Weekly Learning Update

10th January 2025

Nursery

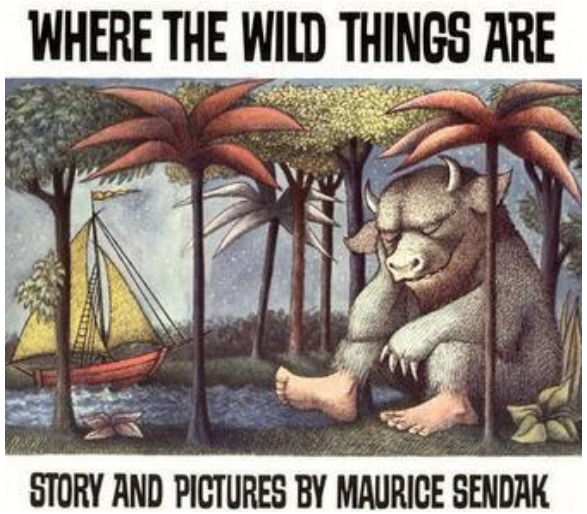
This week, we have welcomed some new children to our Nursery and all of the children have been so kind and gentle supporting their new friends to settle in. We have done a range of activities and games based around learning about each other. The children have settled straight back into routine and shared some exciting things they have done over the Christmas holidays!

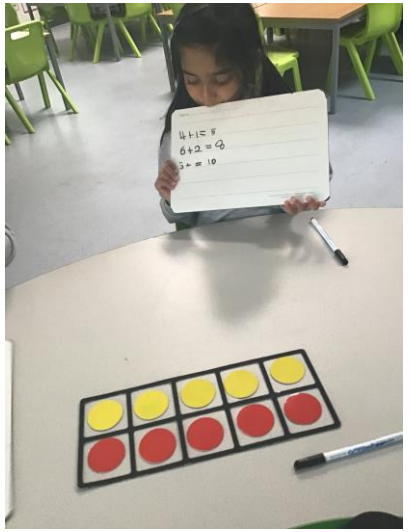
Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

It has been wonderful welcoming the children back to school after the Christmas holidays. Children have enjoyed sharing their experiences over the break and have enjoyed accessing the new learning areas within the classroom. The children have worked enthusiastically since they have returned and risen to the challenges of returning to the routine of school.

English:

We have enjoyed exploring our new key text: Where The Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak. Throughout the week, we have been developing whole class story maps and supporting children to develop their own story maps, which will be used as plans to support their sentence writing from next week.





Phonics:

We have continued to explore Phase 3 phonemes this week. We have been working through a range of digraphs and developing confidence with recognising these within words for reading fluency. There has been a real focus on reading phonics books as well, as children become more familiar with developing their understanding of reading multiple words to build to read a book.

Maths:

We are identifying, understanding and using vocabulary linked with addition. The children have been enjoying exploring how many items they have altogether within two groups. We have introduced the mathematical symbols of + and = to begin exploring number sentences as we deepen our understanding of adding.

Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

It has been so lovely to welcome the children back into school after the break. We had a very exciting start to our half term in Year 1! As we came into our classrooms on Tuesday morning, we discovered a fairy door! We spent lots of time thinking about why the door might be there and describing who we thought was behind it, then on Wednesday we discovered a little note had been left for us. Fern the Fairy has heard that we are learning about fairy tales and has come to our classrooms to help us with our learning. Each morning, she has delivered a new fairy tale for us to read so we have had lots of fun listening to the stories and learning more about the features of a fairy tale.

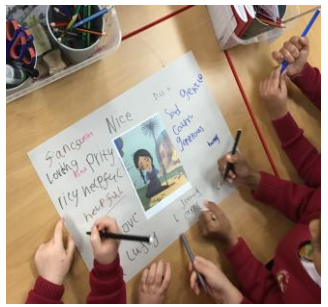
In Phonics, we have begun to focus on Phase 5 phonemes, beginning with 'ay', 'ie' and 'ou'. The children have been working hard to recognise the graphemes and recall the caption actions, as well as read and write words containing these phonemes. We have been so impressed!

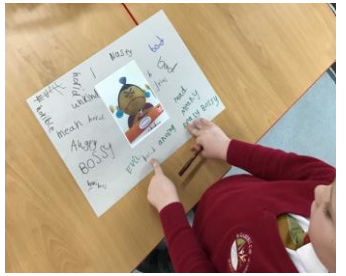
In Maths, we have continued to focus on Place Value to 20, representing numbers to 20 in lots of different ways.

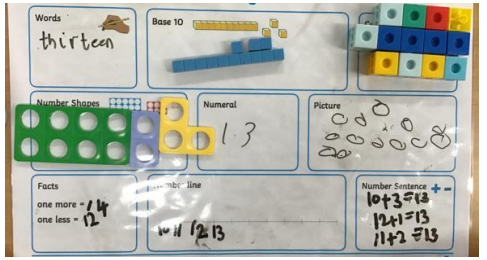
In Science, we have been learning to recognise and name everyday materials.

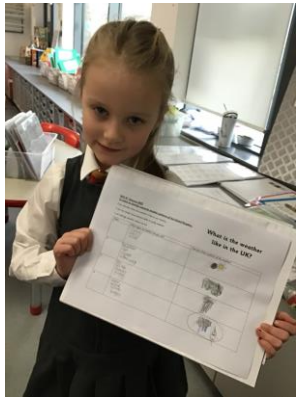
In Geography, we have started our unit on 'Our School and the Local Area' with a focus on the weather. We used our observational skills to name different types of weather and described them using key vocabulary.

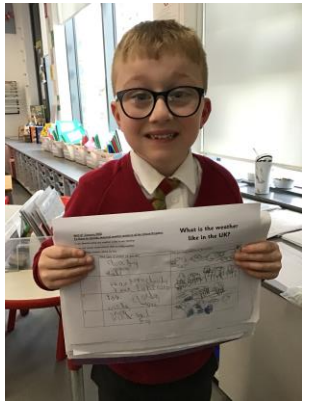
In RE, we have been learning what God is like for those with Muslim worldviews. We discussed the importance of Allah for Muslims and began to understand how his 99 names shape the way that Muslims understand Allah. The children had a go at creating a piece of artwork to represent one of his 99 names.











Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

Phonics:

In Phonics this week, we learnt that:

-The grapheme y can make the phoneme igh in words like reply, my and fly.

-The grapheme o can make the phoneme u in words like mother, son and nothing.

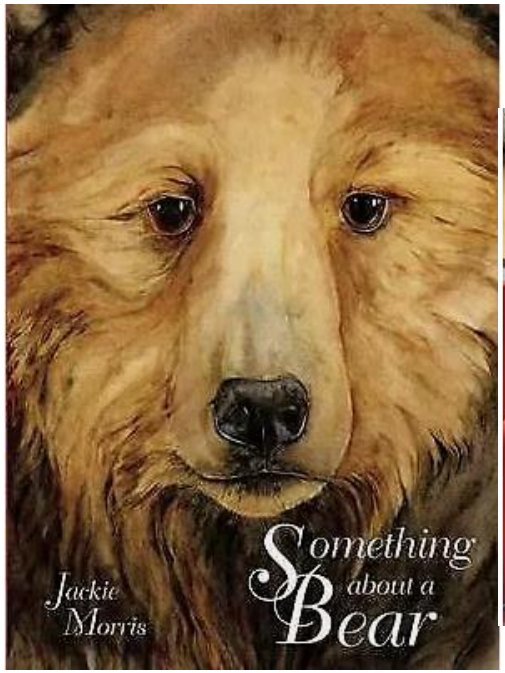
-The grapheme a can make the phoneme o after w or qu in words like want, squash and wander.

Maths:

In Maths, we have continued learning about money and have been finding different combinations of the same amount.

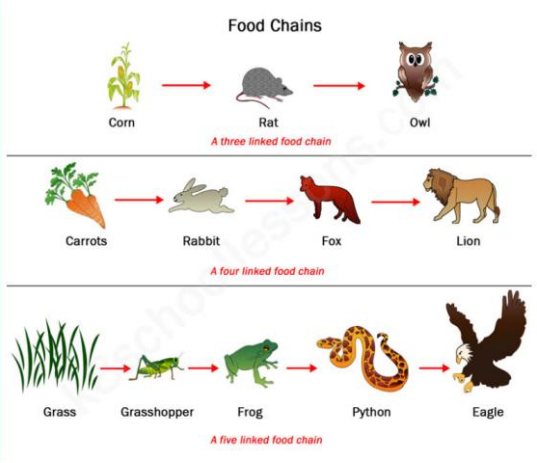
English:

In English, we started our new book 'Something about a Bear' by Jackie Morris and had lots of fun bringing in our own teddy bears and finding out facts about different types of bears.



Science:

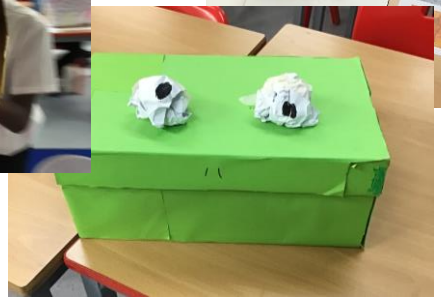
In Science, we finished off our learning on animals and their habitats and learnt all about food chains.



Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

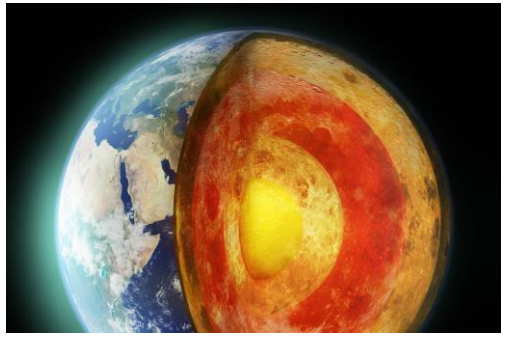
It has been so lovely to welcome back all the children after their Christmas break. We have already had such a busy but brilliant start to 2025.

Across both classes, we have been diving into our Art and Design and Technology units. In Anning Class, the children have been creating their own prints in the style of Cave Art alongside creating their own biscuit packaging. In Malala, the children have developed their design and technology skills by creating a pneumatic toy as well as learning more about the artist John Everett Millais and have created their own piece of art inspired by the painting 'Ophelia'.



In RE, we have begun our unit on 'Conflict, Peace, Forgiveness and Reconciliation' and have looked at the concept of in groups and out groups by social psychologists and how by listening to each other and exploring worldviews that may be different to our own, we can overcome the temptation to shun differences and also embrace diversity.

In Geography, we have started our physical geography unit on 'Mountains, Volcanoes and Earthquakes' and this week we explored our Earth and the different layers which make up our planet.



Malala started their swimming lessons this week. It was great to see the children's enthusiasm in the pool. We look forward to seeing the progress the children make!

Year 4 (Turing Class and Tagore Class)

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school after the Christmas holidays. We have had a great start to the new year/term!

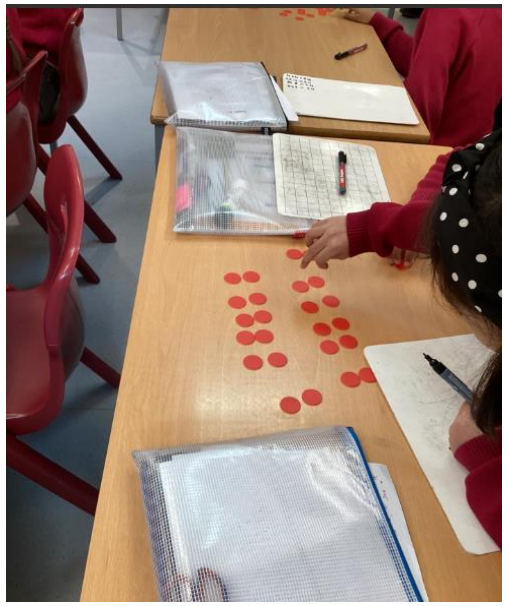
In English, we have started reading a new text called 'Weslandia'. So far, we know that the main character creates his own civilisation; we visualised what this may look like. We have also made predictions using our observations from the illustrations.

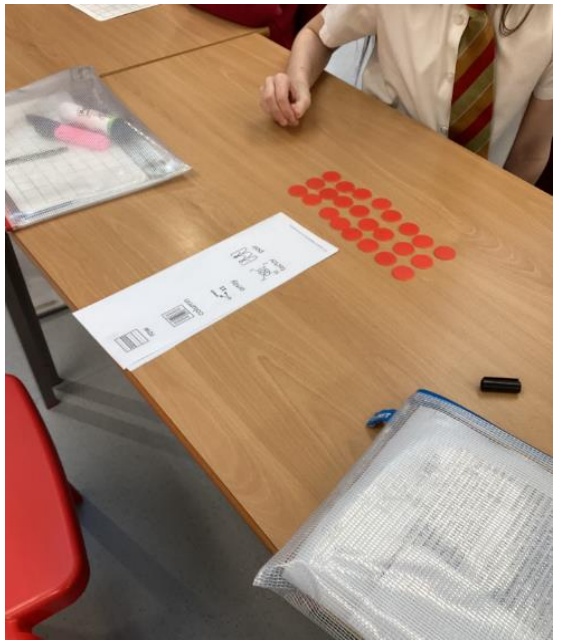
In Maths, we have continued our unit on multiplication and division. This week, our learning has been focused on factors and factor pairs. We used arrays to help us understand this concept. We also used factor pairs to multiply larger numbers.

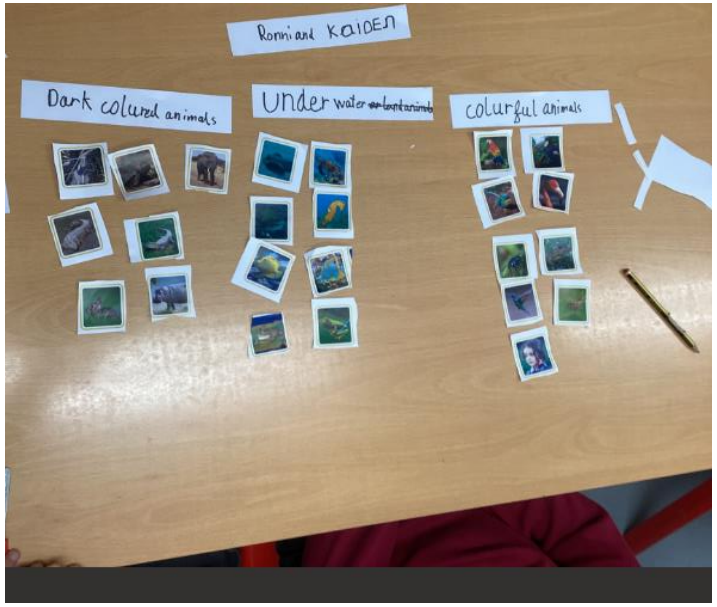
In Science, we used our scientific enquiry skills and knowledge to classify different animals based on their characteristics. We considered lots of different ways to classify and used scientific language to explain.

In RE, we conducted an interview to allow us to learn more about Islam. It was amazing to see how respectful the children were during the interview.

In History, we began our topic on the Romans! We learnt about historical timelines and the chronology of the Roman Empire.

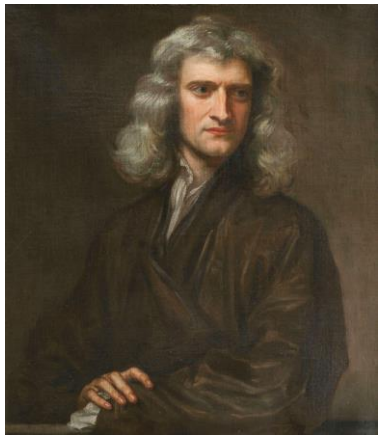


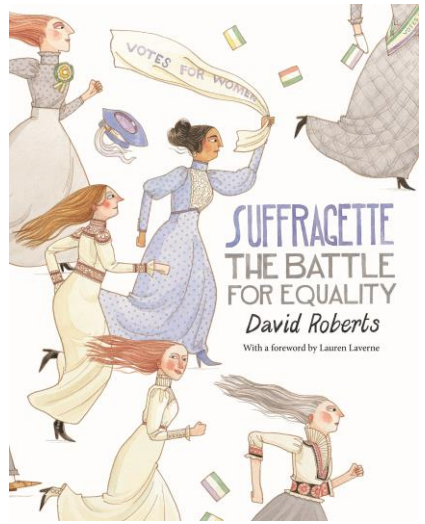




Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Gandhi Class)

We have had a lovely start to the new year and the children in Gandhi class have particularly enjoyed spending time with their new teacher, Miss Crane.





In English, we have started a brand new book called 'Suffragette: the Battle for Equality' by David Roberts. We have been introduced to what suffrage is and compared different events in the Suffrage movement by analysing different themes.

In Maths, we have continued our work on long multiplication when multiplying by two-digit numbers. We have worked incredibly hard to multiply two-digit, three-digit and four-digit numbers by two-digit numbers. We then applied our learning to problem solving involving multiplication.

In Science, we have been exploring our new topic of forces and learnt all about how gravity was discovered by Sir Isaac Newton when an apple fell onto his head. We explored how different objects fell according to their mass and how this might change on different planets.

In History, we were excited to begin our new learning of theme of 'Women of the World'. We investigated how the role of women has changed throughout history and the attitudes held about women by different people. We learnt about some incredible women who have made a difference in history.

In Music, we began learning about the history of Musical Theatre. We explored how Musical Theatre has changed throughout time, from opera to operetta to jukebox musicals. We found out about different jobs people could have to make a Musical Theatre production happen.

23×31

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$23 \times 31 = (23 \times 1) + (23 \times 30)$

Year 6 (Pogson Class and Ahmad Class)

The first week back has flown by in Year 6! Already, we have gotten stuck into lots and lots of learning!

In Maths, we have continued our learning around Ratio as we have been exploring scale factors and similar shapes. The children have had to use their understanding of multiplicative relationships to determine how much a shape has either been enlarged or reduced by. They have then had to apply their understanding by drawing their own shapes.

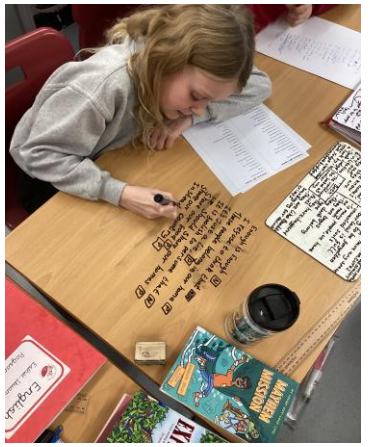
In English, we have been learning to write to persuade through exploring poetry. The children were presented with Brian Bilston's extremely effective reverse poem, 'Refugees'. After reading it forwards and backwards, we explored how the structure of the poem was an effective tool in persuading the reader to change their perspective about refugees from negative to positive. The children were then given the chance to plan and write their very own reverse poem, using a similar structure with their own positive and negative phrases. After this, they performed their poems to the class. We are so impressed with what they have produced in such a short amount of time.

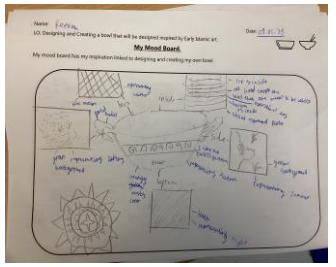
In Science, we have started our new topic on Living Things and their Habitats. This week, we explored the very important work of Swedish scientist Carl Linnaeus and his classification system. The children were then tasked with using iPads to find out the scientific names for a range of different animals, using Linnaeus' system.

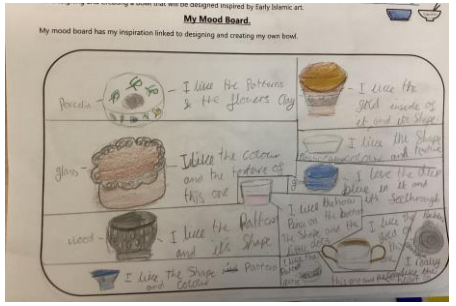
In History, we began our topic on the Early Islamic Civilisation, where we explored how the civilisation expanded over time. After looking at a range of sources, the children were given a collection of timeline cards to put into the correct order.

In D&T, the children have been looking at structures, specifically the structure of a bowl. During the lesson, we took at a range of different bowls, explored their possible uses and how they had been made. They then created their own design criteria for a bowl, inspired by the art of the early Islamic era.

Finally, in RE, we began our new topic which focuses on answering the big question: how can following God bring freedom and justice. We first recalled the story of Moses and how God gave his people a set of commandments to help guide them onto the right path. We then considered why it was that God needed to give his people these commandments in the first place.







Collective Worship

During class worship this week, classes have been learning about Christmastide, which is the name given to the Christmas season in the liturgical calendar. It begins on Christmas Eve and ends on the Sunday celebrating the Baptism of the Jesus (12th January). We have learnt that prayer tables are decorated in white or gold during this time of year as it is a time of celebration for Christians.

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

Other News

As the weather gets colder, we kindly remind you to ensure your children come to school with appropriate outdoor clothing. Warm coats, hats, gloves, and scarves will help keep them comfortable during playtimes and lunchtimes. It is important these items are named so that if lost, they can be returned.

Additionally, if your child walks home without adult supervision, please could we ask you to remind them to be extra careful in the icy conditions.

Community Event

<u>Urban and Civic - Free Community Dance Workshops:</u>

Come join a fun-filled day at The Barn in Dollman Farm, Houlton!

We're running three ***Hungry 2 Move*** workshops for a variety of ages from 0 to 16.

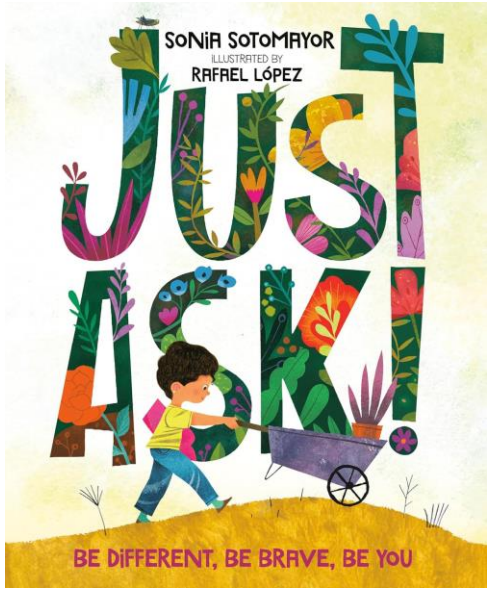
Learn about exercise in a body positive and enjoyable way and even make new friends!

Spaces are limited, so would encourage you to book early to reserve your spot. Age and time slots vary: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/urbancivic-33354630397

Recommended Read

'**Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You!'** by *Sonia Sotomayor*

Feeling different, especially as a child, can be tough. But in the same way that different types of plants and flowers make a garden more beautiful and enjoyable, different types of people make our world more vibrant and wonderful. This book celebrates the different abilities children (and people of all ages) have. Using her own experience as a child who was diagnosed with diabetes, Sonia Sotomayor writes about children with all sorts of challenges - and looks at the special powers those kids have as well. As the kids work together to build a community garden, asking questions of each other along the way, this book encourages readers to do the same: When we come across someone who is different from us but we're not sure why, all we have to do is Just Ask.



Online Safety

There are lots of social media websites and apps people use to chat, comment, share pictures and game with their friends.

Many parents and carers wonder when is the best age to let their child have a social media account. Some don't want their children to have underage accounts. Others may have decided their child is not quite ready for social networking, even if their child is begging them. Once children reach secondary school, they're likely to come under growing peer pressure to stay in touch with friends online.

If you are thinking about social media for your child, what should you consider and how can you help and support them? Follow this link to find out more.

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.3%
This week's attendance	96.9%
Latest Local Authority ranking	17th out of 188 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

Here are some sources of support for families:

Contact the Family Information Service for advice and guidance on a wide range of subjects including:

Housing

Finance

Childcare

Parental conflict and contact

Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

Contact the Early Help Family Support Work service for advice and guidance on:

Parenting and all aspects of family life

Children and young people's behaviour

Visit the Warwickshire Family and Relationship Support Team webpage for information about accessing free online guides and workshops.

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