Weekly Learning Update

12th September 2025

Nursery

What a fantastic first full week it has been in Nursery!

The team are incredibly proud of how well the children have come into Nursery and how quickly they are settling in.

For a number of children, they have started their Nursery sessions this week and already, children are making friends, sharing and enjoying learning the special rules within Nursery.

We have been focusing on our school values and expectations within the classroom of walking feet and classroom voices. The children have demonstrated these really well. We have also been exploring the meaning of our school values and tried to model this whilst accessing learning.

They have also enjoyed lots of opportunities to learn within the classroom and outside.

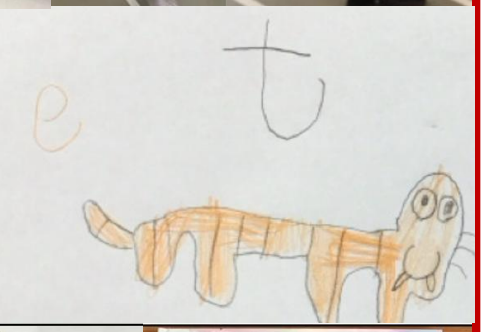
The team are looking forward to welcoming the children back next week. We hope you all have a lovely weekend, and if there is anything your child would like to share, please upload onto Tapestry!

Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

Reception have had another fantastic week – we are so proud of how hard the children have been working and the enthusiasm they bring to every lesson!

Phonics:

This week we learnt the phonemes *s, a, t, p* and *i*. The children have been practising orally blending words containing these phonemes (sounds) and learning to write the matching graphemes using our special handwriting sayings.



English:

In English, we began learning a shortened version of *"The Tiger Who Came to Tea"*. With the help of actions, the children have amazed us with how quickly they can recall the story – their storytelling skills are really shining through!

Maths:

In Maths, we've been focusing on counting from 0–20 using songs, patterns and rhymes to help us remember the tricky teen numbers. The children have also been representing these numbers in their chosen way.

P.E:

In P.E, the children explored how to move safely and confidently in a space, linking to our theme of 'People Who Help Us.' They enjoyed moving in different ways, pretending to be ambulance drivers, doctors and firefighters. We are so proud of how sensible, imaginative and safe they were during their very first P.E lesson!

Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

We've had a brilliant week in Year One!

The children have started their phonics learning by revisiting Phase 3 sounds and it's been great to see their confidence growing already.

In Maths, we've been busy sorting objects into groups by their shape and colour and we have used tens frames to accurately count out objects up to 10. Some children had a go at some problem-solving questions and were able to explain their understanding verbally and pictorially.

In English, we've been working on writing full sentences, making sure to use capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. We also read the story 'The Queen's Hat' by Steve Antony and enjoyed channeling our drama skills by creating freeze frames to show different parts of the story.

Science was lots of fun this week too! We carried out our first experiment by making slime, which was very exciting and messy!

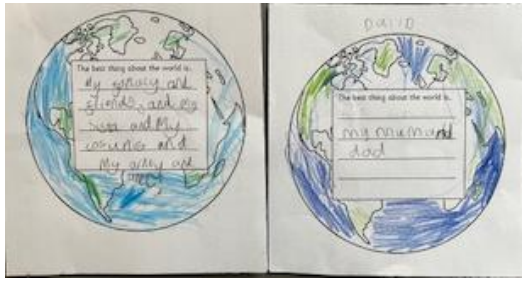
In RE, we recalled the Creation Story and made our own story maps to help retell it. We discussed the difference between living and non-living things and had a walk in nature to spot the insects and plants on our school site. We also completed our own class prayer to thank God for all the wonderful things He has made.

It's been a fun and busy week full of learning and creativity!

Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

Year 2 have had a fantastic start to the term, diving into some exciting learning across the curriculum!

RE : We began the week with a special Creation Day, exploring the big story of the Bible and asking the question: Who Made the World? The children learned about different interpretations of the Creation Story and reflected on how people with a Christian worldview care for the world around them. We looked at Jackie Olenick's Creation artwork and noticed that the sixth panel was missing—this sparked brilliant discussions and inspired the children to create their own interpretations of that moment. They then designed thoughtful posters about how we can look after our planet and shared reflections on what makes our world special.



In English, we've been learning what makes a strong sentence. The children explored nouns, verbs and punctuation and practised putting these elements together to write clearly and confidently. These foundational skills will continue to grow throughout the year as we develop into confident, expressive writers.

In Maths, we revisited counting and writing numbers to 20 in both numerals and words. Using practical resources, we extended our learning to numbers up to 100, focusing on partitioning into tens and ones. The children have shown great enthusiasm and curiosity as they build their number sense.

It's been a joyful and productive start and we're so proud of how the children are settling in. We're looking forward to a term full of growth, creativity and flourishing together.

Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

What a super first full week back it has been for Year 3! We are so proud of all the children for how well they are settling in and getting to know the routines and expectations of Year 3.

In English, we have been exploring what makes a sentence and thinking about ways that we can make our sentences the best that they can be. We have had a focus on capital letters, punctuation and conjunctions, as well as verbs, nouns, adjectives and adverbs.

In Maths, we have started our unit on Place Value, making and partitioning numbers up to 100. The children have used Base 10, as well as part-whole models to support them.

In Science, we have started our unit on Rocks. The children enjoyed identifying, grouping and classifying rocks, thinking of different ways that they could do this.

In History, we started our topic of the Stone Age. We discussed the difference between AD and BC and had a go at naming and ordering key periods of pre-history on a timeline.

In RE, we celebrated Creation Day. We explored the Christian story of Creation, discussing and debating key messages and thinking about the role that humans have in looking after the world.

The children also had their first Latin lesson which they enjoyed!

It's been a week packed full of amazing learning. Well done to all of the children. Have a lovely weekend!

Year 4 (Tagore Class and Turing Class)

What a wonderful first full week in Year 4 it has been! We've really got stuck into all our new topics and units and it's been delightful to see the children's enthusiasm.

In English, we've been revising some key concepts from Year 3, which has set a solid foundation for our learning. The highlight was definitely writing a narrative inspired by the video 'Something Fishy'. The children brainstormed creative ways to entertain their readers and their imaginations were truly impressive.

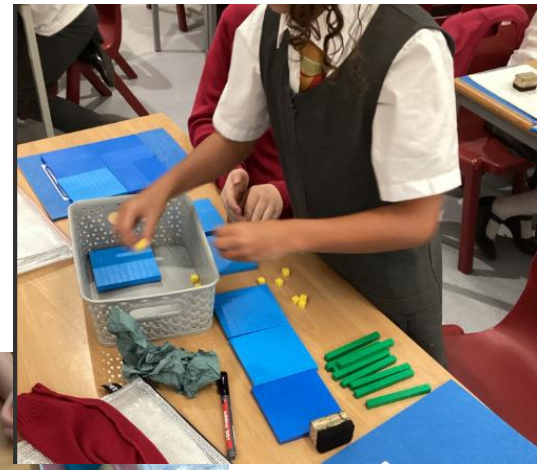
Moving on to Maths, where we kicked off our place value unit. The pupils have been using base 10 equipment to explore the place value of digits within three-digit numbers, which made learning quite hands-on. Additionally, we worked with number lines up to 1000, filling in missing intervals and developing a strong grasp of numerical relationships.

In RE, we celebrated Creation Day by exploring the story of Adam and Eve, discussing its significance for Christians. We also delved into the Ten Commandments, reflecting on their importance in everyday life. The parable of 'The Lost Son' provided an excellent opportunity for comparison with Adam and Eve, especially in terms of forgiveness.

In Science, we began our investigation into the digestive system, learning about various organs and their roles. It was essential for the children to revisit their initial questions about this topic.

Our Art sessions involved using observational skills to sketch different animals, while in Music, we warmed up our vocals and began learning 'This Little Light of Mine', listening to various versions to enhance our understanding.

Overall, it's been a fantastic week of learning and growth!



Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Raúf Class)

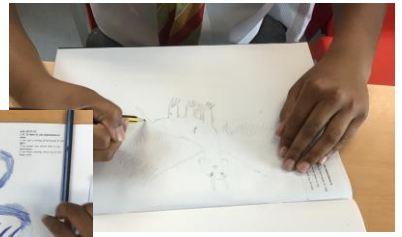
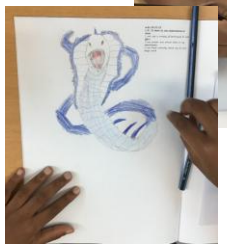
It has been a lovely full week with Year 5 this week!

In Maths, we got well and truly stuck into our first unit of 'Place Value' by first recapping Roman Numerals up to 1000 using lollipop sticks! We then moved on to exploring different numbers up to 10 000 and 100 000. The children practised their skills of comparing and ordering numbers as well as counting forwards and backwards in different powers of 10. Next week, we look forward to looking at more numbers up to 1 000 000.

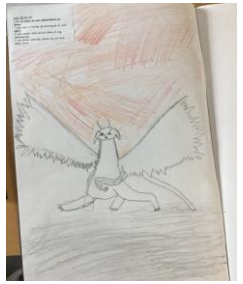
In English, we have been recapping a lot of different grammatical skills that the children learnt in previous years and exploring how important they are to enhancing our writing. We took some time to look specifically at the function of different types of punctuation and how that can have a real impact on our readers and how they make meaning from our writing.

In Science, we began our topic, 'Properties of Materials', by looking at different everyday objects and making suggestions about what material they were made out of and what favourable characteristics they had. We look forward to building our terminology as we progress through the term.

In Geography, we started off our learning around Ancient Greece as we used our maps and atlases to develop our locational knowledge of the continent of Europe. The children were tasked with finding certain countries and using locational language to describe the direction and location of each country within Europe.

In RE, we took some time to celebrate Creation Day where we dived deeper into the different perspectives and representations of God as we thought about the question: What does it mean if God is holy and loving? Our learning started off with using our theological skills as we took a look at different scriptures from the Bible and explored how that might inform a Christian's idea of what God is like. After this, we then found out more about how Christians represent their ideas about God through creating and doing different things, such as architecture, art and song. The children had a go at creating their own stain-glassed windows before they finally returned to the key question and discussed the importance of having a God who is **both** loving and holy.



Finally, in Art, we have started off our new topic of drawing as the children had to use their observation skills to sketch different images of Greek mythological images.

Year 6 (Pogson Class and Walker Class)

We have had a fantastic week in Year 6 as we have started to dive into our new topic within each subject.

In English, we have been writing letters to the Year 5 children, giving them advice on what they can expect this academic year. We have remembered all of the exciting trips and workshops of last year, alongside the fun Science, History and Geography learning!

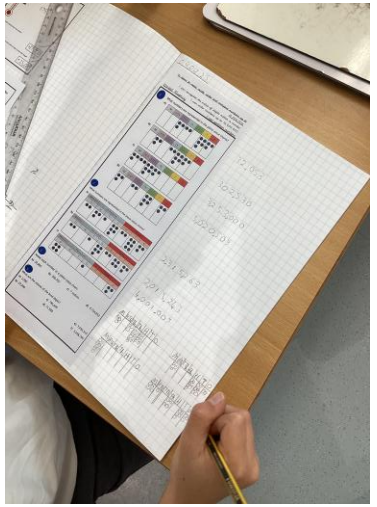
In Maths, we have started our learning on place value. We started by exploring numbers up to 1 million, and then explored numbers up to 10 million. We represented these numbers using numerals, words and place value grids.

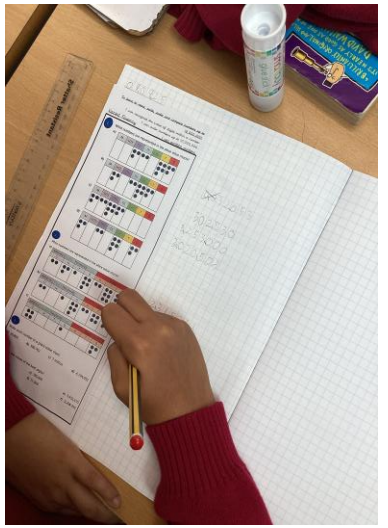
In Art, we have created our own observational drawings. We had to look really carefully at the images we were given to make sure that we drew exactly what we could see and not add in our own extra parts.

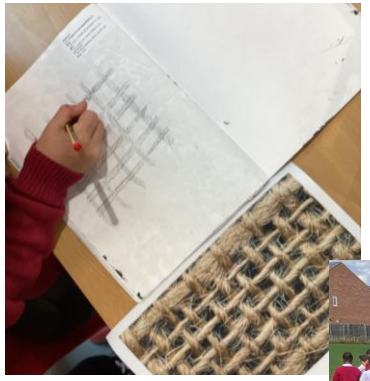
In Science, we learnt about the circulatory system. We saw how blood travels from the lungs, to the heart and around the body, before returning to the lungs again. When the blood reaches the lungs, it becomes oxygenated, however as it delivers oxygen to the rest of the body, it becomes deoxygenated. We drew diagrams in our books and used scientific vocabulary to explain it.

In History, we started our topic of Crime and Punishment. We have learnt about the justice system from the Roman Era. Some punishments included being thrown off a cliff or being fed to a lion!

In RE, we have celebrated Creation Day! We have discussed different perspectives of Creation, including Christian and scientific viewpoints. We debated whether the religious and scientific viewpoints were complimentary or contradictory, before coming to our own conclusion.







Collective Worship

During collective worship this week, we have been reflecting on British Values and how these relate to our own school values here at St Gabriel's. This week, we have focussed on:

- **Respect and Tolerance:** if we respect someone, we treat them in a way that shows we value them and think they are important. If we are tolerant of something, it shows we accept the differences between people.
- **Individual Liberty:** our individual liberty allows us to express ourselves and live our lives as we choose to while respecting the rights of others.

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

Family Support

Bereavement Advice for Parents and Carers

You may know someone who has died recently and your child may worry that this may happen to their other loved ones. When someone you care about does die, it can be hard to make sense of.

RISE provides guidance on how to support children after a bereavement.

Further services which provide bereavement support:

Guy's Gift

Tel. 0845 467 3035

Cruse Bereavement Care

Helpline: 0808 808 1677

WINSTON'S WISH

Giving hope to grieving children

Helpline: 0800 020 021

Other News

Secondary School Places

Parents and carers of children who have just started in Year 6 are being asked to apply for a secondary school place for September 2026.
Applications opened on 1st September 2025 and, to receive a school offer on National Offer Day (2 March 2026), applications must be submitted by the deadline of 31st October 2025.

#ThanksKids

#ThanksKids recognises the efforts and kindness of children and young people, and thanks them with personalised #NHSStars certificates. If you know a child or young person that deserves recognition for going above and beyond, don't wait, nominate! thankskids@covwarkpt.nhs.uk.

Reception 2026 Open Day

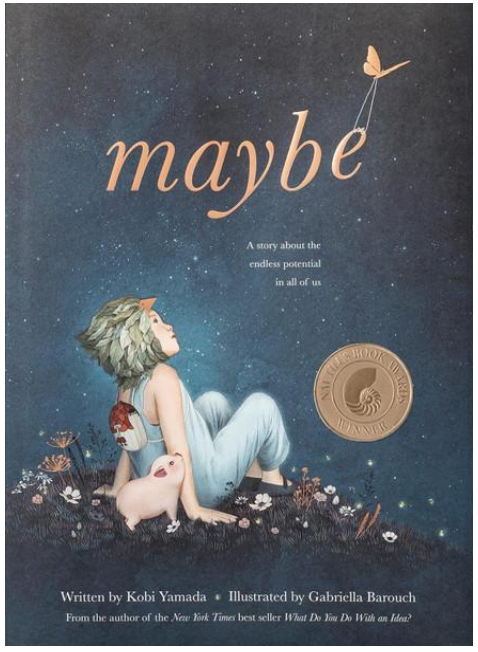
Calling all parents and carers of Reception school starters for September 2026! Join us on Tuesday 7th October, 4-5pm, to find out more about our learning environment and meet our staff.

Recommended Read

A perfect book for the start of term, **'Maybe' by Kobi Yamada** is an inspirational picture book for all ages that explores the concept of endless potential and the unique qualities each individual possesses.

Through enchanting illustrations and a thoughtful narrative, the book encourages readers to embrace their individuality, discover their passions, and pursue their dreams, emphasising that they are capable of achieving great things.

It serves as a reminder that even in the face of challenges, every person has inherent value and the world needs their specific gifts and talents.

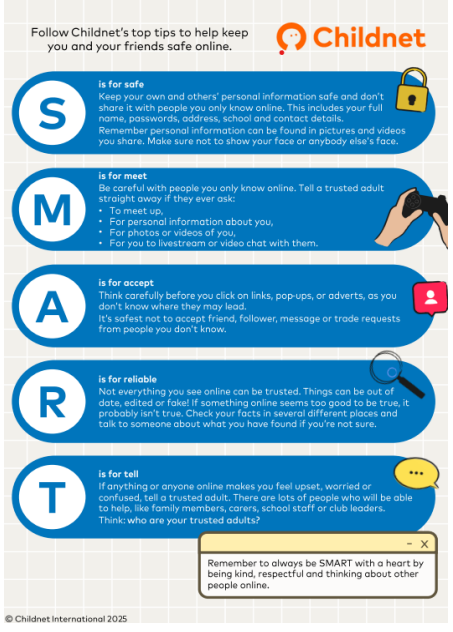


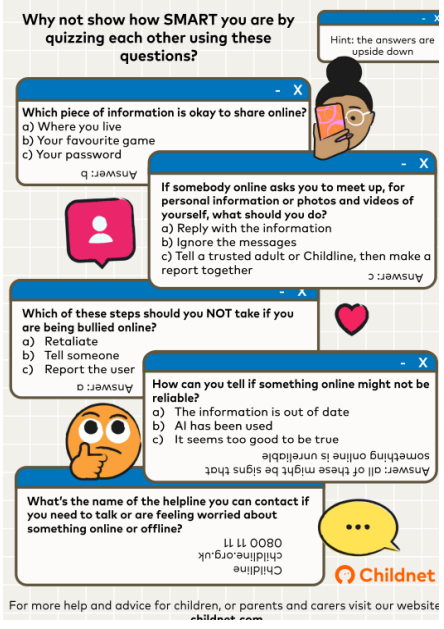
Online Safety

Arming children with knowledge about how to stay safe online is crucial in order for them to reap the educational benefits of using the internet. Childnet is an excellent online platform which aims to create awareness and build children's confidence in spotting warning signs while engaging with others online.

Follow this link for child friendly top tips for using the internet safely:

https://www.childnet.com/resources/be-smart-online/





Attendance Update from Warwickshire County Council

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.
Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.
Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is the parents' responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.
All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

- Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total).
  - First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.
    - Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.

- Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.

- Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): A penalty notices will be not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.

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