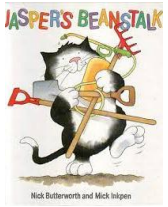
Weekly Learning Update

15th May 2026

Nursery

It has been a brilliant week within Nursery, the children have enjoyed accessing a range of different areas of learning and have been focusing on understanding the expectations within the classroom. With a particular focus on how to show the school values whilst in the Nursery, the children are developing their independence and taking pride within their learning environment.



Throughout the week, we have been exploring our key text 'Jasper's Beanstalk.' We have thought about the sequence of the story and the children have been focusing on their recall of the events in the story. The children have also thought about their favourite part of the story. After exploring their favourite part of the story, children have represented these. Through purposeful mark making, the children are giving meaning to the marks they are making and discussing what they have represented and why.

We have also thought about the content of Jasper's Beanstalk and Lifecycles. To support this, we have bought a series of seeds. The children have enjoyed planting them this week and we will be observing the care needed for these to grow and the changes that take place during the lifecycle.

In Continuous Provision, the children have enjoyed exploring messy learning! There have been opportunities to refine fine motor activities, with potion making, exploring in sand to hone mark making as well as supporting counting with a teddy bears picnic!

Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

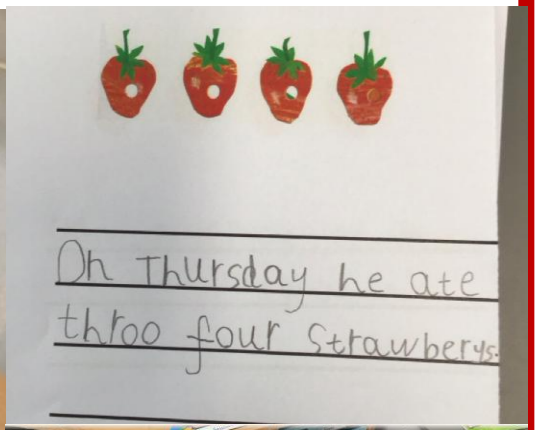
We have had another incredible week in Reception!

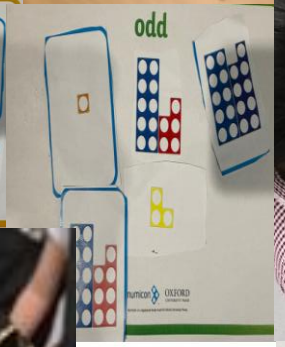
In Phonics, we have been focusing on blending and reading CVCC and CCVCC words. The children have been practising their reading and spelling skills using words with consonant blends such as sc, sk and sn.

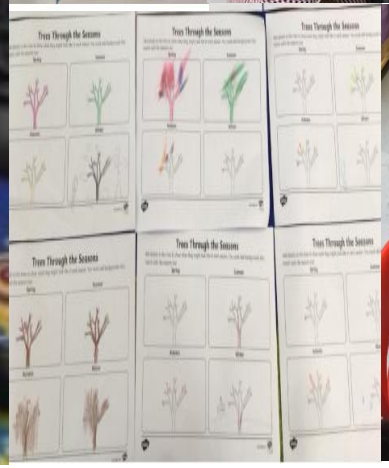
In English, we have continued learning the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar. The children helped to create a class story map and used actions to help them remember the different parts of the story. They have also continued writing sentences linked to each part of the story, using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops.

In Maths, we have been learning about odd and even numbers. The children explored how even numbers can be shared equally into two groups, while odd numbers cannot. They enjoyed using practical resources such as Numicon to investigate and explain their thinking.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed becoming “Hungry Caterpillars” during provision this week! They matched different fruits to the correct days of the week and counted out the matching number of pieces to “eat”, just like the caterpillar in the story.







Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

We've had a really busy and enjoyable week in Year 1!

In English, we've been getting ready to write a diary entry about our beach trip. The children have been learning about adjectives, verbs and nouns, sorting them into groups and then using them to build sentences with a partner.
We also revisited what past tense means and looked at how verbs change when we are writing about something that has already happened. To finish the week, the children planned their diary entries, ready to start writing them next week – we're looking forward to seeing their ideas come to life!

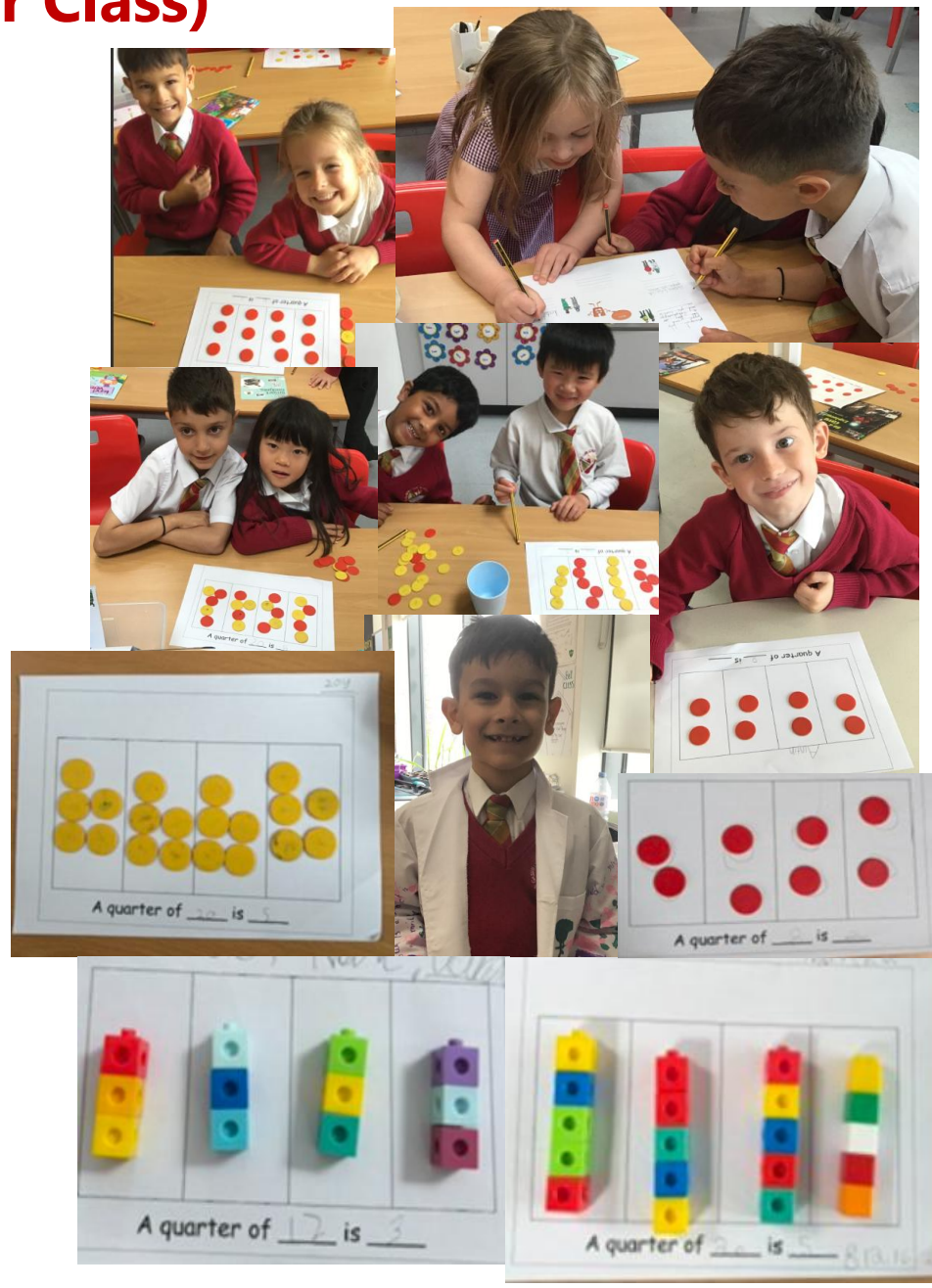
In Maths, we've finished our unit on fractions. This week, we focused on quarters of shapes and quantities, using practical activities to help us understand how to split things into four equal groups. The children did a great job getting to grips with this.

In Geography, we explored what makes a seaside holiday and compared holidays in the past and present. The children then created a Venn diagram to show what they had learned, spotting some really interesting similarities and differences.

In Art, we've been inspired by Vincent Van Gogh's sunflowers. The children drew, coloured and painted their own versions, showing lots of creativity. They were very thoughtful in their choices and produced some lovely work.

In RE, we learned about the importance of freedom of religion and talked about the rights that all children have. The children created posters to share their ideas and were very thoughtful in how they explained them.

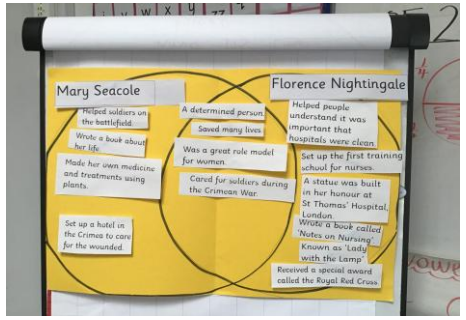
Thank you, as always, for your support. Have a lovely weekend!



Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

We've had another busy and joyful week of learning in Year 2.

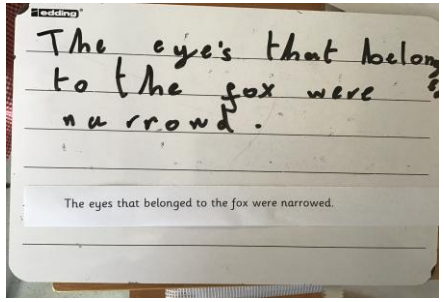
In Maths, we have begun our new unit on time. This week we recapped our previous learning and revisited o'clock and half past, making links to our recent work on fractions. The children explored how understanding half helps them read half past and how this knowledge supports them when moving on to quarter past and quarter to. We used our own clocks to practise making different times, read times from clock faces, match them to written times, draw the hands on blank clocks and solve problems involving time. The children showed great focus and enthusiasm.



In English, we continued exploring our class text The Suitcase written by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros. In preparation for our Big Write, we have been strengthening our grammar skills. This week, we focused on using expanded noun phrases, apostrophes for possession and writing consistently in the past tense. The children enjoyed using examples from the text to inspire their own sentences.

In PSHE, our learning centred on medicines. We learned what medicines are, why people use them and the different forms they can come in. The children discussed how medicines can help people in different ways and, importantly, why they must always be used safely and under the guidance of a trusted adult. This learning helps children understand how to keep themselves healthy and safe.

In History, we compared Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale, looking closely at their achievements, the challenges they faced and the reasons they are remembered as significant individuals. We then took part in a class debate to answer our enquiry question: "Should both nurses have a statue at St Thomas' Hospital?" The children used historical evidence from our learning over the past few weeks to justify their opinions clearly and respectfully. As a class, we decided that both nurses deserve a statue because they each made remarkable contributions to nursing, saved many lives and changed hospitals for the better in their own unique ways.



Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

It's been another week of hard work and determination in Year 3! The children have shown great enthusiasm across all areas of learning and should be very proud of their efforts this week.

In English, we have been focusing on the features of a recount. We explored time, place and cause prepositions, as well as adverbs and conjunctions. The children practised using these features by writing sentences linked to our class book My Beautiful Voice, developing both their vocabulary and sentence structure skills.

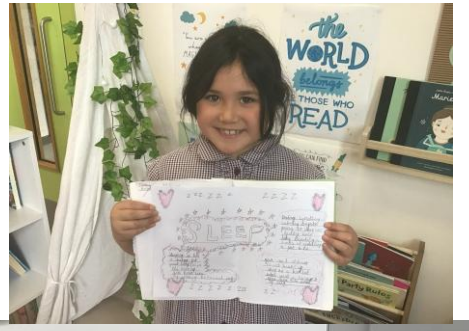
In Maths, we started our new unit on mass and capacity. The children have been learning how to read scales carefully by identifying start and end points and working out intervals. We also began measuring and comparing mass using grams and kilograms.

In Science, we investigated what plants need in order to grow and stay healthy. The children enjoyed discussing the importance of water, light, warmth and nutrients for healthy plant growth.

In PSHE, we explored the importance of sleep and how it affects both our physical and mental wellbeing. The children discussed healthy bedtime routines and reflected on how a good night's sleep can help us feel energised, focused and ready to learn. We also talked about ways to relax and unwind after busy days.

In RE, we discussed the importance of covenants and promises, thinking carefully about why promises matter in communities. The children shared thoughtful ideas about promises they could make to help to make our classroom environment even better, including showing kindness, listening respectfully and supporting one another. It was lovely to hear the children reflect on how small actions can make a big difference to others.

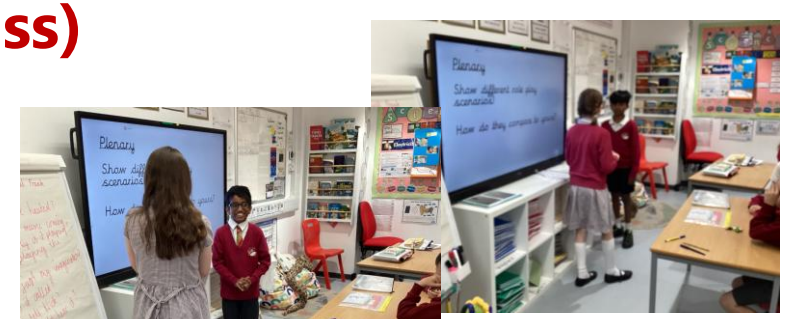
Anning class are really looking forward to sharing their learning with you in their Celebration Collective Worship at 10:15am next Friday. We hope to see you there!



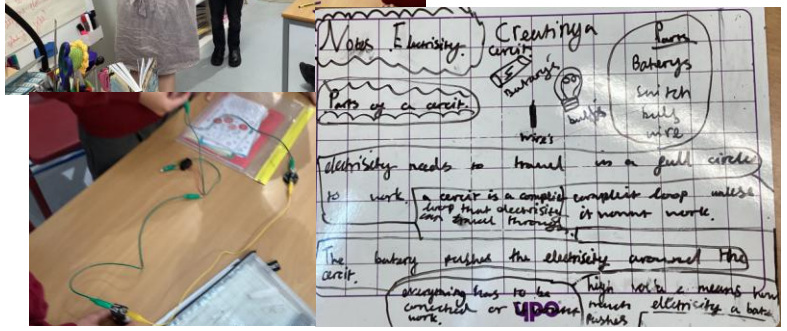
Year 4 (Tagore Class and Turing Class)

It has been another busy but brilliant week in Year 4!

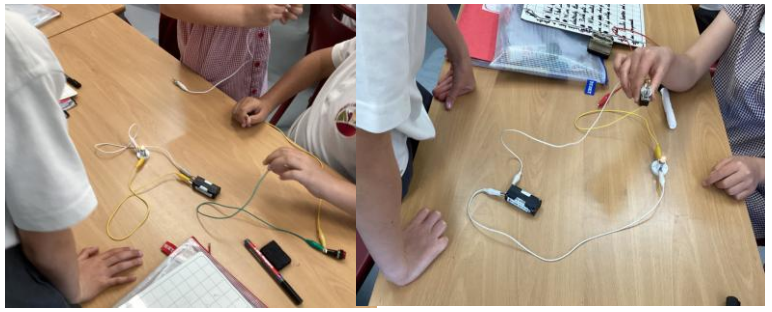
In English, we began the week with an exciting role-play activity where the children predicted what Nick and Frank might say to each other. This helped us to explore the characters in more depth. We then used our ideas from the role play to create a story map for the next part of the text, before developing these into a formal plan. The children are incredibly excited to begin writing their own suspense stories next week!



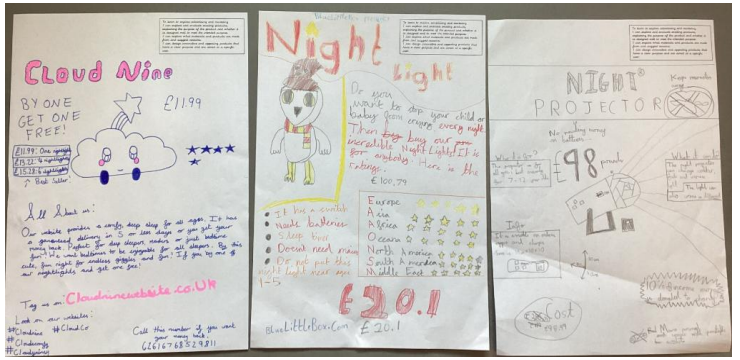
In Maths, we have started our new topic on money. The children have been learning how to write amounts using decimal notation (e.g. £2.50) and have practised converting between pounds and pence. They have shown great understanding and confidence with this so far.



In Science, we had lots of fun exploring electrical circuits. We identified the different components of a circuit and discussed their roles. The highlight was successfully creating a complete circuit and lighting the bulb – there was great excitement in the classroom!



In Design and Technology, the children designed a marketing poster to persuade consumers to buy their nightlight product. They carefully considered the purpose of their product and the target audience when creating their designs.



In Geography, we learnt about desertification and how it is affecting Egypt. The children understood that this is when already dry land becomes desert, often due to human activity. We also had a go at designing farms that could help to reduce the impact of desertification, showing some fantastic creativity and problem-solving.

Finally, the children have worked extremely hard on their times tables, focusing on the 7 times table this week. Please continue to support them by practising on Times Tables Rock Stars at home—every little helps!

Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Rauf Class)

It has been another wonderful week in Year 5, with the children engaging in a wide range of learning opportunities.

In Maths, we have continued our learning around Position and Direction as we explored coordinates in greater detail. The children practised identifying and moving different points and shapes across a grid. We first focused on how to accurately translate shapes, before moving on to reflecting shapes. The children then applied these skills to a range of problem-solving activities.

In English, we have moved away from persuasive writing and begun focusing on writing for entertainment. We explored the final chapter of Michael Morpurgo's version of *Beowulf*, where Beowulf is now 50 years older and once again called upon to help his people fight a fire-breathing dragon. The children began by exploring character description, using inference skills to describe how Beowulf had changed over time. We then focused on the basic rules for punctuating direct speech as the children planned and wrote conversations between Beowulf and a worried messenger seeking his help. Next week, we look forward to the children applying these skills in their own narrative writing.

In PSHE, we continued our learning about first aid by exploring the important steps to take during an emergency. The children discussed the different emergency services and learned what information is needed when making an emergency call. We then explored how to place an unconscious person into the recovery position and why this is an important skill to know.

In RE, as part of the Archbishop's Young Leaders Award, we moved on to a new unit focusing on the local community. The children first discussed what it means to be part of a community before exploring the different decisions local leaders have to make. They were given a range of issues affecting a local area and had to decide how to distribute an imaginary budget while explaining the reasoning behind their choices. To make the activity even more realistic, groups were later given random "chance cards" that often negatively affected their budgets, requiring them to rethink their decisions. It was a fantastic way for the children to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges involved in leading and supporting a community.

Finally, on Monday afternoon, the children took part in a workshop focusing on resilience and anxiety. They explored what it means to feel anxious and discussed different ways to manage these feelings and build resilience during challenging times.

Year 6 (Pogson Class and Walker Class)

We are so incredibly proud of the children for their hard work this week in completing their SATS!

As a treat, they have enjoyed having some popcorn and biscuits, while watching a film!

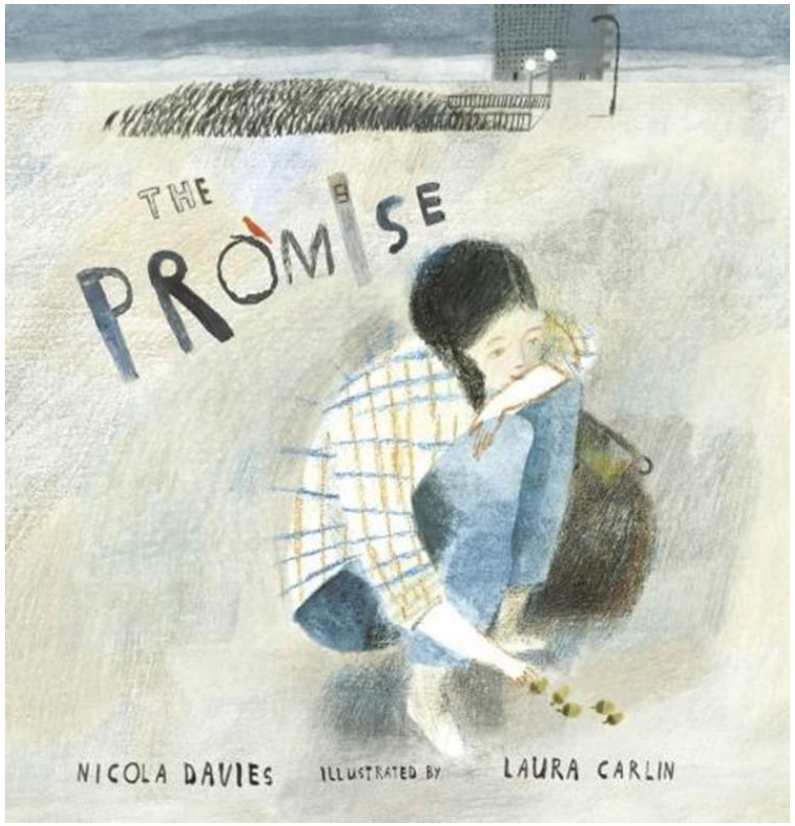
We hope that the children have a restful weekend ready for the final week before May half term.

Collective Worship

During Worship Through Story this week, we read The Promise by Nicola Davies.

In The Promise, the value 'Community' is shown throughout the story: when people take care of their surroundings and each other, they can turn a neglected, unfriendly place into a strong and connected community.

One small action can inspire others and create lasting positive change.



This week, Rauf Class led Friday's Celebration Collective Worship, sharing their learning from recent weeks. Well done, Rauf Class!

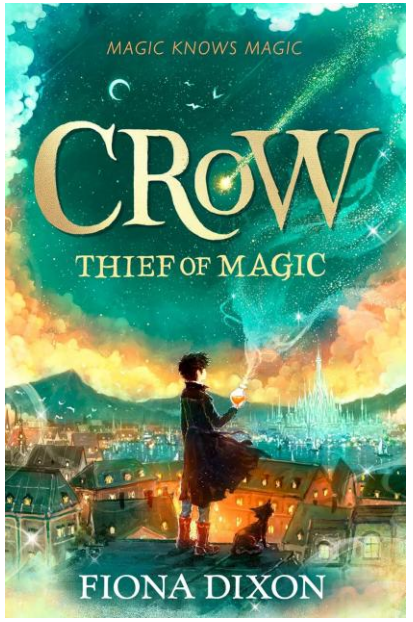
Collective worship at St Gabriel's always aims to be **inspirational** for all, **invitational** to all and **inclusive** of all.

Recommended Read

This week's recommended read is **Crow: Thief of Magic** by Fiona Dixon. We are extremely lucky to be welcoming Fiona Dixon into school next week, where she will be speaking to Key Stage 2 children about her exciting debut novel and the inspiration behind her writing journey.

The story follows twelve-year-old Crow, a young thief living on the busy streets of Starsgard. After a dangerous robbery goes wrong, Crow unexpectedly becomes the apprentice to a mysterious sorcerer and discovers the fascinating world of dream magic. As he learns how dreams can be created and controlled, Crow uncovers a dark and dangerous force threatening the city and must decide who he can truly trust. Filled with adventure, magic and mystery, this exciting fantasy story is perfect for Key Stage 2 readers who enjoy imaginative worlds and gripping plots.

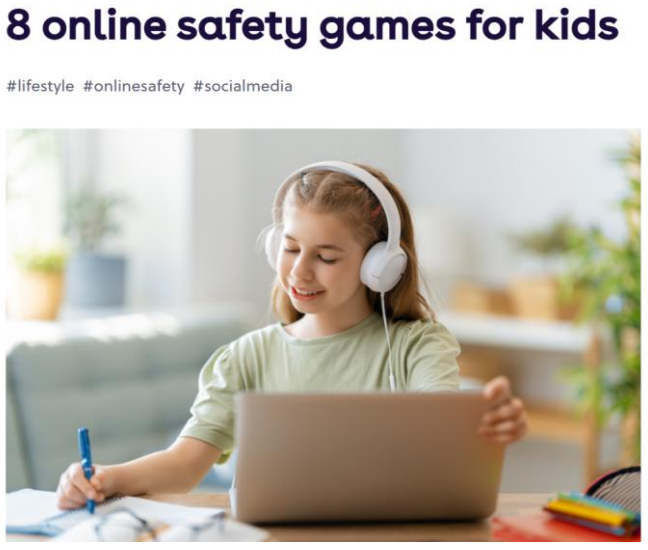
Please see the letter sent home for details on how to order a signed copy of the book in time for Fiona Dixon's visit next Wednesday. We are really looking forward to it!



Online Safety

Children are accessing the internet younger and younger, so it's natural for parents to be worried about online safety. One way to approach your child's online safety is through parental controls – especially parental controls for iPhone and Android devices, such as phones and tablets. It's also important to teach your child how to stay safe online, even once you remove parental controls. Luckily, there are plenty of great fun games out there to help teach your children about online safety.

Visit gohenry.com for support, advice and fun games and resources aimed to educate and empower children to make smart choices online:
https://www.gohenry.com/uk/blog/online-safety/8-online-safety-games-for-kids



Maths Problem of the Week

KS1

a) How many ways can you complete the calculation.

$$\square \times 5 = 10 \times \square$$

What pattern do you notice?

b) Max completes the calculation.

$$\boxed{7} \times 5 = 10 \times \boxed{14}$$

Can you explain Max's mistake?

c) Use the 10 times-table to help you work out 16 × 5

LKS2

A piece of ribbon is 2 m long.

Jo, Ron and Amir each use part of the ribbon to wrap a present.

- Jo has the longest piece, which is a multiple of 10 cm
- Ron's piece is 250 mm shorter than Jo's.
- Amir's piece is at least 15 cm long.
- All of the ribbon is used.

What could the length of each piece be?

Write your answers in metres, centimetres and millimetres.

UKS2

Mo is mixing paint for a project.

He mixes red, blue and white paint in the ratio 3 : 4 : 2

He makes 540 ml of paint in total.

Mo realises he needs the mixture to be lighter, so he adds another 180 ml of white paint to the mixture.

a) What fraction of the new mixture is red paint?

b) Mo adds more paint to the new mixture until each colour is $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total amount.
How much of each paint could he have added?

Answers

KS1

a) Multiple possible answers e.g.

$2 \times 5 = 10 \times 1$
$4 \times 5 = 10 \times 2$
$6 \times 5 = 10 \times 3$

There are twice as many 5s as 10s.

b) Max has put his numbers in the wrong boxes. It should be $14 \times 5 = 10 \times 7$

c) $8 \times 10 = 80$ so 16×5 must also be 80

LKS2

Jo's piece	Ron's piece	Amir's piece
0.8 m / 80 cm / 800 mm	0.55 m / 55 cm / 550 mm	0.65 m / 65 cm / 650 mm
0.9 m / 90 cm / 900 mm	0.65 m / 65 cm / 650 mm	0.45 m / 45 cm / 450 mm
1 m / 100 cm / 1,000 mm	0.75 m / 75 cm / 750 mm	0.25 m / 25 cm / 250 mm

UKS2

a) $\frac{3}{12}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$

b) Multiple possible answers, for example.

Red	Blue	White
120 ml	60 ml	0 ml
130 ml	70 ml	10 ml
140 ml	80 ml	20 ml

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.4%
This week's attendance	98.1%
Latest Local Authority ranking	29th out of 195 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:

- STEM Careers Day
- Pop-up family festival
- Registration for 11+ test

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.

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

✉office@stgabrielscofeacademy.org ☎01788 222405