also been developing our inference skills, using clues and evidence from the text to deepen our understanding.

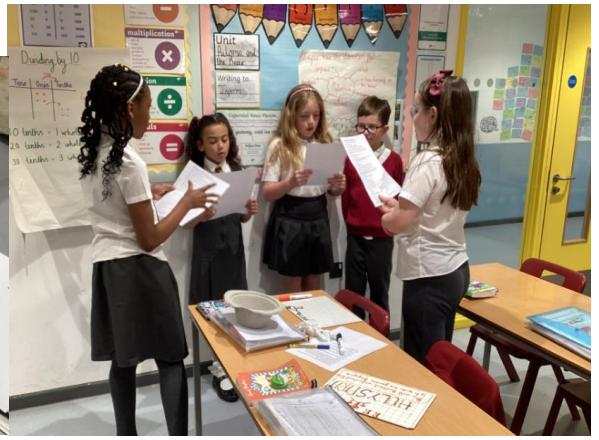
In Maths, we have continued our work on decimals. The children used counters to support them in flexibly partitioning decimals and have been learning how to confidently compare and order them.

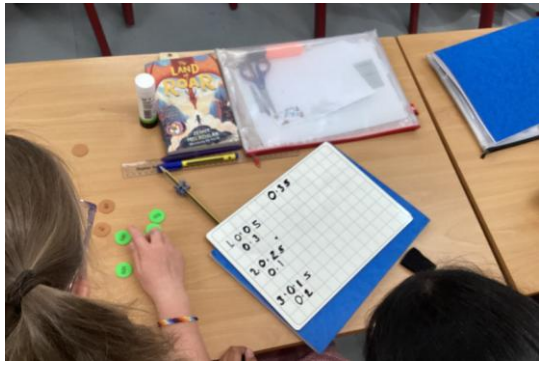
In RE, we have been learning about the day of Pentecost. We explored the key symbols linked to Pentecost and took part in role play activities to help us understand and retell the story with confidence.

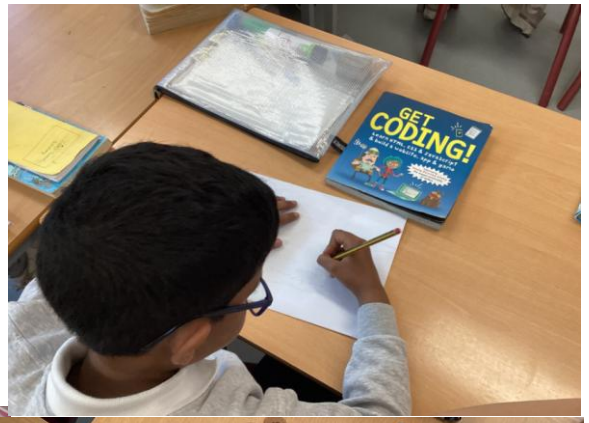
In Geography, we learnt about the tourism industry in Egypt. This sparked lots of great discussions and questions, and we considered both the positive and negative impacts tourism can have on the country.

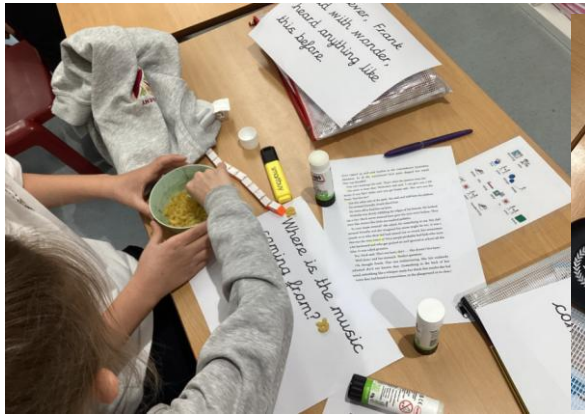
In Science, we have been learning about the dangers associated with electricity. The children then applied their understanding by creating informative texts to teach others how to stay safe.

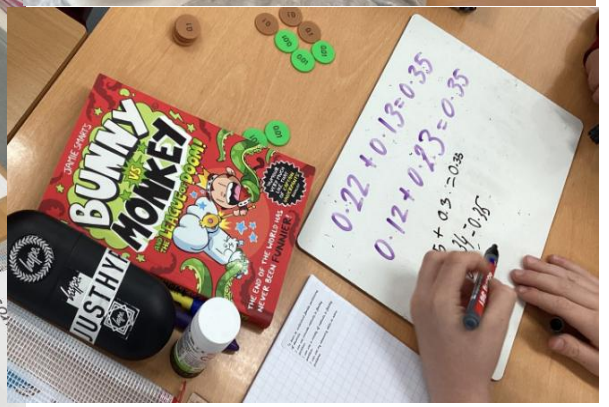
Well done to all of Year 4 for another fantastic week of learning!











Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Rauf Class)

It has been another busy week in Year 5, filled with lots of exciting learning opportunities.

In English, the children performed their persuasive speeches as Beowulf to their classes. First, we explored the importance of reading and speaking skills, including prosody, automaticity and accuracy and discussed how these can affect an audience. The children then performed their speeches and received feedback from their peers.

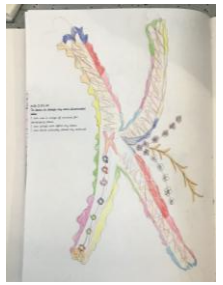
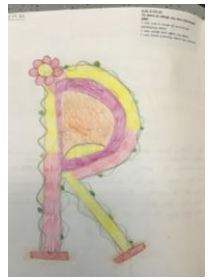
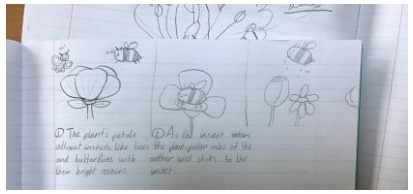
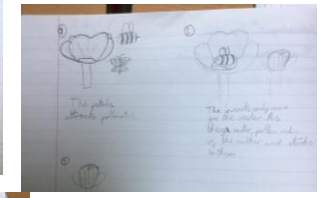
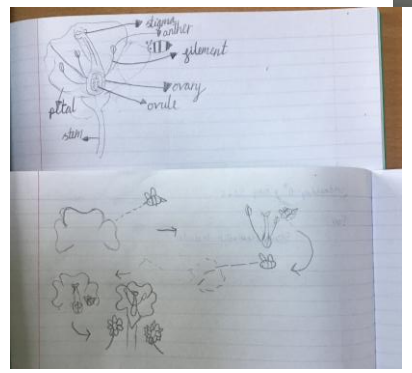
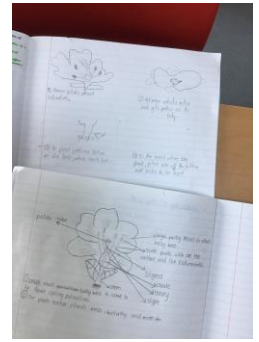
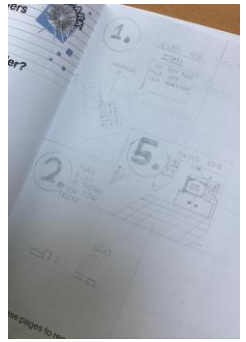
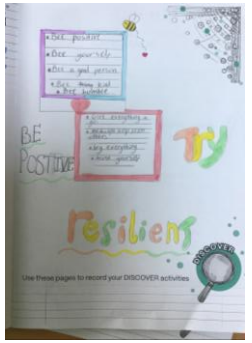
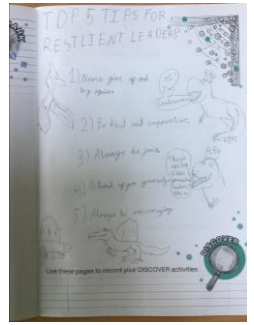
In Maths, we finished our learning on Statistics by exploring how to read and interpret information presented in two-way tables and timetables. We have now moved on to a new topic focusing on Position and Direction, where the children have begun learning how to read and plot points on a coordinates grid.

In Science, we continued our learning about plants by exploring how the different parts of a flowering plant play a vital role in reproduction. The children learned more about the process of pollination and how the male and female parts of a flower work together to produce seeds.

In Art, the children have been working hard to design their final pieces inspired by their research into illuminated letters. They based their designs on the first letter of their name and decorated them with symbols that represent them best. Over the next few weeks, we look forward to exploring printing techniques as the children begin creating their final pieces.

In RE, we continued our learning for the Archbishop's Young Leaders Award (AYLA) by focusing on inspirational leaders. This week's theme was resilience and why it is such an important quality for a leader. The children learned about inspirational figures such as Michael Jordan and explored how resilience contributed to his success. They then created posters sharing their top five tips for resilient leaders.

Finally, in PSHE, the children explored first aid and how it can be applied in different situations. We discussed recommended responses for burns and scalds, head injuries and bites and stings, considering how to respond safely and effectively in each scenario. We also emphasised the importance of knowing what to do in emergencies and how first aid can help prevent further injury and even save lives.

Year 6 (Pogson Class and Walker Class)

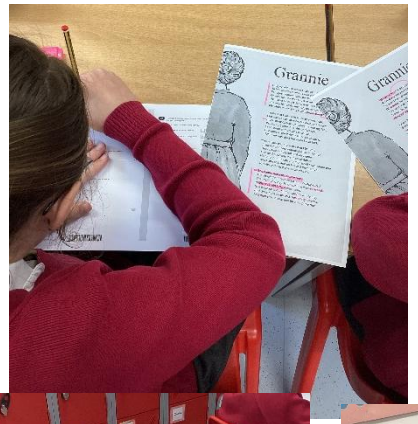
It has been another busy week in Year 6, as the children have worked hard to consolidate their learning across English and Maths.

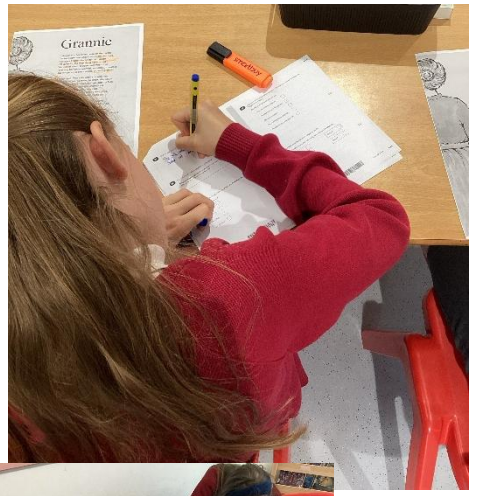
In English, the children have been looking at different aspects of spelling, punctuation and grammar. The week began by consolidating word classes and considering what the different types of words are. This was then used to write a range of different sentences types and label them accordingly, to decide whether they are commands, questions or even statements.

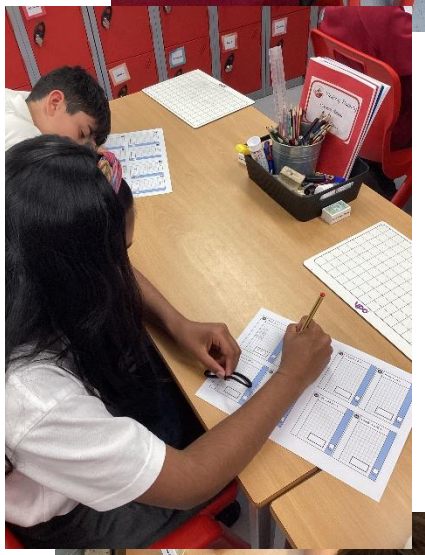
In Reading, the children have been focussing on a variety of texts, ranging from poetry, to fiction and non-fiction. They have worked through questions about each text, carefully highlighting important parts of each question and finding the relevant evidence in the text to help answer that question.

In Maths, a range of topics have been covered! The children have been solving a range of arithmetic and reasoning questions about the four operations, fractions, decimals, percentages and more! They have shown fantastic growth through trying their best and supporting each other as they go.

We are so proud of the children and their hard work leading up to SATs. As a reminder of how fantastic they are, they have been given a little gift to help them remember that they are 'turtley awesome'!







Collective Worship

This week in Worship through Story, the children explored the value of 'Growth' through the story The Dot by Peter H. Reynolds.

Together, we reflected on how growth often begins with a small step, just like Vashti's single dot. We also talked about resilience, which is the ability to keep trying, even when something feels challenging.

We encouraged everyone to think about the "dot" they might make this week: a small act of courage, effort or perseverance that helps them move forward.

This week, Attenborough Class led Celebration Collective Worship. As it was David Attenborough's 100th Birthday this week, Friday's worship was dedicated to his life and work. Well done, Attenborough Class!

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

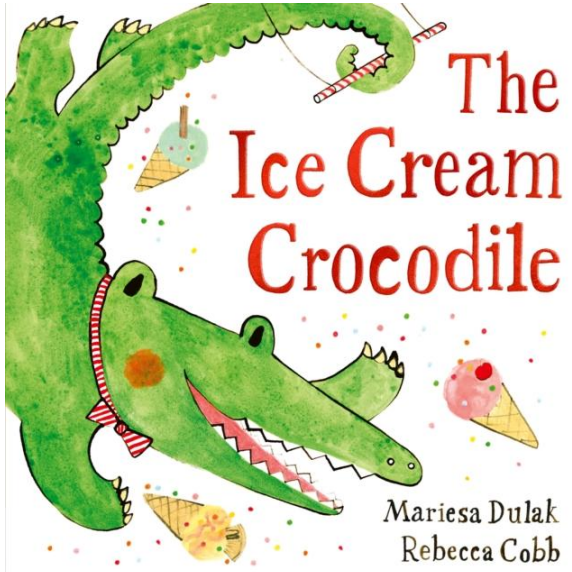
Recommended Read

Elvis the crocodile absolutely loves the circus. From the cheers, the treats and the magic of the ring. But there is one big problem: Sidney the ringmaster thinks only fluffy and feathery animals belong in the spotlight.

Determined not to be sidelined, Elvis sets out to prove that even a scaly crocodile has the star potential to wow the crowds!

This is a brand-new, heart-stealing picture book from the brilliant team behind There's a Tiger on the Train. It's a story full of charm and a wonderful message about inclusion and persistence.

A fantastic choice for any little reader who dreams big and knows that everyone deserves a chance to shine!

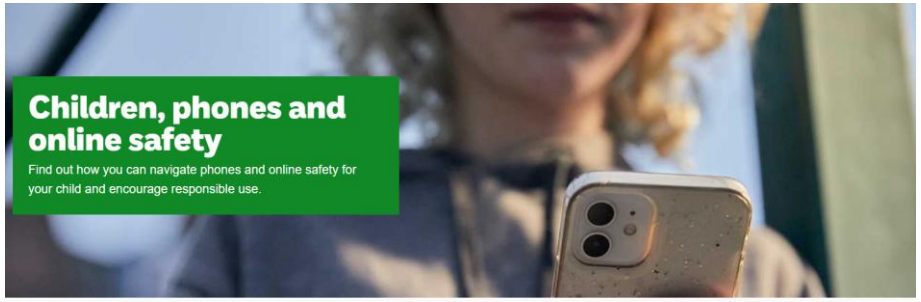


Online Safety

Recent Ofcom research shows that around a quarter of children aged 5–7 and over half of children aged 8–11 in the UK now own a mobile phone. By age 11, most children have a phone, highlighting the importance of early online safety education and parental guidance.

The NSPCC advises that primary-aged children need guidance and supervision when using phones and the internet. Parents are encouraged to talk regularly with their child about what they do online and to set clear, age-appropriate rules around screen time and app use. Children should be reminded not to share personal information online and to tell a trusted adult straight away if something they see makes them feel worried or upset.

For more helpful information and advice, visit: https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/children-phones-online-safety/



With more choice than ever and rising concerns about safety, phone ownership can raise important questions for families.

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.4%
This week's attendance	96.7%
Latest Local Authority ranking	29th out of 196 schools
Latest National ranking	Top 10-20% 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:

- Foster Care Fortnight
- World Immunisation Week 2026
- May half term events with Warwickshire Libraries

and much more!

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.

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