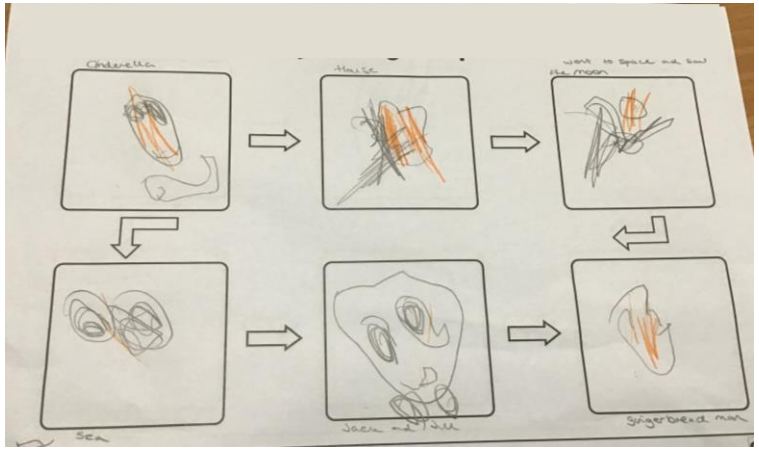
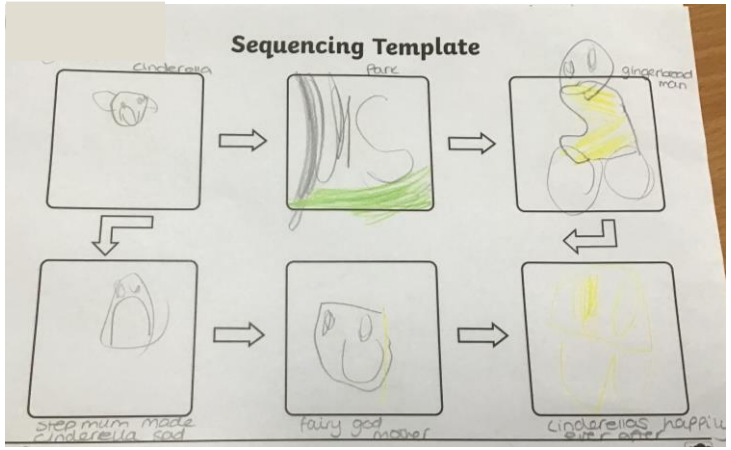
Weekly Learning Update

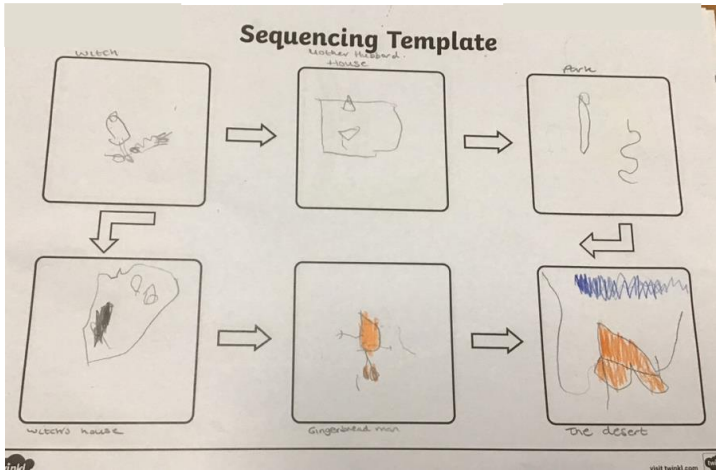
14th February 2025

Nursery

This week, we have been extending our knowledge when creating our own stories; the children have used story cubes to support their learning and created a storyline based on the characters from our key text. We have been exploring a range of lovely activities to celebrate Valentine's Day. We have been practising using the terms full, half full and empty using a range of measuring materials in red rice and we have created a beautiful gift for you with our friends at Nursery.

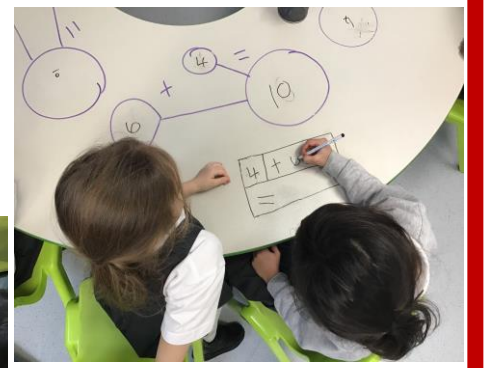






Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

What a wonderful final week of the half term it has been! There have been so many amazing learning opportunities and the children have worked so hard! It has been brilliant to reflect on the work that children have been producing and comparing it to the work that was being produced at the beginning of the year.



Maths:

We have continued to explore the consolidation of subtraction and addition this week; we enjoyed exploring part whole models and bar models.

English:

We have explored making writing interesting and the use of adjectives to describe objects. We have looked at a range of images and explored different contexts where the use of adjective can be useful.

PSHE:

We have been thinking about those within the community who help. This has linked within continuous provision as children have explored different costumes of those that help within the community as well as completing a range of puzzles.

RE:

We have explored the question, 'How to show we belong?' We explored different worldviews and how different groups of people may have different ways to show how they belong. This week, we explored worldviews within Islam and learnt about Ramadan and Eid.

We look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 25th February. Have a lovely half term!

Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

We can't believe we are at the end of another half term already! The children have been working so hard and have shown so much growth over the last 6 weeks. We are so proud of them!

In Phonics this week, we have been focusing on split digraphs, as well as the digraph 'ow' as in 'blow' and 'slow' and the trigraph 'are' as in 'scare' and 'dare'.

In English, the children have been writing their diary entries, getting into the character of the girl from the Bubbles video. They have been sequencing her adventure using time sequencing words, as well as writing in the past tense by using the suffix 'ed'. We have been blown away by their wonderful writing!

In Maths, we have been consolidating addition and subtraction to 20. The children have used number lines, ten frames and numicon to support them in their calculations.

In Geography, we have been checking on our rain gauge to learn more about the rainfall in Houlton. We have enjoyed collecting and recording our data and presenting what we have found.

In RE, we explored the non-religious worldview, Humanism. We found out that people with Humanist worldviews use a set of values called The Ten Commitments to guide them in how to live a happy and helpful life. We used symbols to understand the meaning of these statements. We then went on a classroom hunt to find any sources of guidance about how we should behave and work at school.

In Art, the children finished off their own collages inspired by Giles Davies. They looked amazing!

We also marked Safer Internet Day this week by discussing this year's theme 'Too Good To Be True?'. We talked about scams and how we can keep ourselves safe online, then took part in a quiz to help us to think about who we should tell in different situations.

We hope you all have a lovely half term break and we look forward to seeing you back on Tuesday 25th February.

Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

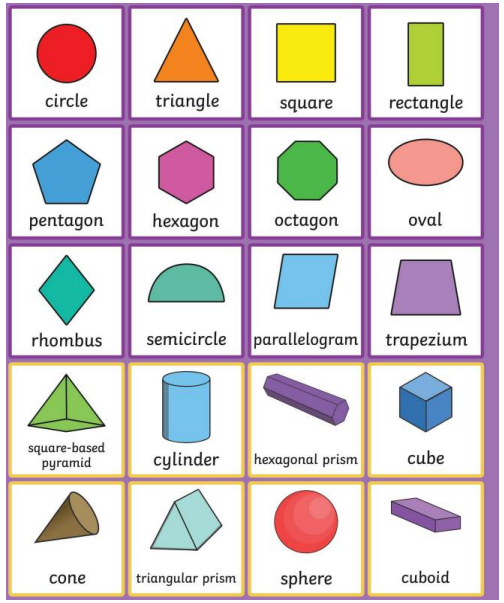
Phonics:
In Phonics, we learnt that:

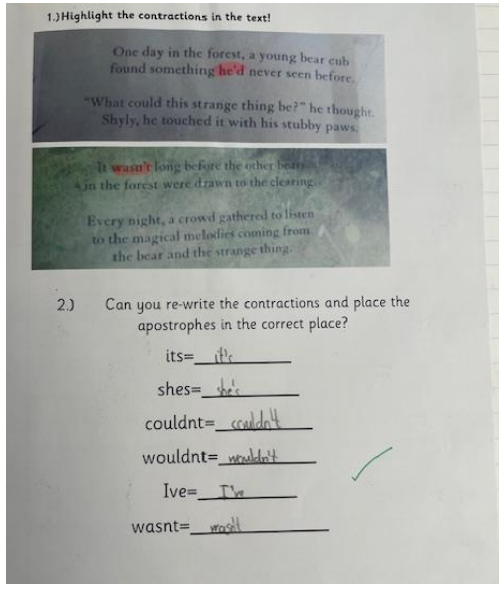
-The grapheme ear makes the phoneme er in words like learn and Earth

-The graphemes eer and ere make the phoneme ear in words like sincere and deer.

-The grapheme ear makes the phoneme air in words like bear and tear

English:
In English we have been learning to use contractions. We learnt where the apostrophe has to go in each word and then created our own sentences with contractions in.




1.)Highlight the contractions in the text!

One day in the forest, a young bear cub found something he'd never seen before.

"What could this strange thing be?" he thought. Shyly, he touched it with his stubby paws.

It wasn't long before the other bears in the forest were drawn to the clearing.

Every night, a crowd gathered to listen to the magical melodies coming from the bear and the strange thing.

2.) Can you re-write the contractions and place the apostrophes in the correct place?

its= it's
shes= she's
couldnt= couldn't
wouldnt= wouldn't
Ive= I've
wasnt= wasn't

Maths:
In Maths, we have started our topic of shape and have been learning to identify and name 2D and 3D shapes.

History:
In History, we have been comparing the experiences of first and third class passengers on the Titanic and had lots of fun delving deeper into primary sources.

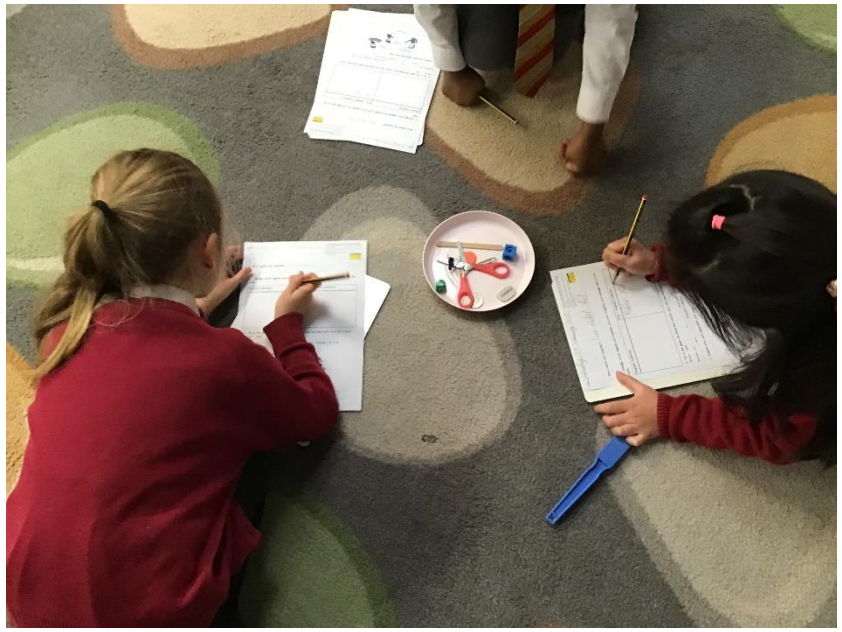
Art:
In Art, the children have been using clay to create their own turtles. Here are some super examples!

Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

In English, we have been writing our double-page spreads all about volcanoes. We have been learning to write to inform as well as finding ways that we can make an impact on the reader. We used a variety of organisational devices such as headings, subheadings and paragraphs to make our writing clearer for the reader as well as a range of sentence structures to engage them with our texts.

In Maths, we have been using column multiplication to multiply a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number as well as partitioning to divide a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number.

In RE, we studied Islamic worldviews centered around peace and reconciliation. We discussed what is meant by 'Ummah' as well as discussing what different ayahs in the Qu'ran teach about peace.



In Geography, we learnt the different features of mountains and challenged ourselves to use topographical maps to help us understand the height of mountains on a 2D map.

In Science, we have been learning about magnets and magnetic materials. We spent some time exploring magnetic and non-magnetic materials in the classroom and used magnets to group objects.

Year 4 (Turing Class and Tagore Class)

Another half term has come to an end! A big well done to all of Year 4 for all their hard work this half term.

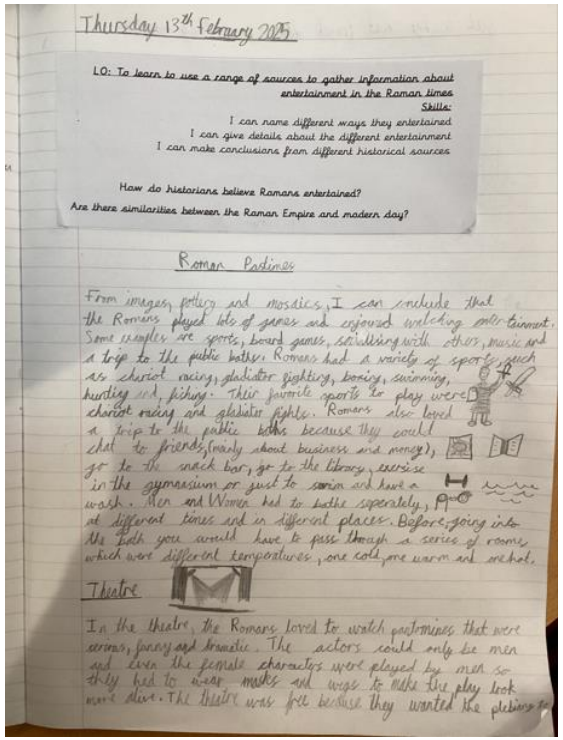
In English, we have published our information reports, ensuring that we correctly use all of our edits and improvements. We were really pleased with the published pieces.

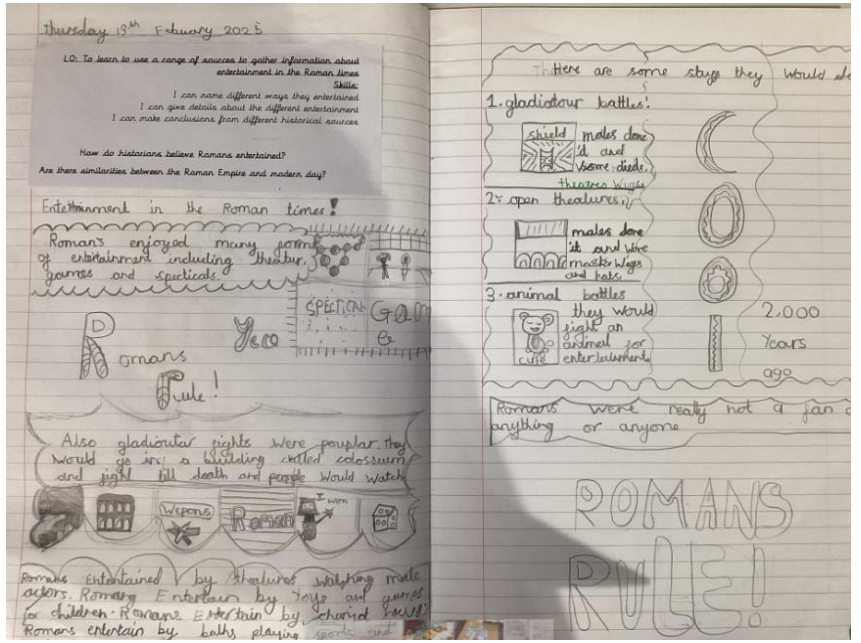
In Maths, we have completed our unit on statistics. We interpreted different graphs, including line graphs, and answered questions which involved adding and subtracting.

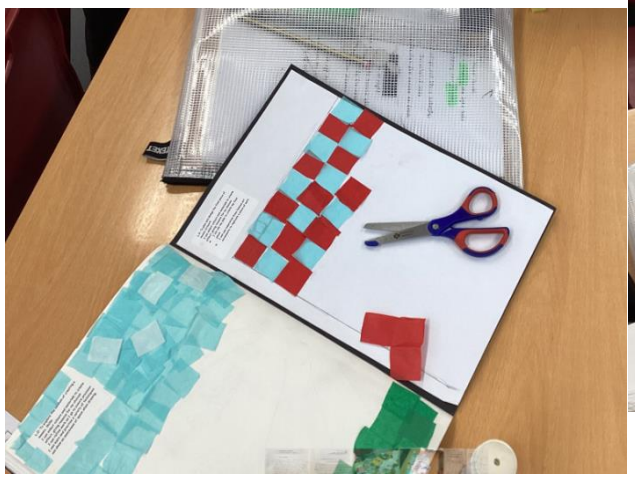
In Art, we completed our final pieces! We used our plans and decided which colours to use to create the Roman inspired mosaic. We were careful when creating the tiles for the mosaic to ensure that we were precise.

In History, we learnt about entertainment in the Roman times. We used different sources to gather information before presenting the information that we had learnt in our books. We had lots of questions about Roman entertainment and compared it to entertainment in the modern day.

In Music, we were transposing our motifs, thinking about the pitch and different keys that could be used.

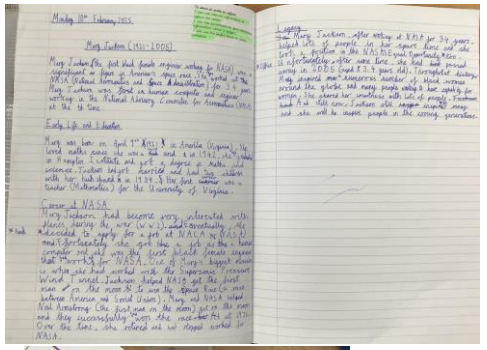




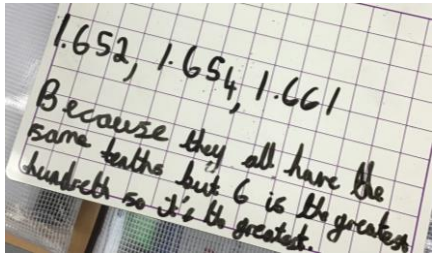


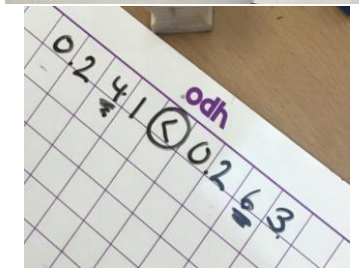
Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Gandhi Class)

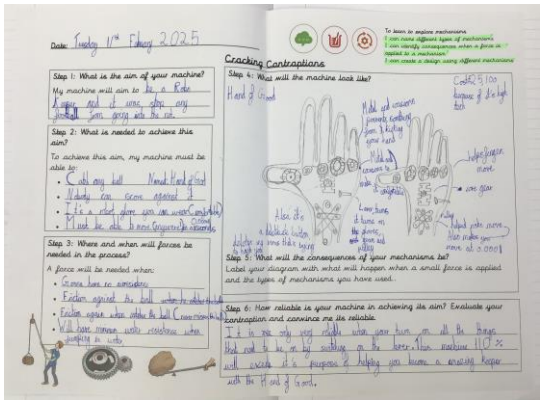
In English, we have been writing a biography about one of 4 women who played a crucial role in the Space Race. Katherine Johnson, Mary Jackson, Dorothy Vaughan and Christine Darden all worked at NASA during the time in the 1950s and 1960s when the USA and Soviet Union (Russia) were racing to be the first country to get a man on the moon. We have used the facts we have gathered about these inspirational women to write and edit a biography, which uses headings, subheadings, and grammatical features such as parenthesis and the perfect tense.



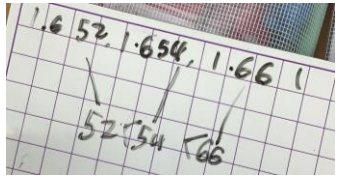
In Maths, we have been expanding our knowledge of numbers with 3 decimal places, exploring how these numbers are written as equivalent decimals and fractions. We have then compared numbers using the greater than, less than and equal to symbols, paying close attention to the greatest place value column. We have then been ordering multiple numbers with a varying number of decimal places in either ascending or descending order.



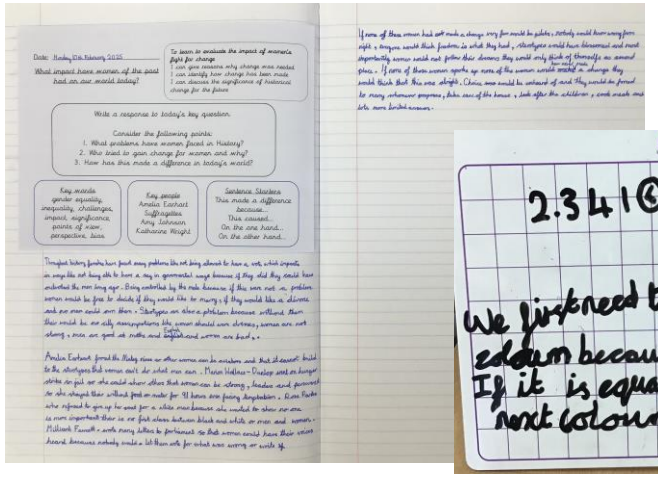


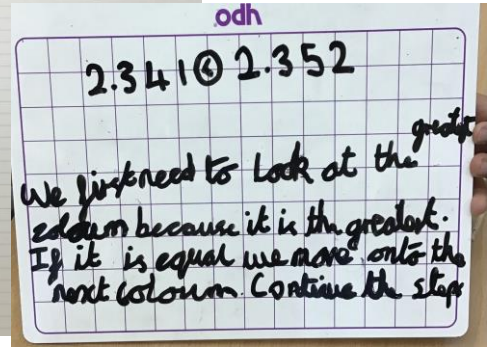


In History, we have concluded our unit about 'Women of the World', recalling the different roles of inspirational women throughout History. We have completed an extended piece of writing where we have evaluated the impact of these women, and questioned how society would be today if these women hadn't risked their lives to promote gender equality.



In Science, we have finished our unit about forces. We have retrieved our knowledge from this half term about different forces and mechanisms, to create our very own contraption! Scientists and inventors have used forces and mechanisms to create incredible inventions to do the simplest of tasks, so we have designed our own. Some of us have designed a contraption that makes the bed in the morning, wakes us up, makes our breakfast, and so much more! If only these could all come true!





We hope you all have a wonderful half term break!

Year 6 (Pogson Class and Ahmad Class)

The end of half term is finally here and what a week it has been! In English, we have completed our newspaper reports, working hard to edit and improve our work before publishing our final pieces.

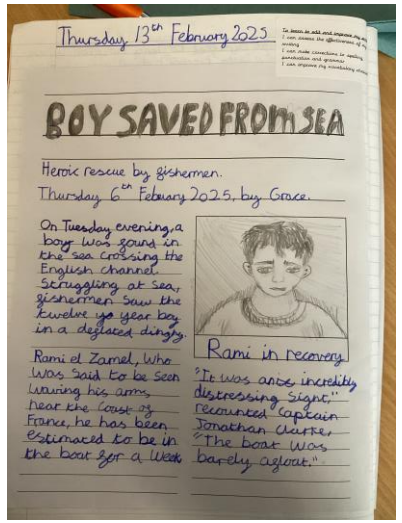
In Maths, we have continued our learning around decimals, finding out more about how to multiply and divide decimals by 10, 100 and 1000 as well as multiplying and dividing decimals by integers. We are really impressed with how quickly the children have spotted patterns between the numbers and applied known facts to solve a range of problems.

In Science, we have finally finished off our unit on Living Things and Their Habitats. This involved taking time to complete our investigations on mouldy bread by writing our conclusions – we discovered that mould seems to grow best in wetter conditions! The children also demonstrated their skills of classification by creating their own keys to identify a range of birds and butterflies.

In RE, we have been exploring how Christians might try to maintain a close relationship with God by following the Five Marks of Mission. The children found out what each Mark involved and how it could be achieved successfully.

Finally, this week, we took time to celebrate Safer Internet Day where we found out more about the importance of using online content safely and knowing how to avoid dangerous scams or what to do if tricked by one. You might want to ask your child about the tips and tricks we talked about during collective worship.

We hope you have a wonderful half term! See you in a week!


Thursday 13th February 2025

BOY SAVED FROM SEA

Heroic rescue by fishermen.

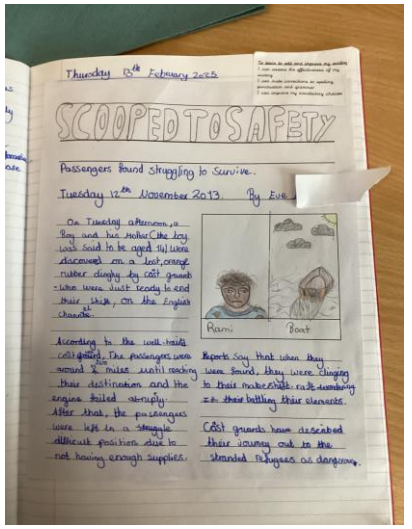
Thursday 6th February 2025, by Grace.

On Tuesday evening, a boy was going in the sea crossing the English channel. Struggling at sea, fishermen saw the twelve year boy in a deflated dingy.

Rami el Zamel, who was said to be seen waving his arms near the coast of France, he has been estimated to be in the boat for a week.

Rami in recovery

"It was a very incredibly distressing sight," recounted Captain Jonathan Carter. "The boat was barely afloat."


Thursday 13th February 2025

SCOOPED TO SAFETY

Passengers found struggling to survive.

Tuesday 12th November 2013 By Eve

On Tuesday afternoon, a boy and his mother (the boy was said to be aged 14) were discovered on a lost, orange rubber dinghy by coast guards who were just ready to end their shift, on the English channel.

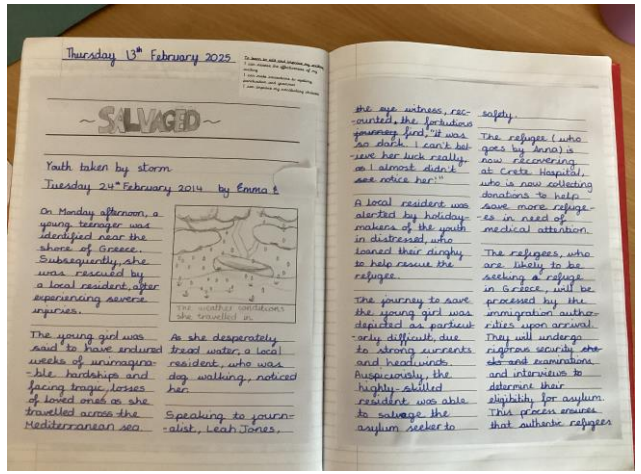
According to the coast guards, the passengers were around 5 miles until reaching their destination and the engine failed abruptly. After that, the passengers were left in a struggle difficult position due to not having enough supplies.

Rami

Boat

Reports say that when they were found, they were clinging to their make-shift raft, struggling in their battling their elements.

Coast guards have described their journey out to the stranded refugees as dangerous.


Thursday 13th February 2025

~SALVAGED~

Youth taken by storm

Tuesday 24th February 2014 by Emma E

On Monday afternoon, a young teenager was identified near the shore of Greece. Subsequently, she was rescued by a local resident after experiencing severe injuries.

the weather conditions she travelled in.

The young girl was said to have endured weeks of unimaginable hardships and facing tragic losses of loved ones as she travelled across the Mediterranean sea.

As she desperately tread water, a local resident, who was dog walking, noticed her.

Speaking to journalist, Leah Jones,

the eye witness, recounted, the fortuitous discovery, "It was so dark, I can't believe her luck really, as I almost didn't see notice her."

A local resident was alerted by holidaymakers of the youth in distressed, who loaned their dinghy to help rescue the refugee.

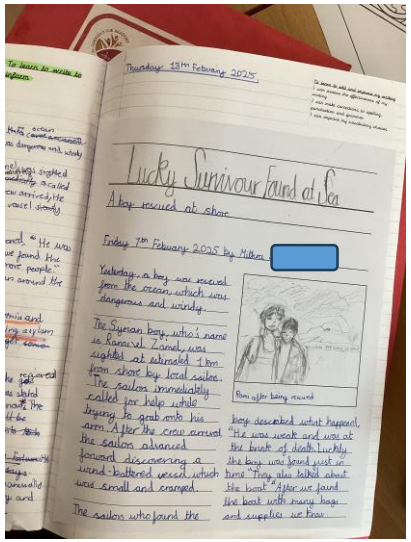
The journey to save the young girl was depicted as particularly difficult, due to strong currents and headwinds.

Auspiciously, the highly-skilled resident was able to salvage the asylum seeker to safety.

The refugee (who goes by 'Anna') is now recovering at Crete Hospital, who is now collecting donations to help save more refugees in need of medical attention.

The refugees, who are likely to be seeking a refuge in Greece, will be processed by the immigration authorities upon arrival.

They will undergo rigorous security checks and examinations and interviews to determine their eligibility for asylum. This process ensures that authentic refugees


Thursday 13th February 2025

Lucky Survivour Found at Sea

A boy rescued at shore

Friday 7th February 2025 By Milton

Yesterday, a boy was rescued from the ocean, which was dangerous and windy.

The Syrian boy, who's name is Ramiel Zamel, was sighted at estimated 1km from shore by local sailors. The sailors immediately called for help while trying to grab onto his arm. After the crew arrived the sailors advanced forward discovering a wind-battered vessel, which was small and cramped.

Rami after being rescued

boy described what happened, "He was weak and was at the brink of death. Luckily the boy was found just in time." They also talked about the boat. "After we found the boat with many bags and supplies we knew...

The sailors who found the

Number Day 2025

Collective Worship

Following on from last week's Worship through Stories assembly, we continued reading 'My Bindi' by Gita Varadarjan, who was born in Kerala and then moved to Chennai as a child. Our children have loved learning about these places and it would be great if any of our families have any photos of this part of the world that they would be kind enough to share with us. They can be emailed to our school office (office@stgabrielscofeacademy.org) and marked for the attention of Mrs Roberts – thank you.

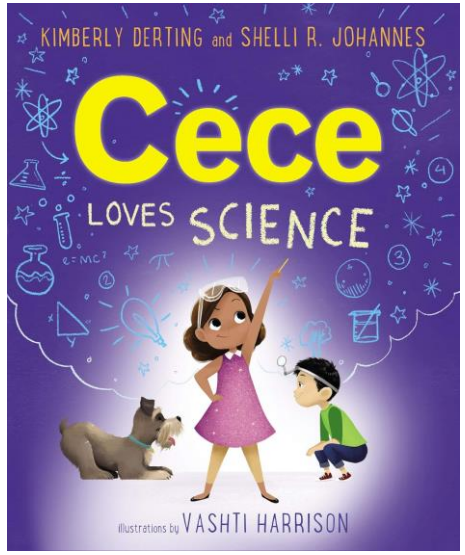
This week, **Attenborough** class led Celebration collective worship sharing all their learning about Women of the World and the fantastic contribution women have made throughout history. We also had officers from our local police force visit to give out Headteacher's awards for individuals who have personified our school vision and values this week.

Gita Varadarjan

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

Recommended Read

'Cece Loves Science' by Kimberley Derting and Shelli Johannes



Cece's parents say she was born curious. She asks: Why? How? What if? When her teacher, Ms. Curie, assigns a science project, Cece knows just what to ask—do dogs eat vegetables? She teams up with her best friend, Isaac, and her dog, Einstein, to discover the answer. They investigate, research, collect data, and analyse, using Einstein as their case study. Their final conclusion is surprising, and a lot of fun!

Online Safety

This week, we marked Safer Internet Day in school. Safer Internet Day is the UK's biggest celebration of online safety. Each year Safer Internet Day covers online issue or themes that speak to the things young people are seeing and experiencing online. This year, the theme is 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'. It would be a great time to have a chat with your child about what they discussed in school and remind them of the key messages. Below are some resources that you may want to use, as well as an online safety lesson for Key Stage 2 children.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/live-lessons/articles/zm9vwsg#zm9q3qt

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.2%
This week's attendance	94.4%
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?

PTFA

PTFA NEWSLETTER

Friends of St Gabriel's C of E Academy

w/e 14th February 2025 | PTA@stgabrielscofeacademy.org

Yesterday we held our Red and Pink disco for years 1, 2 and 3. We loved seeing all of the children dressed up in their party clothes and having lots of fun!

Special thanks goes to Matt James who gave up his time and DJed for us again.

A big thank you to everyone that came and supported our event. We haven't yet totalled everything up but will let you know how much was raised after half term.

Our next event will be our World Book Day Week Sponsored Read to raise funds for the library refurbishment. More details will be provided after half term.

WE HOPE YOU HALF A GREAT HALF TERM BREAK!

EVENTS

Full details and how to book to follow

- **Monday 3rd March**: World Book Day Week Sponsored read
- **Friday 28th March**: Donut sale
- **Friday 16th May**: Non uniform day
- **Thursday 22nd May**: May fair

Family Support

Barnardo's Rugby Children and Family Centres:

The Children & Family Centres service aims to improve the outcomes and life chances for all children, young people and their families by offering effective preventative and early intervention services that focus on those who are hardest to reach and are experiencing the greatest challenges in life.

They run a range of events which can be booked via this link.

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

Stay up to date with the latest Children & Family Centre news!
@Rugby children and family centres
@RugbyCFC

***To book a place on our sessions scan the QR code or follow the link: https://rugbycfc.eventbrite.com**

St Gabriel's CofE Academy, Houlton Way, Houlton, Rugby, CV23 1AN

✉office@stgabrielscofeacademy.org ☎01788 222405