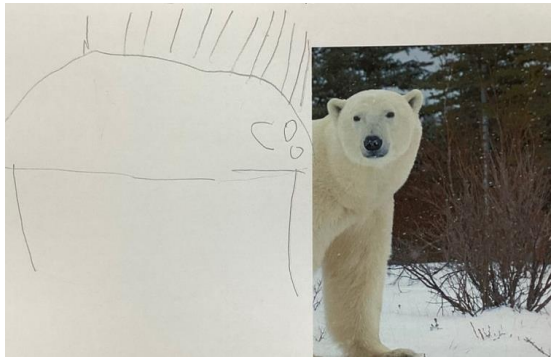
Weekly Learning Update

13th December 2024

Nursery

This week, we have had great fun rehearsing our Christmas songs in preparation for the 'sing along'. The children in Nursery have looked at the Nativity story and used props to retell the story to our friends. The children enjoyed exploring the polar express, feeding the reindeers, creating polar bear illustrations and even making attempts to complete their own Christmas trees.



Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

What a fantastic penultimate week of the half term it has been! The children have worked so hard on their Nativity rehearsals and cannot wait to share their performance with you on Tuesday at 10:00. Thank you so much for the support in obtaining the costumes for the show- the children are going to look amazing!

Maths:

Our focus this week has been to continue to develop our confidence with the concept of one less. Children have shown real understanding of counting down and we have spent some sessions this week gaining confidence in identifying one less than a given number.

We also explored conservation of quantity, which is the process of moving a quantity around and recognising that there is still the same amount. The children really enjoyed the practical learning of this!

English:

We have had a visit from a cheeky elf and friends this week! The children have had to spot the elf each morning and the elf has left some images for the children to generate sentence ideas and then write.

Phonics:

The children have worked so hard throughout the week as we have been assessing their blending and phoneme recognition. Following this, the children have enjoyed exploring Phase 3 phonemes as we move on to this phase.

Learning Time:

During Learning Time, the children have really enjoyed accessing a range of different areas. They have made their own hand printed wreaths, they have used playdough to decorate gingerbread figures and they have also written a range of invitations to let their grown-ups know when and where the performance is.

Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

It's been another great week in Year 1, packed full of lots of amazing learning, as well as lots of excitement in the build up to Christmas. From a pantomime last Friday, to Christmas dinner, Christmas jumper day and lots of Nativity rehearsals this week, we have been having lots of fun! We can't wait for you to come and see it next Thursday!

In Phonics, we have been continuing to focus on words with tricky phoneme blends, including 'spr' and 'shr'. The children have worked really hard to read and write words with these blends and we have been so impressed.

In English, the children have been writing letters to Mog to encourage her to come down from the roof and enjoy Christmas! They have used lots of brilliant adjectives to describe their favourite things about Christmas, as well as remembering to take care with their handwriting and remember their punctuation. The growth that the children have shown in their writing from the start of the year to now is amazing. We are so proud of them all!

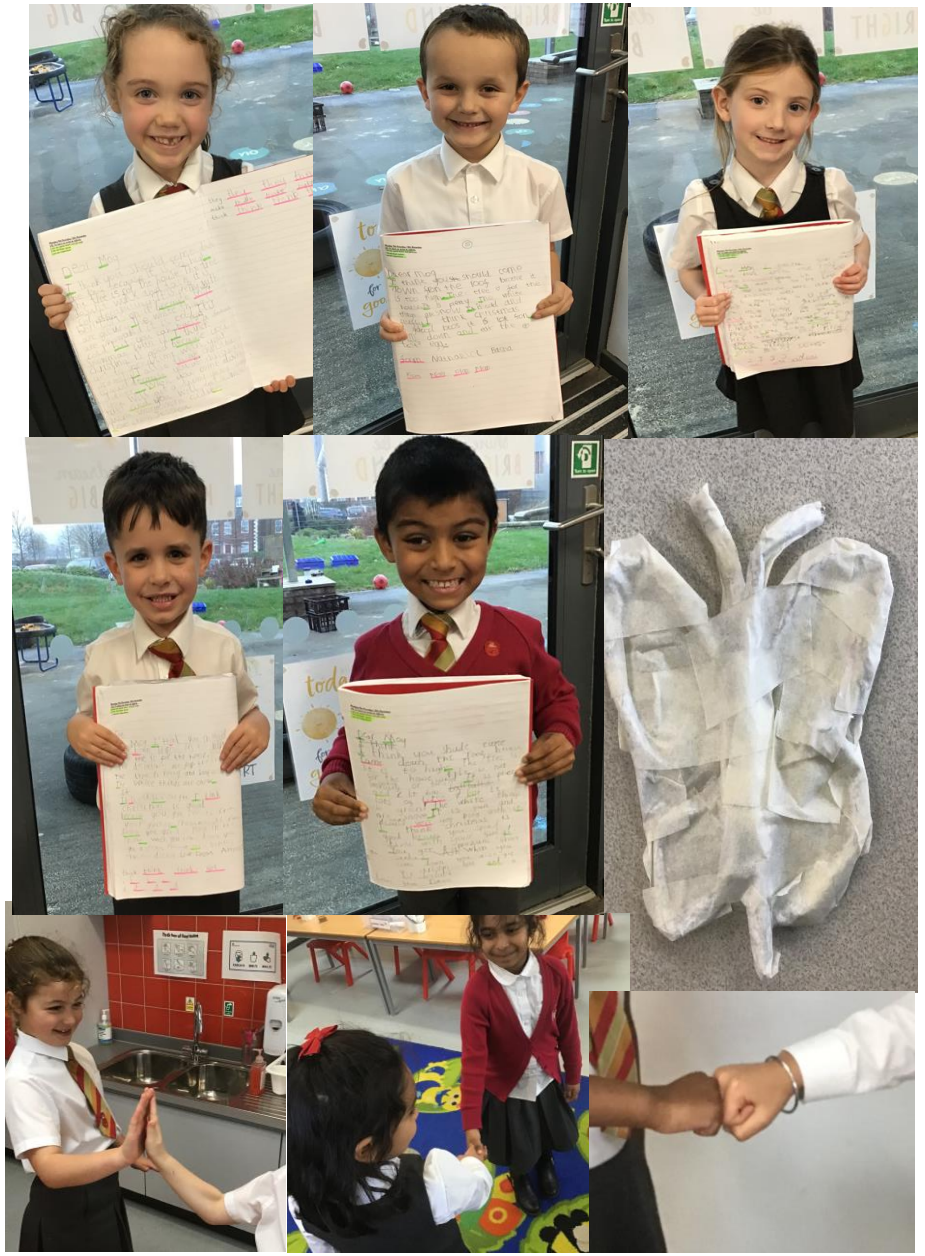
In Maths, we have been focusing on addition and subtraction, finding the answers to lots of different calculations and representing these calculations in part-whole models.

In Science, the children have been classifying animals depending on their diet.

In Art, the children have been covering their butterflies in masking tape. Next week, they will be decorating their sculptures using tissue paper.

In RE, we discussed how some people make choices in life based on their faith or religion.

In PSHE, we identified different types of touch and recognised that different types of physical touch are acceptable for different people. The children had a go at role playing how to respond to physical touch if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.



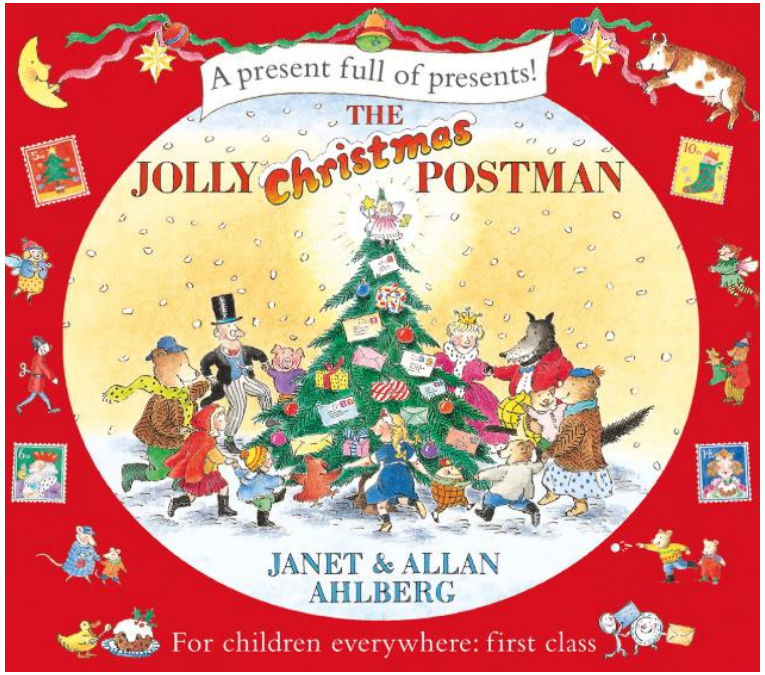
Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

This week in English, we published our diary entry as the Jolly Postman. We made sure to proofread our originals and make any alterations that could make it even more wonderful! The children have used tools such as past and present progressive tenses, adjectives, expanded noun phrases and chronological order to structure their work.

During our Maths learning this week, we have been making excellent strides in our understanding of money. We have learned about the different values of coins, how to make amounts and totalling coins. We have used a variety of methods such as bar models, part whole models and column method.

Science saw us developing our understanding of how animals are adapted to their environment and how that allows them to succeed.

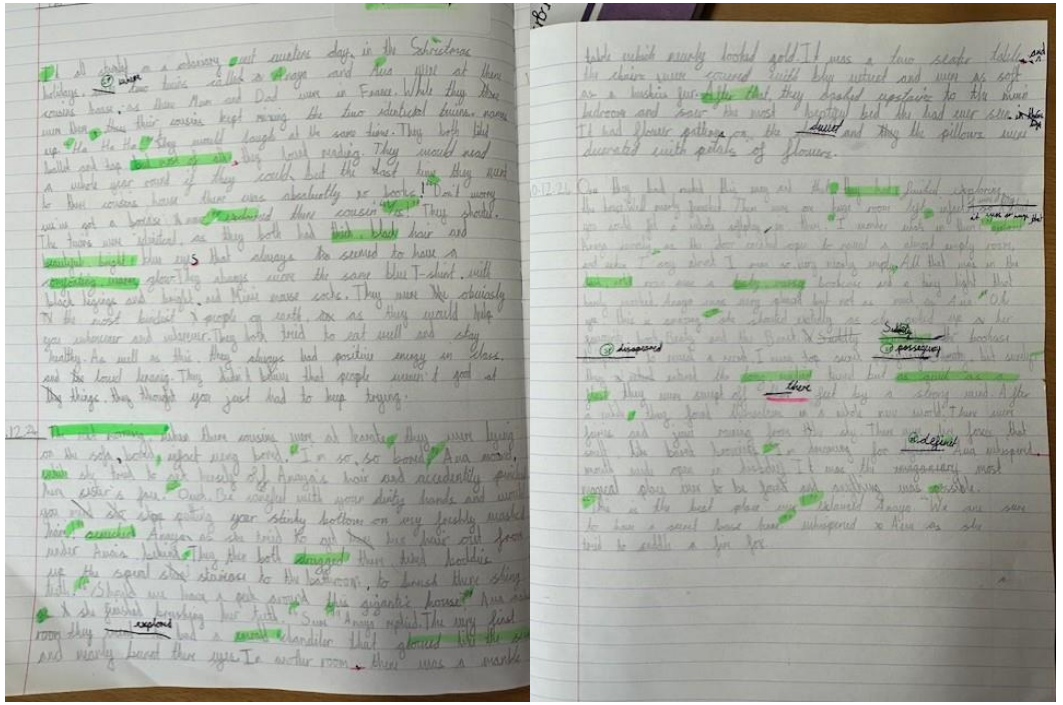
We have also been hard at work fine tuning our Christmas performance! We are so excited to show the excellent acting and singing skills next week. We look forward to seeing you there!



Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

We have had another fantastic week of learning in Year 3 as we move closer to Christmas!

In English, the children have been finishing writing the opening parts of their stories based on 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe'. We are so proud of how well the children have progressed in their writing. They have used some brilliant vocabulary to entertain the reader as well as using different sentence starters.



In Maths, we have started our unit on 'Statistics' where we have been looking at interpreting and drawing pictograms and bar charts. This has also helped us within our Geography, where we have been representing the results from our fieldwork in a pictogram.

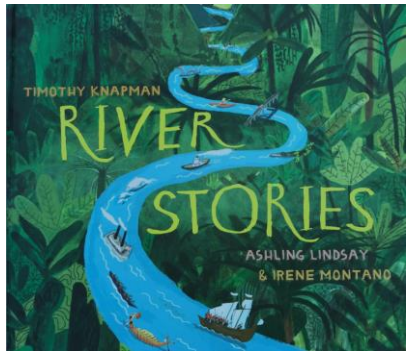
In Science, we have been collating all the information that we have learnt so far in our unit of 'Animals (including humans)'. We have recapped the different nutrients, the types of skeletons as well as the different muscles in our body.

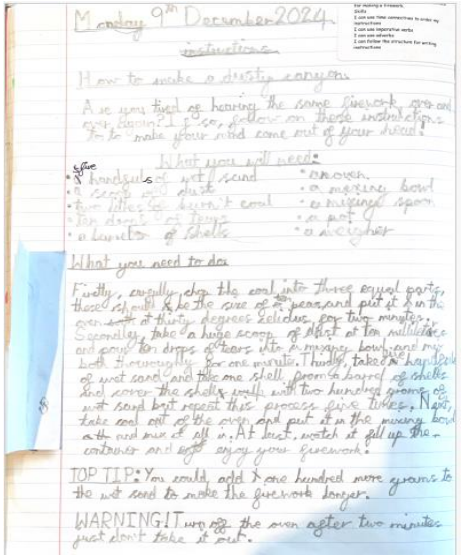
In PE, we have been practising our dances ready to perform them to an audience next week!

This week is the last week Anning Class will be swimming. Next term, it will be Malala Class's turn! We are so proud of the progress Anning Class have made with their swimming during their lessons!

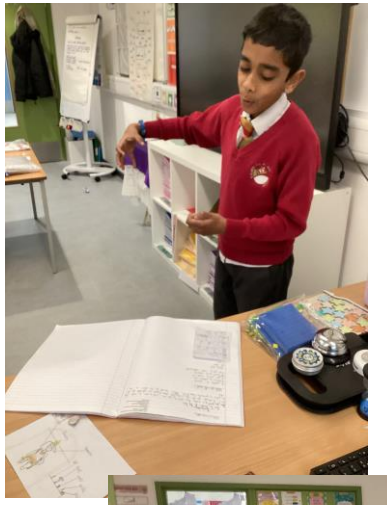
Year 4 (Turing Class and Tagore Class)

As we draw closer to the end of the term , Year 4 have not slowed down; we have continued to aspire to do our best and end the term on a high note.





In **Reading,** we have been looking at the text River Stories by Timothy Knapman. It is a mix of both fictitious and non-fiction information. River Stories explores some of the most famous rivers in the world such as the Nile and the Yangtze, as well as incorporating legendary folktales about the rivers. This week, we have focused on developing our retrieval and inference skills by focusing on the vocabulary and using our background knowledge to give the text meaning.



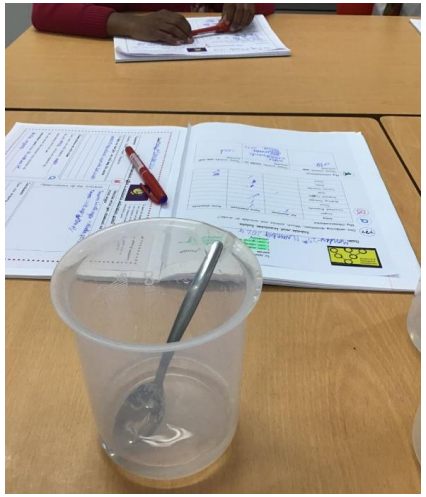
In **RE**, we have been learning about the Hindu worldview. We explored how Hinduism is a monotheistic religion, where one God (Brahman) manifests himself in different forms.

In **English**, we reached the climax to our learning as we wrote our instructions. We ensured that our instructions were creative and had a title, an introduction to hook the reader, a list of ingredients and equipment, the method, a top tip and a warning. We then presented our instructions to each other and gave each other constructive feedback.

In **Science,** we learned about the processes of heating and cooling that are an integral part of the water cycle. Through an investigation, we recreated these processes to understand what causes changes in solids and liquids.

Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Gandhi Class)

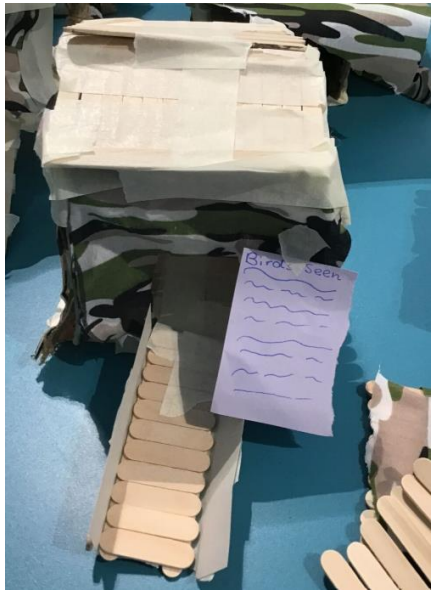
Once again, Year 5 have had an amazing week in their learning where they have achieved great things!



In English this week, we have planned and written a discussion text linked to our book 'Who let the Gods out'. The children discussed whether Virgo should keep her kardia due to her letting Thanatos the Daemon of Death out of prison. The children have included a range of adverbials and conjunctions to connect and contrast ideas.

In Maths, we have begun learning how to multiply 2-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers using the grid method and long multiplication.

In Science, we have investigated and observed the saturation point of sugar in warm and cold water. We observed that the saturation point is higher in warmer water than colder water.



In RE this week, we explored what it means to live well to Humanists and we applied this to a range of ethical problems including the trolley problem.

In D&T, we have designed and built bird hides.

Year 6 (Pogson Class and Ahmad Class)

We cannot believe it is almost the final week of the Autumn term. How quickly time has flown by!

This week was another busy one. In English, we continued our learning around writing to inform as we planned, wrote and completed a response letter to those which we wrote last week. The children had to think carefully about their audience and purpose, remembering to draw links between the two letters and continue to use rich, emotive language.

In Maths, we have been exploring the language and symbols used with ratio. The week has comprised of comparing the additive and multiplicative relationship between different numbers of objects and expressing the relationship through ratio. We then applied our learning to find the missing amounts of objects.

In RE, we had our final lesson of our very long unit, which focused all around land and its significance to people with different worldviews. This week, we explored how the Old City of Jerusalem could be an important place to those with an Abrahamic (Christian, Jewish and Muslim) worldview. The children took part in quantitative and qualitative data analysis as they explored why people from different worldviews might visit this sacred place and how differing beliefs might impact people's actions.

In Science, we explored the concept of shadows. The children were given the task to set up and investigate how altering the size or placement of an opaque object might impact the size of the shadow it casts. They had to work collaboratively in their groups to think of logical predictions, measure and find the mean, before making a conclusion. You might like to ask you child what they found out from the investigation at home!

Finally, in History, we explored the event of Armistice and its significance to World War 1. After finding out about the ending of the war, the children were given the task to write their own postcard from either a soldier or someone in Britain, to share the news with a loved one!

Collective Worship

This week, Gandhi class led Celebration Assembly, sharing all they had learnt about Ancient Greece. It was also wonderful to celebrate the many children receiving Headteacher's Awards. Group awards were also presented to a range of classes for showing the value of Growth and Malala class received an award for 100% attendance this week!

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

Other News

School Choir

On Monday, the school choir attended Webb Ellis Court Residential Home to sing Christmas carols. Ms Shinner was so proud of how beautifully the children sang and how confident they were in chatting to the residents. They represented St Gabriel's exceptionally well and everyone said how much they had enjoyed our visit and please can we come back next year!

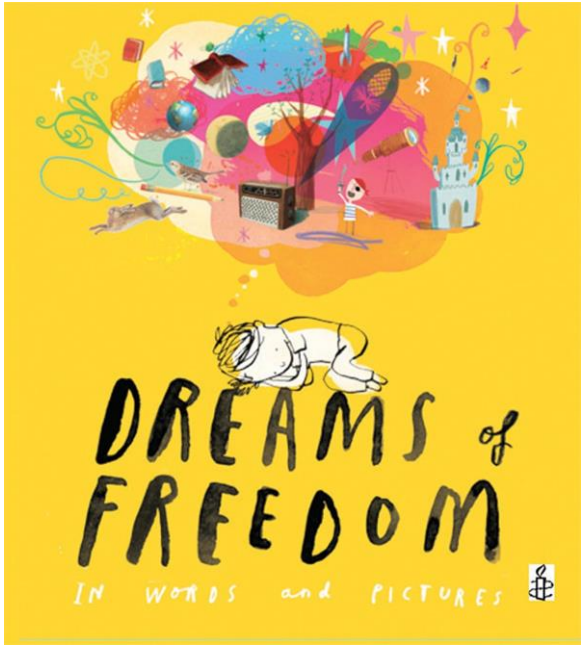
Governors

A big thank you to all those who supported our recent parent governor election. We are pleased to inform you Miss Deelwara Ahmed secured the nomination. We wish her every success in this role.

Recommended Read

'**Dreams of Freedom**' by *Amnesty International*

This inspirational book, following *We Are All Born Free*, contains 17 quotations about many different aspects of freedom, from the freedom to have an education to that not to be hurt or tortured, the freedom to have a home and the freedom to be yourself.



Online Safety

Chatting to others in a game can be a great way for children to connect as they enjoy their hobby together. It's not always quite so wholesome, however.

Wake Up Wednesday's guide offers expert advice on the risks of in-game chat.

Download here: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.5%
This week's attendance	94.8%
Latest Local Authority ranking	17th out of 194 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 is some information for parents/carers about reporting safeguarding concerns.

If you have concerns that a child is suffering any form of abuse, neglect or cruelty, contact the **Warwickshire Children and Families Front Door (Front Door)** 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.**

Other 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.

Local Events

15 December to 5 January

There's a wolf coming... but for now, The Three Little Pigs have tricked him onto a bus. If he catches them, he'll huff and he'll puff and we all know how that ends...

With raucous puppets, this is high-octane family theatre that will make you howl! Recommended 3-10 years.

Special Performances:

BSL Interpreted Performance
Sunday 22 December 2.30pm

Christmas Eve
PJ Performance - 5pm

Relaxed Performance
Friday 3 January 11am

Book Now at
macreadytheatre.co.uk

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