

Weekly Learning Update

11th September 2026



Nursery

What a fantastic start Nursery have made! The children have settled brilliantly into the Nursery classroom and have been learning about life at St Gabriel's, including our school values and expectations for great behaviour. We are extremely proud of how well they have settled and how enthusiastically they have approached their learning.

The children have been busy exploring all areas of our Nursery provision!

Maths: This week, we have been counting objects to 5.

Writing and fine motor: We have been encouraging mark making through crayon drawings and developing our fine motor skills by using tweezers to sort pom-poms.

Role Play: We have been cooking lots of food in our kitchen home corner.

Small World Area: The children have been exploring dinosaurs, creating their own imaginative worlds and stories.

Sensory Area: There has been pasta, porridge and rice, with scoops, jugs and bowls for the children to pour, fill and empty. They have enjoyed exploring the different textures and using language to describe what they can feel.

Investigation Area: The children have used magnifying glasses to explore a range of natural materials, including leaves, shells and stones.

Creative Area: The children have been exploring and combining a variety of textures and materials to create collage pictures.

Reading Area: There has been lots of sharing and exploring books independently and with adults, developing a love of stories and books.

Outdoors: The children have been building with foam and wooden blocks, developing their physical skills on the bikes, playing imaginatively in the mud kitchen and exploring water and sand play. There has been lots of opportunity for investigation, imagination and cooperative play.

Reminder: Don't forget we will have our Tapestry app information session next week on Tuesday 15th September at 4pm. We look forward to seeing you there!



Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

What a fantastic start Reception have made to their St. Gabriel's journey. They have settled really well and have been excited to learn. They are already displaying our values in all areas of school life. We are extremely proud of them!

Maths: This week, we are learning to rote count.

English: We have introduced our story 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' and have been learning to write labels.

Phonics: We have started our Phonics learning by introducing the first four phonemes: 's', 'a', 't' and 'p'. Our final session was to read our first Phonics book! The children really enjoyed accessing the book and building confidence with their blending for reading. Each child has gone home with a Phonics book today. These need to be returned on Thursday, ready for the new book to be given on the Friday. The QR code links this week book as well.

Continuous Provision: We have been building houses using the wooden blocks in the enquiry area. The children considered all the features of their own houses to add to their buildings.

Reader 1
Phase 2
tap



Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

We have had a wonderful week in Year 1!

Phonics:

In Phonics, we launched our new scheme, **Ready Steady Phonics**, and the children have been very excited to begin using their new phonics books. They have enjoyed practising their sounds, applying their phonics knowledge and developing their confidence. If you'd like to read their book this week online, use the QR code to the right!

English:

In English, we have been learning how to write an acrostic poem all about summer. The children had lots of fun sharing their summer memories, talking about their favourite experiences and exploring some of the special things they brought in from home. We then used our ideas to plan our very own acrostic poems, thinking carefully about vocabulary and choosing words that reminded us of summer.

Maths:

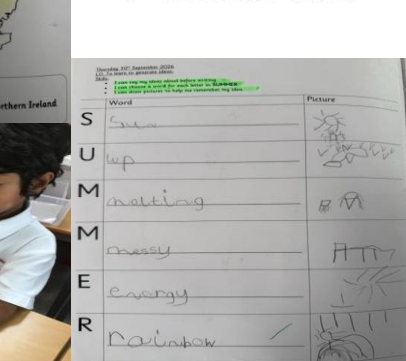
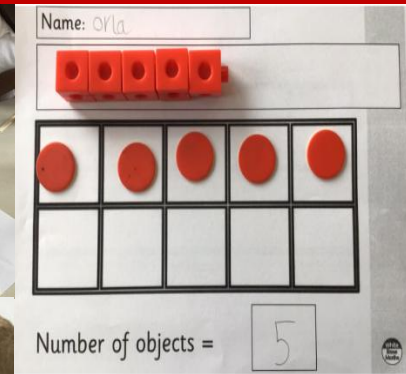
In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of numbers by representing them using concrete resources, such as tens frames and counters. We have also been learning how to find a specific amount from a larger group, developing our counting skills and encouraging us to check our answers carefully.

Geography:

In Geography, we have been learning about the four countries that make up the United Kingdom. The children enjoyed using atlases and globes to locate and identify England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, developing their understanding of where each country is situated.

Science

In Science, we learnt what Science is and how it helps us understand the world around us. We also made slime and learned how different ingredients mix together to create it.



Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

What an amazing start to the new school year! Miss Dall and Miss Nleya are incredibly proud of Year 2, who have made a fantastic start to the year and settled so well into their new classrooms. The children have approached each day with positivity, enthusiasm and a readiness to learn and it has been wonderful to see them embrace their new environment with confidence.

We began the year by learning our new routines and establishing our classroom rules. Everyone took part in a range of activities designed to help us settle in and get to know one another. The children tackled every challenge with enthusiasm and showed us that they are ready for all the exciting learning Year 2 has to offer!

This week, we have truly hit the ground running and begun our Year 2 curriculum. In English, we celebrated Poetry Week by learning all about diamante poems. We explored the structure of these poems before planning and writing our own based on two opposite ideas. The children came up with some wonderfully creative ideas and were very proud of their finished pieces.

In Maths, we have started our place value unit. We revised counting to 20 and beyond to 100 before beginning to investigate tens and ones. The children have been learning how to use a place value chart to represent numbers and explain their thinking.

In Science, we explored the differences between things that are living, dead and never alive. We enjoyed taking a walk around the school grounds to identify examples of each and used our observations to support our learning.

In Art, we developed our observational drawing skills by carefully studying the artwork of Claude Monet. We then recreated sections of his work in our sketchbooks, paying close attention to colour, shape and detail.

In Phonics, we launched our new scheme, Ready Steady Phonics, and the children have been very excited to begin using their new phonics books. They have enjoyed practising their sounds, applying their phonics knowledge and developing their confidence. If you'd like to read their book this week online, use the QR code to the right!

We also took part in Creation Day, where we recalled the Christian story of Creation and reflected on how we can care for and protect our world.

It has been a fantastic week filled with learning, creativity and fun. We are so excited for the year ahead and cannot wait to see what Year 2 will achieve!



Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

Wow, what an amazing start to Year 3 it's been! We're so proud of the children for how well they've settled in, showing our school values each day and quickly getting into new routines and expectations. They have approached every challenge with enthusiasm, demonstrated fantastic behaviour for learning and shown great love and respect towards one another. It has been wonderful to see their confidence growing already and we are excited for all the learning and opportunities that lie ahead this year.

In English, we have enjoyed taking part in Poetry Week, exploring Kenning poems. The children have been identifying the features of this style of poetry, collecting ambitious and imaginative vocabulary and then using their ideas to write their own football-themed Kenning poems. We have been impressed by their creativity and enthusiasm for poetry writing.

In Maths, we have started our Place Value unit. The children have been developing their understanding of the value of digits in numbers and practising partitioning numbers up to 100 in different ways.

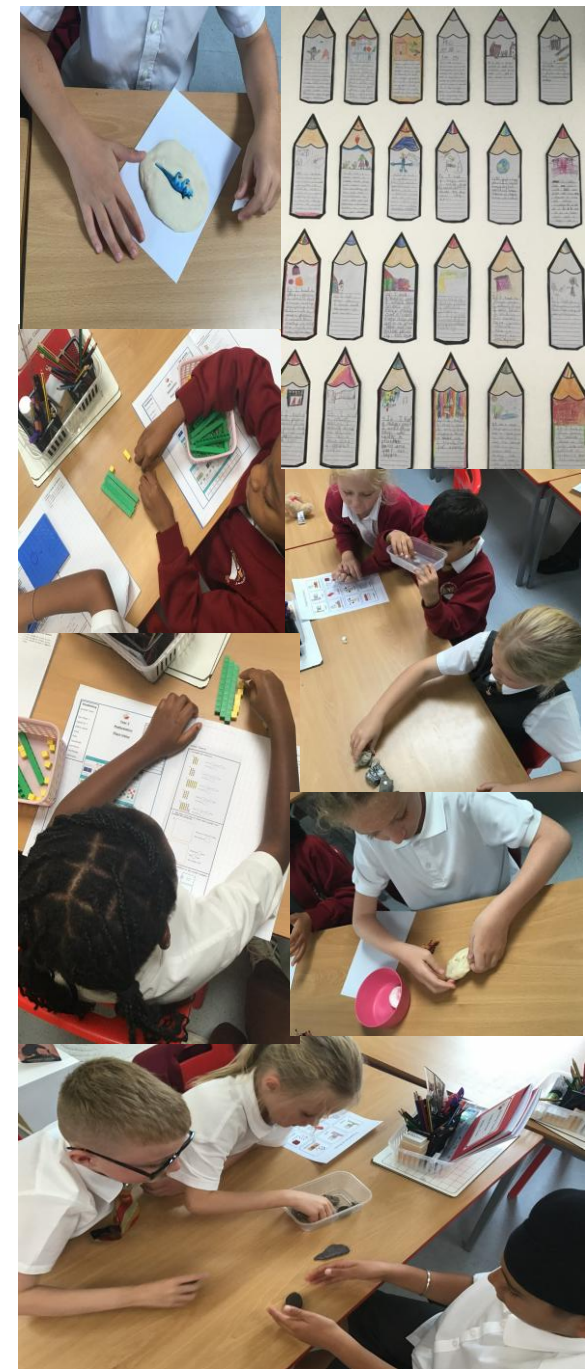
In History, we have begun our learning about the Tudors. The children have been learning about the Tudor monarchs and developing their understanding of where this fascinating period fits into British history.

In Science, our topic is Rocks. The children have been investigating different types of rocks, describing their properties and grouping them according to these characteristics. They have shown excellent scientific thinking skills as they observe, compare and classify.

We have also spent time learning about who our class is named after, exploring their achievements and completing activities to help us understand why they are an inspiring figure for our class community. In RE, we celebrated Creation Day, exploring the story of Creation from the Bible and discussing the key messages it teaches everyone about the world and our responsibilities towards it.

The children have now brought home their homework books in their folders. Please see the message on Arbor for details of which pages need to be completed and ensure that homework books are returned to school by Thursday. All children also have a reading book. Please encourage them to read regularly at home and keep their reading book in their school bag each day.

A reminder that our Year 3 Information Meeting will take place on Tuesday at 3:30pm and 4:00pm in the Year 3 classrooms. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing more information about the year ahead. Have a lovely weekend!



Year 4 (Tagore Class and Turing Class)

Year 4 have made a positive start to the school year and have shown enthusiasm across all areas of learning. The Year 4 team are incredibly proud of how well the children have settled back into school life and risen to the new expectations of the year group. During expectations week, the classes both enjoyed learning about their respective class names and the impact Tagore and Turing have had in the world.

In English, we have been exploring haikus and learned how syllables are used to create this style of poetry. We enjoyed counting syllables and selecting effective vocabulary before writing our own haikus inspired by our school values.

In Maths, we started learning about place value, focusing on numbers up to 1,000. We practised identifying, reading and writing numbers, as well as partitioning them into hundreds, tens and ones.

In Geography, the class have started our new topic on land use and learned about the regions of the United Kingdom. We used maps to identify different regions of the UK and discussed the features of them.

In RE, we took part in Creation Day and explored the story of Adam and Eve. We discussed the importance of forgiveness and reflected on what it means to forgive others. We also considered how Christians use the Ten Commandments to guide their choices and actions in everyday life.

In Music, we began learning the gospel song "*This Little Light of Mine*". We have enjoyed singing together and it has been a joy to see the children develop their confidence as performers.

Overall, Year 4 has worked hard, participated well in lessons and demonstrated a positive attitude towards learning. They should be proud of the excellent start they have made this term.

For more information about Year 4, please come and join us at our information meeting taking place at 3:30pm and 4pm on Tuesday 15th September.



Community
Working together,
Take care of our equipment,
Caring for our team.

Love
Caring for others,
Don't hurt people and be kind,
Help those who are sad.

Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Raúf Class)

We cannot believe that our first full week in Year 5 has already come to an end! It has been an amazing week getting to know the children more, settling into our classroom routines and getting ourselves established as a Year 5 team.

In English, we have been celebrating Poetry Week by exploring Lewis Carroll's famous poem, *The Jabberwocky*. The children began by investigating the many nonsense words used within the poem, exploring the idea of portmanteau and considering what these imaginative words might mean. They then took on the challenge of creating their very own mythical creature that could exist within the Tulgey Wood alongside the Jabberwocky. Using their creatures as inspiration, the children wrote their own versions of the poem, incorporating descriptive devices, onomatopoeia and their own creative portmanteau words.

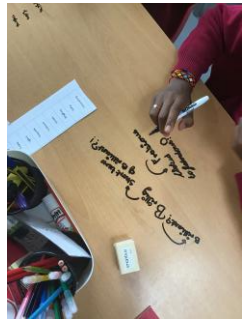
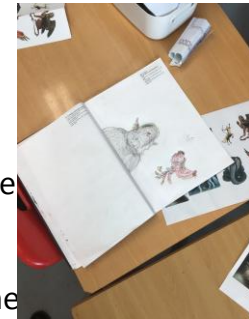
In Maths, we have begun the year with our topic of Place Value. The children first revisited their knowledge of Roman numerals, recalling the numerals from 1 to 100 before extending this knowledge to include 500 and 1,000. They then applied this understanding to a range of reasoning and problem-solving activities. Later in the week, we moved our focus towards numbers up to 100,000. This included reading, writing, ordering and comparing these numbers, as well as identifying the value of individual digits within larger numbers.

In Science, we have started our new topic on Forces, beginning with gravity. We explored what gravity is and found out more about its discovery. We then investigated the scientific definitions of mass and weight and considered how these can affect the movement of objects. The children carried out their own investigation, making predictions about which objects would reach the ground first based on their different masses. Through this experiment, we explored how gravity acts on objects and reinforced the important idea that an object's size does not necessarily determine its mass.

In RE, we have been celebrating Creation Day and exploring the beginning of the Bible and Christian beliefs about God's creation of the world. The children considered our big question: *What does it mean if God is holy and loving?* They explored how Christians develop their understanding of God and how this understanding can be expressed through architecture and worship. We also listened to worship songs and considered how music can help Christians develop a closer relationship with God. Finally, the children reflected on why Christians believe it is important for God to be both holy and loving, rather than just one or the other.

In Art, the children developed their observational drawing skills. They were shown a range of mythical creatures from Ancient Greece and used careful observation to identify and sketch the key features that stood out to them. It has been wonderful to see them experimenting with different shapes, lines and details as they develop their confidence as artists.

Finally, in Geography, we have been developing our understanding of the continent of Europe. We explored the many countries that make up Europe, as well as some of its key geographical features, including important river systems and cities. They practised locating and identifying different countries using maps and atlases before using locational terminology to describe where countries are situated in relation to one another.



Year 6 (Pogson Class and Walker Class)

What a brilliant start to Year 6! The children have settled into their new classes and routines really well and have approached every day with enthusiasm and positivity. They have already shown what great role models they can be, demonstrating excellent behaviour, kindness and a fantastic attitude towards learning. We are so proud of how they have started the year and can't wait to see all they achieve over the coming months.

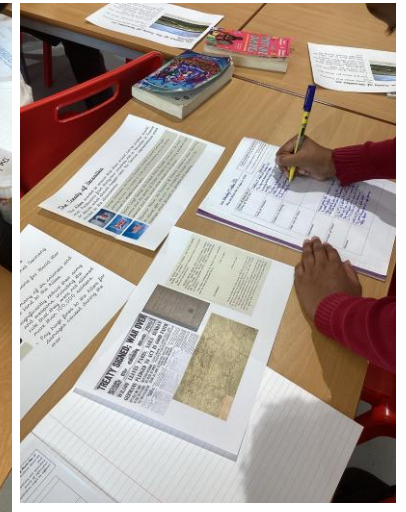
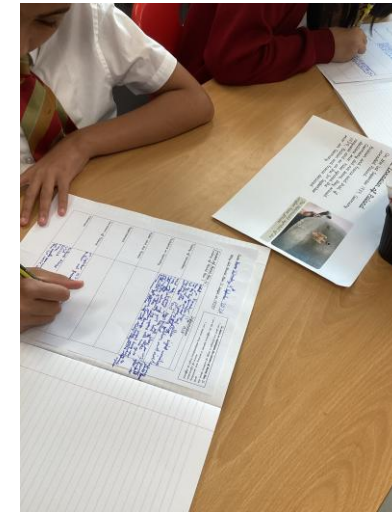
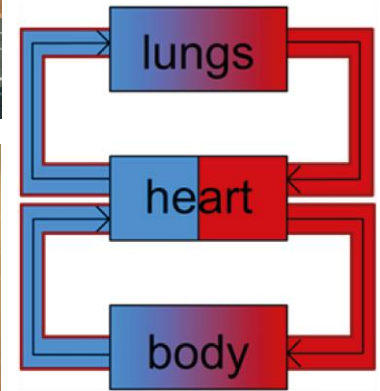
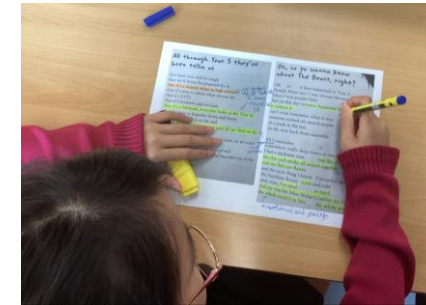
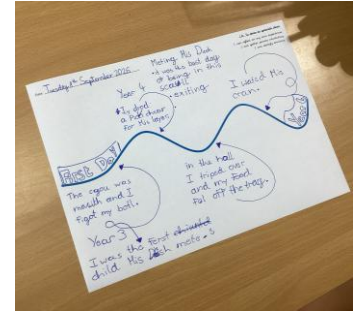
In English, we have been exploring free verse poetry inspired by Matt Goodfellow. The children have written their own poems based on a memory linked to St Gabriel's, thinking carefully about special moments from their time at school. We have focused on choosing powerful vocabulary to help bring memories to life, while also looking at how free verse poems are structured. The children have practised writing in a natural voice, making their poems sound like real speech and helping to give them a personal feel.

In Maths, we have started our place value unit and have been working with numbers up to 10 million. The children have been learning how to read, write, compare and order large numbers confidently. We have also explored the effect of multiplying and dividing by powers of ten and spotted patterns in how digits move within a number.

In History, we have begun our learning about World War II. We have explored some of the events and issues that led to the outbreak of war, including the problems faced by Germany after World War I, the Treaty of Versailles and Adolf Hitler's beliefs and rise to power. The children have asked some thoughtful questions and shown a keen interest in the topic already.

In Science, we have started learning about the circulatory system. The children have discovered how the heart, blood and blood vessels work together to transport oxygen and nutrients around the body, helping us stay healthy and active.

We have had a fantastic first full week and are looking forward to another week of exciting learning ahead!



Signals Class

What a fantastic start to the new academic year in our new Specialist Resource Provision! The children have made a wonderful start and have been coming into the provision happy, calm and settled. They have been excited and eager to explore their new, wonderful learning environment and the wide range of resources available to support their regulation and sensory needs.

Since joining us, the children have worked incredibly hard to follow and establish our classroom routines. We have been using a visual timetable alongside objects of reference, which has helped to make our day predictable and structured. This has supported the children to feel safe, secure and settled within their new environment.

Our Morning Routine - The children have also started learning our morning routine, including our Hello Song, days of the week and months of the year, accompanied by actions. They have engaged really well with these routines and are beginning to become familiar with the sequence of our morning.

Bucket Time

This week, we have introduced Bucket Time. The children have enjoyed watching exciting activities designed to develop their attention, anticipation and listening skills. They have shown great curiosity and excitement and are beginning to understand that Bucket Time is a special time for watching, joining in and having fun together!

Exploring the Water Tray -The children have really enjoyed exploring our water tray. They have particularly enjoyed scooping, pouring and tipping the water, as well as watching it trickle and flow. These activities have provided wonderful opportunities for sensory exploration, developing attention and supporting early cause-and-effect learning.

Nursery rhymes have also been a big hit! The children have been given opportunities to take turns choosing songs and to express their preferences through both verbal and non-verbal communication. It has been lovely to see the children beginning to communicate their choices and enjoy these shared moments together.

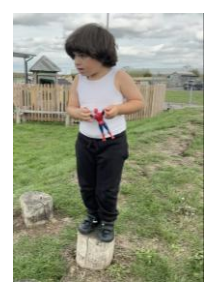
Sensory Room - The children have really enjoyed exploring our sensory room. They have particularly loved experiencing the lights, sounds and different sensory resources, which have provided opportunities for them to relax, regulate and explore their senses in a calm and supportive environment.

Outdoor Learning - The children have also loved spending time in our outdoor space. They have particularly enjoyed developing their gross motor skills and core strength through activities such as rolling tyres and balancing on the logs. These activities have provided lots of opportunities for movement, physical development and most importantly, lots of fun!

It has been such a pleasure to see the children settling into their new provision and beginning to develop their confidence, independence and communication. We are incredibly proud of the wonderful start they have made!

Reminder

Please can you ensure that your child comes to school dressed in their PE kit every Tuesday.
Thank you for your continued support!



Collective Worship

During Worship Through Story, we read *After the Fall*, which tells the story of how Humpty Dumpty got back up again. We spoke about our school value Growth and how setbacks can lead to personal growth and perseverance can help us overcome challenge.



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

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NEW
CONFIDENCE.**

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TUESDAYS
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SUPER J'S 4-7 YRS 4-4:40PM
KIDS 8-12 4:50 - 5:30PM

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WWW.JADOKUINDOHOULTON.CO.UK



The headteachers of the Rugby area secondary schools warmly invite all parents/carers and pupils preparing for transfer to secondary school in September 2027 to attend their open evenings.

Details of the open evenings are as follows:



Ashlawn School
5.00pm - 7.30pm
Wednesday
23rd September 2026



Bilton School
5.30pm - 8.00pm
Thursday
1st October 2026



Harris CofE Academy
6.00pm - 8.00pm
Thursday
24th September 2026



Houlton School
6.00pm - 8.30pm
Wednesday
16th September 2026



Lawrence Sheriff School
6.30pm - 8.00pm
Thursday
25th June 2026



Rugby Free Secondary School
5.00pm - 7.30pm
Thursday
10th September 2026



Rugby High School
4.45pm - 7.00pm
Wednesday
24th June 2026



The Avon Valley School
5.30pm - 8.00pm
Thursday
17th September 2026

If anyone, parent/carer or student, has particular access requirements in order to enable them to attend or participate in the open evenings, please let the relevant schools know.

Visit www.rugbyopendays.co.uk to find out more.

Secondary School Open Days



**LOOKING FOR A
SECONDARY SCHOOL
PLACE FOR YOUR
CHILD FOR
SEPTEMBER 2027?**

**ASHLAWN SCHOOL - THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL
BILTON SCHOOL - LAWRENCE SHERIFF SCHOOL
RUGBY FREE SECONDARY SCHOOL - RUGBY HIGH SCHOOL
HOULTON SCHOOL - HARRIS CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY**



[Secondary Open Events](#) | [Rugby Open Events](#)

**Join us for Open
Events taking place
across Rugby's
secondary schools
this summer and
autumn.**

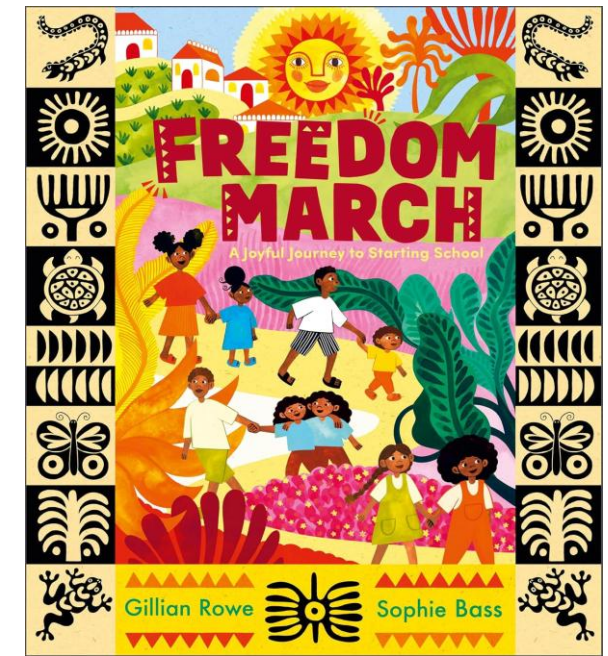
To find out more
information about school
open days, please visit
www.rugbyopendays.co.uk

Recommended Read

Freedom March: A Joyful Journey to Starting School by Gillian Rowe and Sophie Bass

As the sun rises, the village children set off on their first day of school. It's a long walk but they travel together with excitement, determination and dreams for the future. They know that education can open doors, create opportunities and help them build the lives they hope for.

Set against the vibrant landscapes of Barbados, this beautiful back-to-school story celebrates friendship, perseverance and the life-changing power of education.



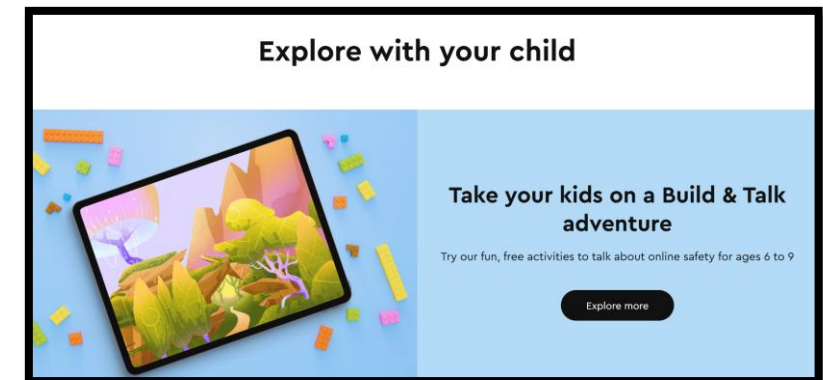
Online Safety

Explore the LEGO website to find out more about being a 'digitally smart family'. There are a range of helpful and fun tools to support conversations around online safety with your children. Follow the link to discover more:

https://www.lego.com/en-gb/sustainability/children/digital-child-safety?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=21966363556&gbraid=0AAAAAkcL7VI0Fy2QViXpWrtgA1Kc8TfC&gclid=Cj0KCQjwzY7VBhDwARIsAFtPvBSdFMbWrvzbeV7R2tbPvA6bGkyP_rCDbuGGV1cbauZn6f4uPGSG1IYaAtpdEALw_wcB&locale=en-gb

Raising digitally smart families

As a brand that's all about play, we're committed to ensuring play is safe for everyone. That's why we've created tools and resources to empower children and families to learn good digital habits and thrive online. Below, you'll find helpful content and playful learning experiences to help your family become digitally smart.



Whole School Attendance

Attendance since September	96.6%
This week's attendance	96.9%

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

NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Mental Health Support Teams in Schools (MHST) is hosting its first conference for parents, carers and professionals on 6th October.

Learn how we're strengthening mental health support for children and young people. Free tickets available soon.

Sign up to be the first to hear when registration opens: <https://www.covwarkpt.nhs.uk/mhst-conference>

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

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