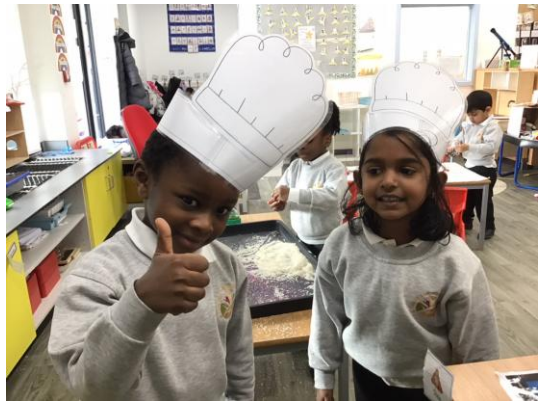
Weekly Learning Update

13th February 2026

Nursery

It has been a fantastic final week of the first half of the Spring term and it has been wonderful to have the opportunities to discuss the progress of the children who started in Nursery in January.

We have explored the different characters that appear within our key text 'The Oak Tree' as well as the sequence within stories this week. There have been a range of activities for the children to take part in during our small group sessions to differentiate the characters and their habitats. They also thought about stories having a beginning, middle and an end.



The children have really enjoyed accessing the areas of learning within the Nursery. They have been securing their subitising knowledge within the maths area and exploring quantity by painting dots on number monsters. They have enjoyed accessing our outdoor provision within the mud kitchen. They have also enjoyed the indoor enhancement of the Bile's Bakery that was set up. We also created a road role play area outside, where children took turns to share driving around the road or being the traffic officer, ensuring the drivers were following the road safety rules.

Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

Reception have had the best week taking part in lots of science investigations! Outside, we have explored forces, pushing and pulling the bikes to test which force was the quickest to move the bikes along the track. We tested objects to find out if they would float or sink and ways to melt ice to save our animals. The children also enjoyed testing the impact of raising one end of a ramp on the cars travelling down. There were lots of predictions! The fun continued inside as we tested toys to identify which force was needed to play with them.

In English, we introduced adjectives and in Maths, we have continued to deepen our understanding of addition and subtraction.
We have been showing our value of love across the week, making Valentine's cards and writing heart notes to share the love.

What a way to end a busy half term! Enjoy your week off!

Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

We wrapped up our English unit on *Look Up!* by Nathan Bryon. The children wrote recounts from Rocket's point of view and really thought about what makes a good recount. They worked carefully on punctuation, sentence structure, and making sure their ideas were in order. They did a fantastic job and should feel very proud of themselves!

In Maths, we've been building our subtraction skills using concrete resources, pictures and written methods. We also explored what it means to *find the difference* between two numbers. This was a bit tricky, but the children showed great resilience and kept going - even when it felt challenging.

Our Art lessons were a highlight this week! Inspired by artist Giles Davies, the children created amazing collages using paper and cuttings. They experimented with different techniques to make textures and effects and the results were wonderful. We definitely have some talented future artists in Year One!

In Science, we carried out a fun investigation to see which objects float and which sink. The children made thoughtful predictions and used brilliant scientific vocabulary when describing material properties and comparing objects. They really impressed us with their understanding.

In RE, we continued thinking about where people look for guidance in life. We learnt about Humanists and the Ten Commitments that guide their choices and behaviour. The children were really reflective and made thoughtful connections to their own beliefs.

It's been a lovely week and we are so proud of everything the children have achieved this half term. We hope they enjoy a well-deserved break and we can't wait to welcome them back afterwards!

Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

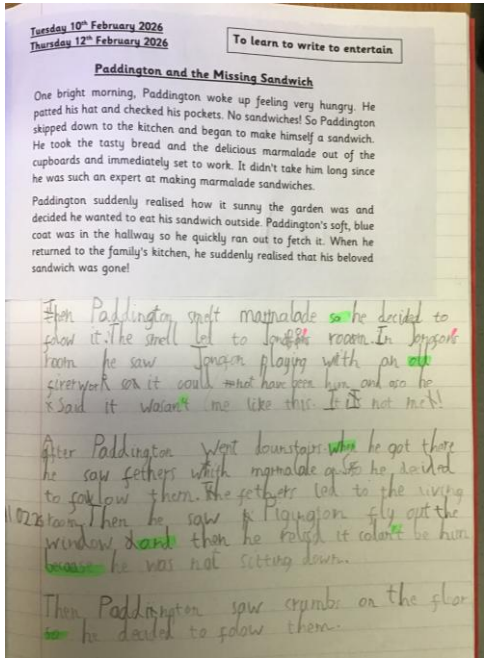
We can't quite believe how quickly this term has flown by!

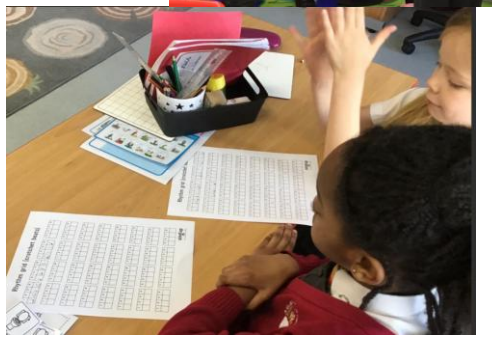
This week we have been delving into *division*. We explored two key methods: Grouping – making equal groups to find how many groups we can make. Sharing – sharing an amount equally between a set number of people.
The children have been learning the difference between the two and discovering how both strategies are helpful when solving division problems.

In English, we have been busy writing our own narratives. We read the introduction of *Paddington and the Missing Sandwich* and continued the story, making sure we used all our important Year 2 writing skills. These included: writing in the past tense, using apostrophes, adding expanded noun phrases and ensuring our writing was clear, detailed, and purposeful. The outcome was some fantastic pieces of narrative writing that were truly entertaining to read.

This week, in Art, we finally created our *final sculptures*! Inspired by the artist Rachid Khimoune, the children made their own turtle sculptures using clay. They applied techniques such as pinching and rolling to create some incredibly unique and imaginative pieces. We are very proud of their creativity and perseverance.

In Music, the children have been learning to identify rhythm durations. They practised recognising: "Walk" – representing a crotchet "Jogging" – representing quavers. They have enjoyed working with these beats and exploring how they fit into musical patterns.





Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

It's been a lovely end to the half term this week and the children have showcased everything they have learned.

In English, the children created their own narratives inspired by the book Journey. They added words to the illustrations, using adverbials and direct speech to craft engaging stories filled with rich and imaginative description. We thoroughly enjoyed reading them and are so proud of the growth they have shown in their writing this half term.

In Maths, we have been focusing on multiplying 2-digit by 1-digit numbers, using the column method.

In Science, we carried out an investigation to find out which objects are magnetic and non-magnetic. The children enjoyed testing a range of materials and used key vocabulary to present their findings.

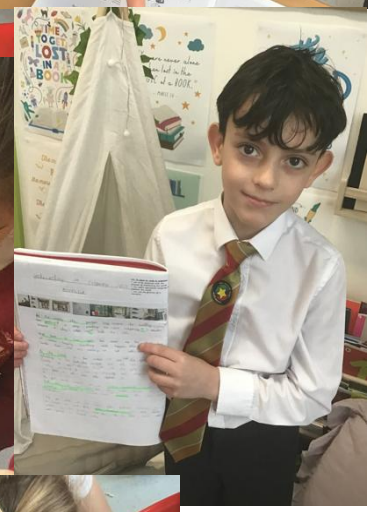
In RE, we discussed Ummah and why this is important to those with Muslim worldviews. We shared examples of how the idea of Ummah can influence Muslim beliefs and actions.

In Geography, we came to the end of our Mountains, Volcanoes and Earthquakes topic by naming and describing the features of mountains.

We marked Children's Mental Health week this week by discussing how we can help everyone to feel like they belong. We spent time thinking about our support network and reflecting on what makes us the unique individuals we are. It was lovely to hear the children's thoughtful reflections and their ideas about what can help themselves and others to feel happy, valued and supported.

On Tuesday, we also celebrated Safer Internet Day by exploring the safe and responsible use of AI.

Well done to all of the children for a wonderful half-term, packed full of learning, fun and joy. We hope you all have a lovely half-term and the children have a well-deserved rest.



Year 4 (Tagore Class and Turing Class)

We have had a fantastic half term filled with rich learning experiences across all subjects!

In English, the children have been busy writing an information leaflet all about St. Gabriel's to help welcome new starters to our school. This piece of writing was inspired by our class text The Boy at the Back of the Class. We looked closely at organisational features - such as headings, subheadings and captions - and thought carefully about the use of pictures to make our leaflets clear and engaging.

In Maths, we continued our work on length and perimeter. The children explored rectilinear shapes and learnt how to calculate the perimeter even when some lengths were missing. They applied their problem-solving skills brilliantly!

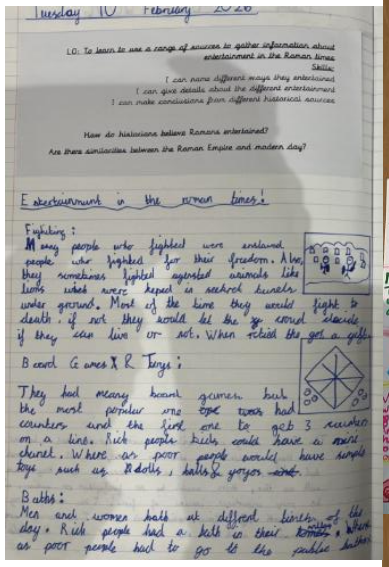
We concluded our unit on environmental changes by researching both human and natural changes in our world. The children created informative posters to share their findings and presented their research confidently to the class.

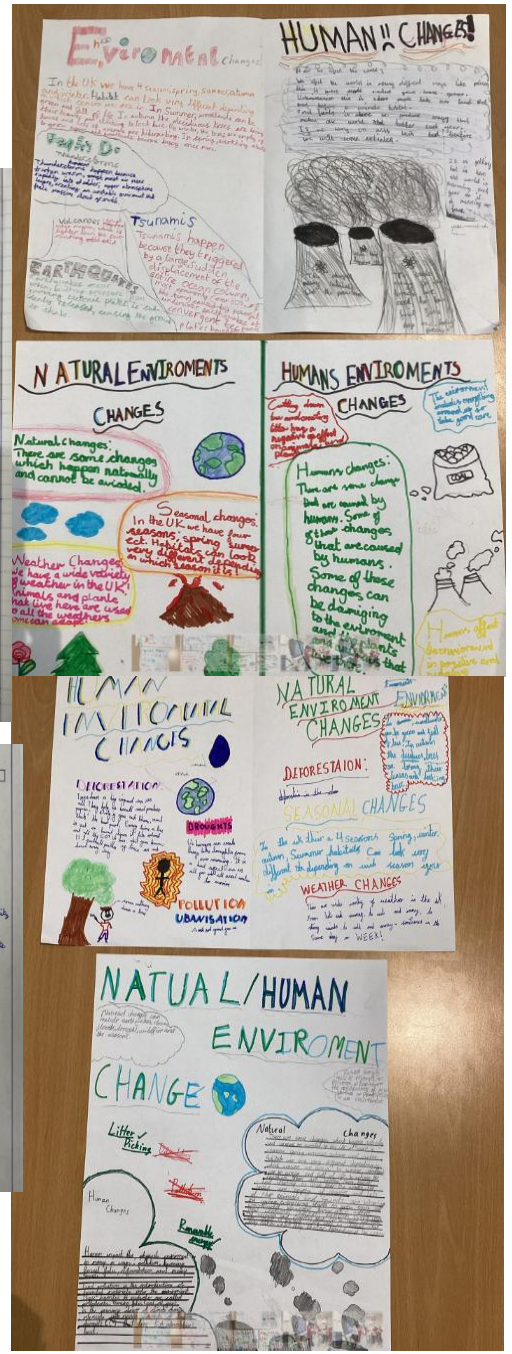
This half term, the children completed their final art pieces: Roman mosaics. Each mosaic was designed around a chosen pattern, animal or person and the children demonstrated great attention to detail and creativity.

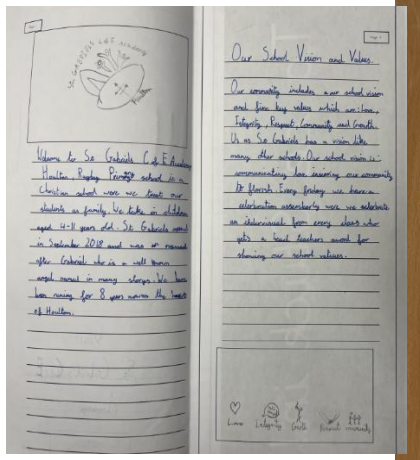
In History, we explored entertainment during Roman times. The children then compared this to modern-day entertainment to identify similarities and differences. They shared their understanding through a written paragraph in their history books.

In RE, we looked more closely at the concept of fasting from a Christian worldview. The children also reflected on their own individual worldviews and discussed how they might feel if they were to give something up.

It has been a wonderful half term full of enthusiasm, effort and impressive learning. We hope all the children enjoy a much-needed and well-deserved rest over the break!







Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Rauf Class)

As we approach the end of term, the children have been busy finishing off their units and showing just how much they've learned.

In English, the children have been writing biographies about one of the significant women we have been studying. They worked incredibly hard to include key features such as: subheadings, chronological order, the perfect tense, relative clauses and parenthesis. The children also spent time editing and improving their work, checking carefully with a partner before making final changes. Their effort and pride in their writing really shone through.

In Maths, we completed our fractions unit and the children are now feeling confident multiplying fractions in different ways. This solid understanding has set them up brilliantly for next half term, when we will begin applying this knowledge to decimals and percentages.

In PSHE, our focus this week was online information. We explored what makes a source appear 'believable' and discussed the clues that might suggest something is fake or unreliable. The children had thoughtful discussions and shared some great examples.

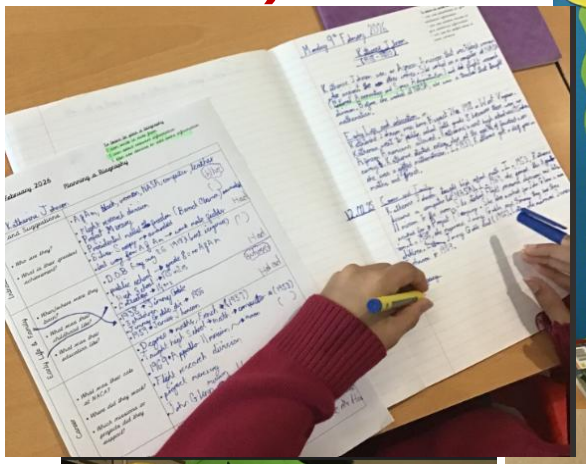
In History, to complete our unit on women's fight for change, the children reflected on their learning by answering three key questions:

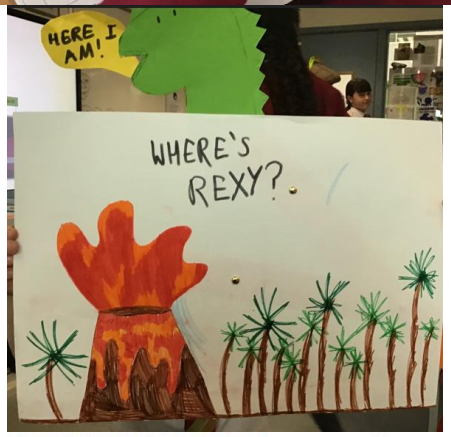
- What problems have women faced in history?
- Who tried to gain change for women, and why?
- How has this made a difference in today's world?

It was wonderful to see how confidently they could apply their knowledge and make connections across the unit.

In Music, we recorded our final class performance of *Madina Tun Nabi*. The children sang using call and response, included some lovely solo moments, and added a background drone using glockenspiels. They were very proud of the finished piece.

To finish our DT unit, the children created their own "moving toy" using a lever mechanism. After designing their toy, they used materials such as card and split pins to bring it to life. The results were fantastic! Take a look at the photos to see their amazing creations.

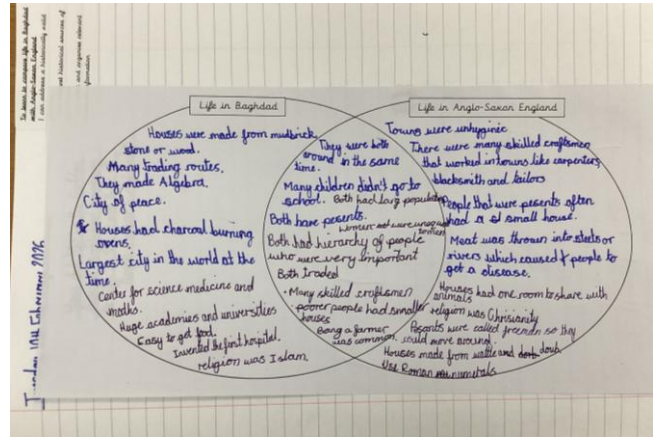




Year 6 (Pogson Class and Walker Class)

What a fantastic end to the half-term!

In English, we have planned and written a persuasive speech to our class teachers, using a range of writing techniques to persuade them to take us on a trip after SATs! We have used figurative and emotive language to encourage the reader to feel a certain way. We also considered the concerns they might have ahead of taking us on a trip and thought of solutions to this to enable our writing to be even more persuasive.



In Maths, we have finished our unit on algebra. This week, we solved one-step and two-step equations to calculate a missing value. We have also found missing pairs of values and explored the possibilities of what these could be.

In Science, we have finished our investigation on the conditions in which mould grows. We found that mould grows in damp, light conditions. The slices of bread which were dry and in the dark did not grow any mould. We also observed that our control slice of bread, which was neither damp or in the dark, did not grow any mould either.

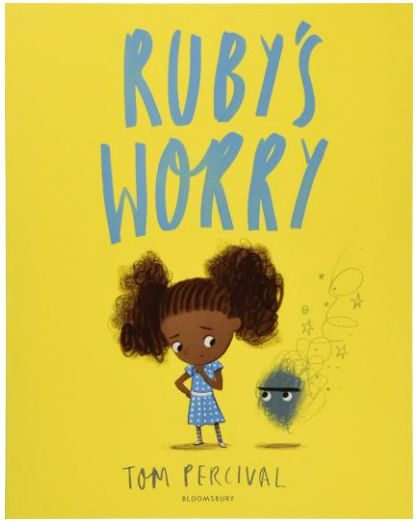
In History, we have finished our unit about the Early Islamic Civilisation. We compared the Golden Age of the Early Islamic Civilisation to the Dark Age of Anglo-Saxon Britain. Both periods of History were happening at the same time; however, life couldn't have been more different! Anglo-Saxon England was a time filled with diseases and poor hygiene, whereas across the Early Islamic Civilisation was a time filled with developments to medicine and science.

In DT, we have evaluated our clay pots, which we have made and painted across the last couple of weeks. We are so proud with how they have turned out!

We hope you all have a lovely half-term break!

Collective Worship

During collective worship this week, we have been reflecting Children's Mental Health Week. We shared the book Ruby's Worry in Worship Through Story and discussed how keeping a worry within may make it seem bigger and how when Ruby shared her worry with others, it shrunk. We discussed who around us we could share our worries with and how worries are a normal part about being human.



This week, Rauf Class led Friday's Celebration Collective Worship, sharing information about Ramadan. Well done, Rauf Class!

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

Key Dates: Spring 2

Thursday 26th February: Y4, Y5 and Y6 Disco
Please purchase tickets via Arbor before the disco.

Friday 27th February: Windsor Class Celebration Worship

Tuesday 3rd March: Author Visit (Jenny McLachlan)

Thursday 5th March: World Book Day
As always, the day will be dedicated to a range of activities celebrating the joy of books and reading. Children are very welcome to come to school dressed as a book character if they would like to; however, dressing up is completely optional. Please read the letter from Miss Merrick for further information.

Friday 6th March: Kerr Class Celebration Worship

Friday 13th March: Anning Class Celebration Worship

Friday 13th March: Easter Bingo

Thursday 19th March: Year 3 and 4 Easter Concert

Friday 20th March: Bell Class Celebration Worship

Friday 27th March: Pogson Class Celebration Worship

[February Half Term by Warwickshire Library & Information Service | Eventbrite]

Half Term Activities

Useful Contact Information

Family Information Service
Providing information, advice and one-to-one support for families with children & young people aged 0-25.
New Free Tel: 0800 408 1558
Tel: 01926 742274
Email: fis@warwickshire.gov.uk
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fis

Warwickshire's Child and Family Well-being Service
Tel 0300 247 0072
or email:
wcfw.contact@hcrgcraegroup.com

Warwickshire Health Visiting
Well Baby drop in Clinic
Tuesdays: 9:30am - 11:00am
at Claremont Children and family Centre
Self-weigh drop in
9:30am - 12:00pm
Mondays at Claremont
Friday's at Boughton Leigh

Breastfeeding Support Drop-in Group for Babies and Toddlers
Wednesdays: 10:00am-11:30am
at Claremont Children & Family Centre

ROSA Drop in Clinic for those impacted by sexual violence
Contact Claremont Children & Family Centre for more details.
Tel: 01788579488

Warwickshire Family Connect
For concerns about a child's wellbeing
Tel: 01926 414144

Early Support
Drop ins at the CFCs
Long Lawford Tues - 2.00-4.00pm
Claremont Weds - 2.15-4.15pm
Boughton Leigh 9.30-11.30am
Family Support Help Line
Monday to Friday: 9.00am to 4.00pm
Tel: 01926 412412
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies

Midwives
Maternity advice,
The Owen Building, St. Cross Hospital
Tel: 01788 663184

Adult and Community Learning
https://warwickshire.gov.uk/acl
Tel: 01926 736392

Speech and Language Therapy Preschool Team
Tel: 01788 555107

HCRG Sexual Health & Contraception Drop-in
4th Monday of the month at Claremont CFC 1.45-3.45pm
4th Monday of the month at Boughton Leigh CFC 9.30-11.30am

Interested in volunteering?
please contact
serena.langan@barnardos.org.uk

WHAT'S ON GUIDE
Rugby Children & Family Centres
February Half Term

Rugby Children & Family Centres (CFC)

Boughton Leigh Children & Family Centre
Wetherell Way, Rugby,
CV21 1LT Tel: 01788 570347

Claremont Children & Family Centre
Claremont Road, Rugby,
CV21 3LU Tel: 01788 579488

Long Lawford Children & Family Centre
Holbrook Road, Long Lawford,
Rugby, CV23 9AL Tel: 01788 561313
Email: rugbycfc@barnardos.org.uk
Website
https://coventryandwarwickshire.barnardos.org.uk/children-and-family-centres/rugby/

Half Term Activities

CHILDREN & FAMILY CENTRE

Rugby Borough Children and Family Centres (CFC)
16th -20th February 2026

BARNARDO'S
Changing childhoods. Changing lives.

Monday

Walk-in Wardrobe
Pre-loved clothes for 0-5's
9.30am to 11.30am
Toy Library
9.30am to 11.30am
Claremont CFC

Baby Time
Non-walkers from birth
10.00-11.00 am
Claremont CFC

Baby Self-Weigh Drop in
9.30am-12pm
Claremont CFC.

Baby Time
Non-walkers from birth
1:30pm-2:30pm
Long Lawford CFC

Tuesday

Family Time
Aimed at 0-8years
10.00am to 11.30am
Boughton Leigh CFC

Baby Time
Non-walkers from birth
10.00am to 11.00am
The Barn @ Houlton
(CV23 1AL)

Family Time
Aimed at 0-8yrs
1.30-3pm
Long Lawford CFC

Baby Time
Non-walkers from birth
1:30pm-2:30pm
Boughton Leigh CFC

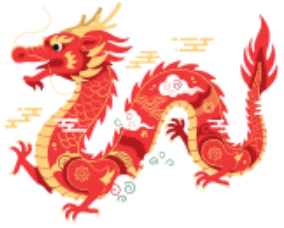
Wednesday

Little Stars
For children with additional needs
10.00am to 11.00am
Claremont CFC

Baby & Toddler Time
Aimed at 0-4yrs
1.30-2.30pm
Cawston Community Hall (CV22 7GU)

Thursday

Family Time
Aimed at 0-8yrs
10.00-11.30 am
Claremont CFC



To view all our sessions scan the QR code or follow the link: https://rugbycfc.eventbrite.com

Friday

Baby Self-Weigh Drop in
9.30am-12pm
Boughton Leigh CFC.

All centres open 8.30am-4.30pm for any enquiries

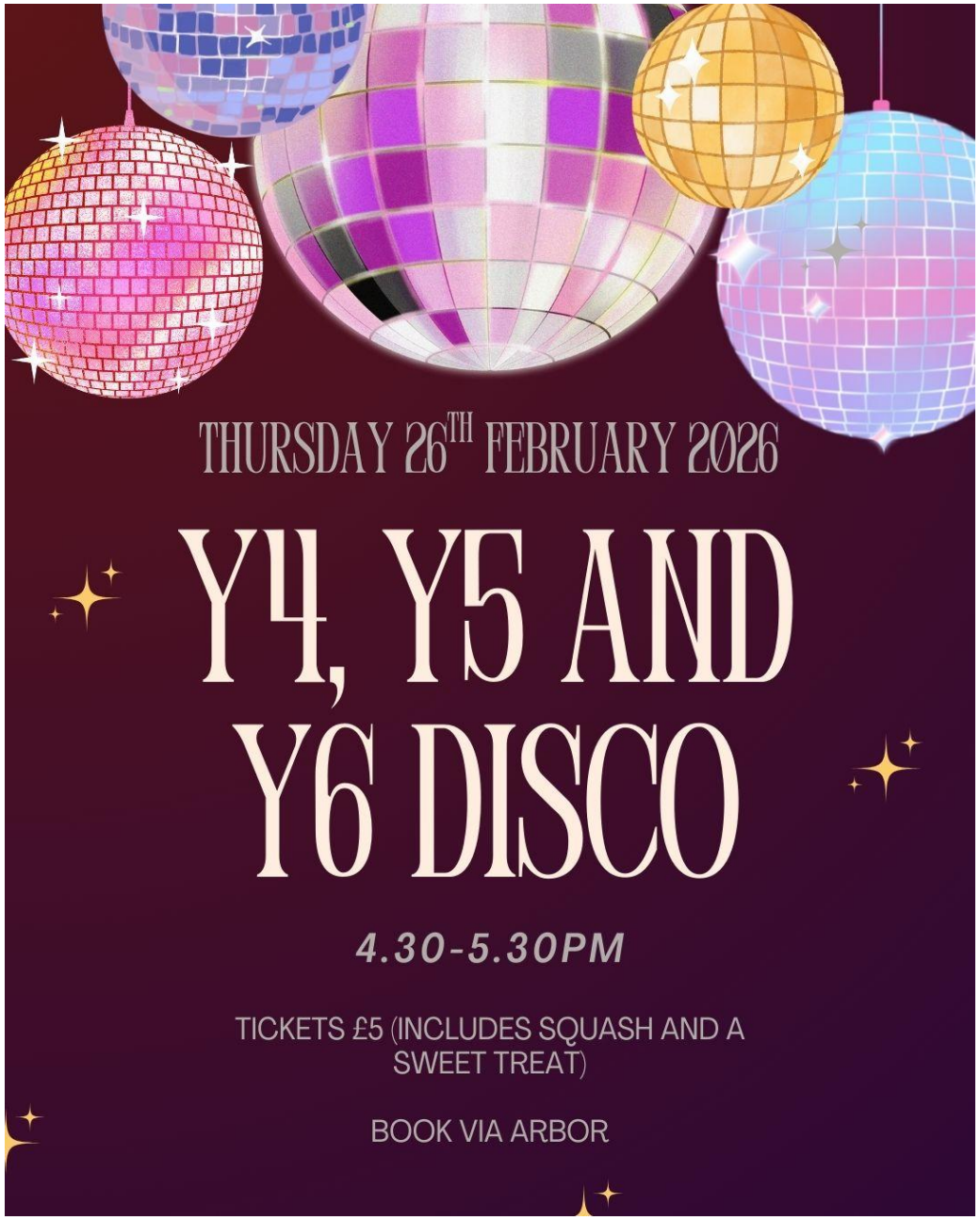
Saturday

Saturdads
Next Saturdads sessions
14th February
14th March
10-11.30am
Claremont CFC

Please note the changes in times to some of the groups from our regular term time timetable

Number Day 2026

Community Events



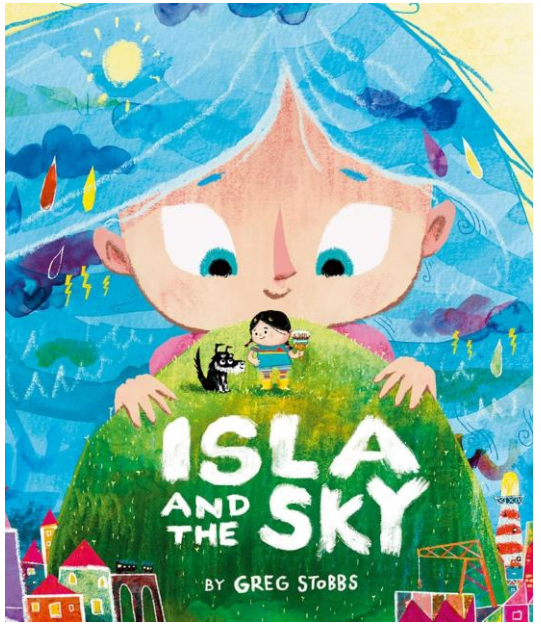
Recommended Read

Isla and the Sky by Greg Stobbs

Isla loves to paint the sky just as it is by capturing its changing moods through colour. But when everyone else only wants sunshine and blue skies, the sky tries to stay happy all the time and the world begins to lose its colour.

With kindness and creativity, Isla helps the sky to realise that grey days, stormy moments and bright bursts of colour all belong.

Gregg Stobbs has created the perfect read for Children's Mental Health week, opening up conversations about feelings, emotional acceptance and the importance of allowing ourselves to experience every emotion, not just the 'happy' ones.



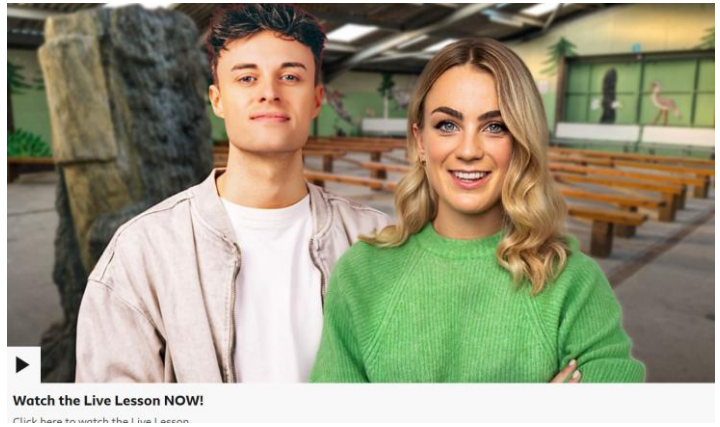
Online Safety

This week, we celebrated Safer Internet Day and the children learnt all about using AI safely and responsibly. During our class worship time, we explored the many ways AI can be helpful, creative and rewarding, as well as some of the potential risks that come with this kind of technology.

The children took part in a range of activities to help them think more deeply about the topic. They discussed real-life examples, explored different scenarios and reflected on the choices they make when using AI in their everyday lives. We were really impressed with how thoughtfully they approached the subject.

There is a digital lesson on the safe and responsible use of AI which can be accessed via the BBC bitesize website. Follow this link:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/live-lessons/articles/zcbhdnb#zx9vmbk

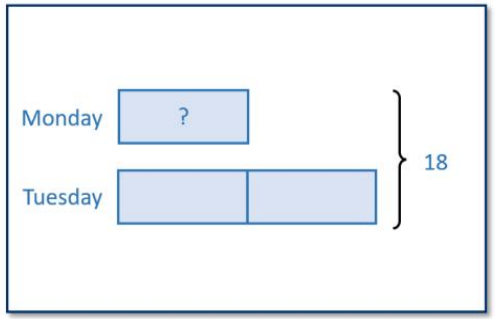


Maths Problem of the Week

KS1

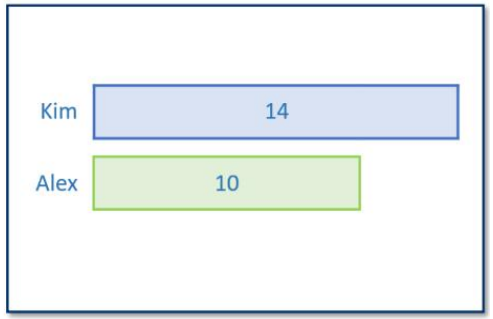
1 Class 2 build some snowmen on Monday.
On Tuesday, they build double the number of snowmen they built on Monday.
In total, Class 2 builds 18 snowmen.

How many snowmen did Class 2 build on Monday?



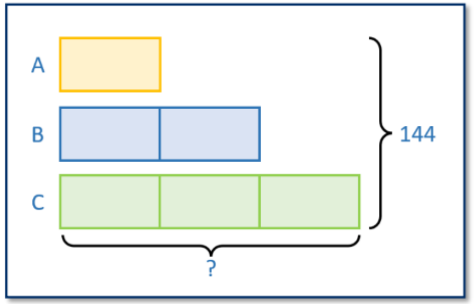
2 Kim has 14 grapes.
Alex has 10 grapes.
Kim gives Alex some grapes.
They now have the same number of grapes.

How many grapes did Kim give to Alex?

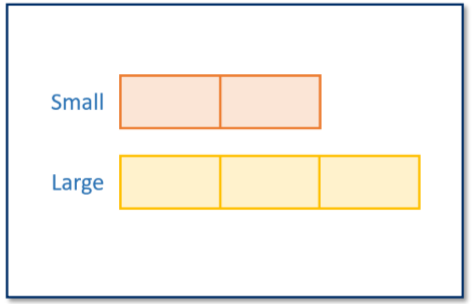


KS2

3 Factory B makes twice as many toys as Factory A
Factory C makes three times as many toys as Factory A
Every hour the factories make 144 toys altogether.
How many toys does factory C make in 1 hour?



4 A shop sells small snow shovels and large snow shovels.
$\frac{2}{5}$ of the shovels sold are small.
The shop sells 84 more large shovels than small shovels.
How many shovels does the shop sell in total?



Challenge

5 At a winter park, there is a sledging hill, an ice rink, and a snow maze.

- There are $\frac{3}{4}$ as many people at the sledging hill as at the ice rink.
- There are $\frac{1}{2}$ as many people at the snow maze as at the sledging hill.
- There are 360 more people at the ice rink than at the snow maze.

How many people are at the ice rink?

Answers

1 Class 2 built 6 snowmen on Monday.

2 Kim gave Alex 2 grapes.

3 Factory C makes 72 toys in 1 hour.

4 The shop sells 420 shovels in total.

5 There are 576 people at the ice rink.

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96%
This week's attendance	95.1%
Latest Local Authority ranking	25th 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

This week's Family Information Service newsletter includes information about:

- Safer Internet Day
- Children's Mental Health Week
- Half-term activities

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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