Weekly Learning Update

15th November 2024

Nursery

This week, we have had a focus on our own identity and what makes us unique. We have looked at our family photos and drawn ourselves now and as a baby. It has been lovely to hear so many family stories and such positive descriptive words!

Focusing on our topic of Marvellous Me, we have been measuring our heights and discussing the difference in number; the children have also measured the animals.

The children also have created some beautiful pictures in relation to Remembrance Day and Children in Need.

Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

It has been another fantastic week in Reception!

English:

The children have continued to develop their whole class story maps to support retelling our key text, 'We're Going On A Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury. Parks Class shared their story map with King Class during last week's Celebration Assembly. We wonder if your child can show you the story map so far at home?

We have also continued to develop our understanding of structuring a simple sentence. The children have had daily practice of generating sentence ideas and writing them to include a capital letter at the beginning of their sentence, using finger spaces to break up words within the sentence and ending their sentence with a full stop.

Phonics:

We continue to recap our Phase 2 phonemes and develop fluency with blending. As well as a focus being on blending words to support reading, the children are also segmenting for spelling and developing their confidence with accurate letter formation.

Maths:

We have developed an understanding of recognising a given number and matching the correct quantity to the chosen number. Children have enjoyed using concrete resources to create quantities of objects to match numbers up to 20.

Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

It's been a great week in Year 1!

In Phonics, we have continued to focus on learning to put phonemes together to make a blend at the end of a word. We have been reading and writing words such as 'chimp and camp', 'pink and bank', 'pond and land', as well as trying to put them into sentences. We have also been focusing on reading and writing the tricky troll words 'said, so, me and be'.

In English, the children have been planning their own stories based on The Tale of Peter Rabbit. They have chosen their own characters and created a story map to plan out what they are going to write next week. We already can't wait to read them!

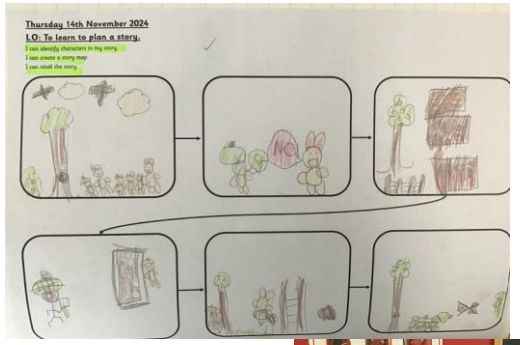
In Maths, we have been focusing on subtraction. The children have used counters, ten frames, pictures and number stories to find out how many are left, using crossing out to represent subtracting a number, then writing a number sentence.

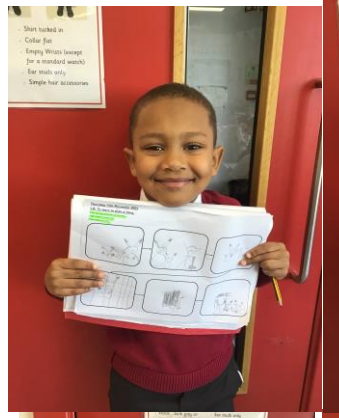
In Science, we have been identifying and classifying animals into their groups.

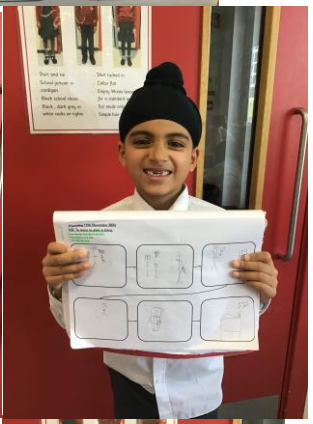
In History, we have been learning about Queen Victoria and why she was such an important person in history. We created a timeline of her life and began to learn about how life was different in the Victorian times. We are so excited for our trip to St. John's Museum next week to find out more.

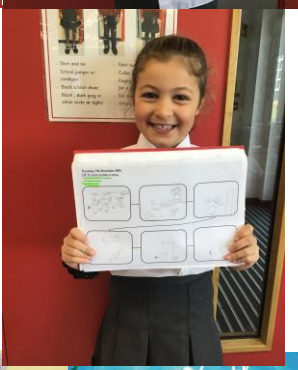
In PSHE, we were learning about what it means to feel hurt. We discussed that our bodies and our feelings can be hurt and talked about the importance of sharing this with an adult. We read the story 'Monty the Manatee' to help us to think of examples of how and when someone can feel hurt.

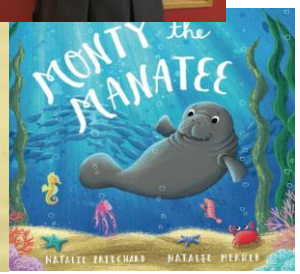
In RE, we talked about rules and how rules can be an important part of someone's worldview. We discussed the important of rules in helping us to live well together and created 'value snowflakes' to help us to think about the values that are important to us.











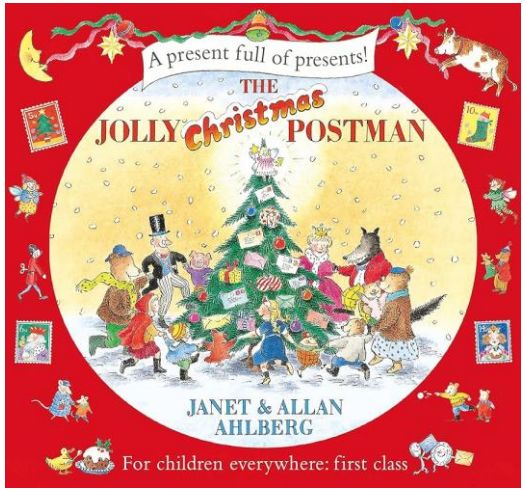
Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

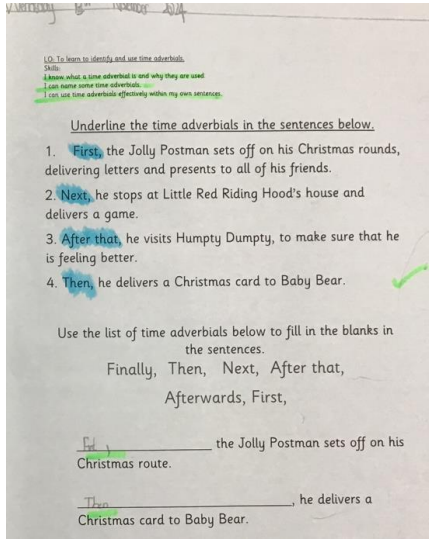
We have moved on to subtraction to challenge our mathematical thinking this week. Using the column method, we used base ten to calculate a 2-digit number minus a 1-digit number. We also developed our understanding of how we can apply the part-whole model to subtraction.

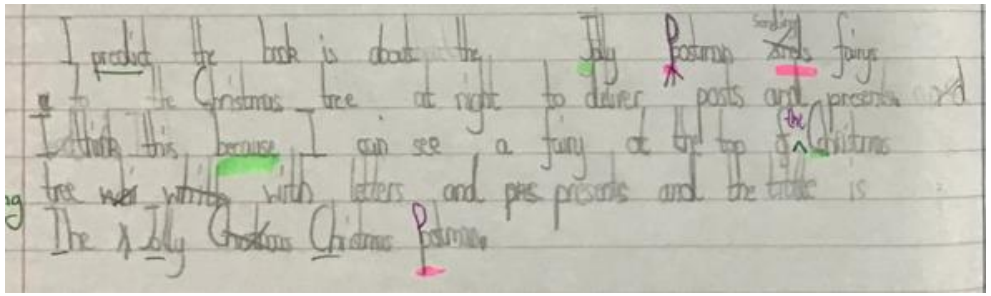
The book we are using as inspiration for our English unit is The Jolly Christmas Postman. We have read his fun filled journey, noted the events that took place and saw all the interesting characters that he met on his way. The children then practised using time adverbials to retell his journey!

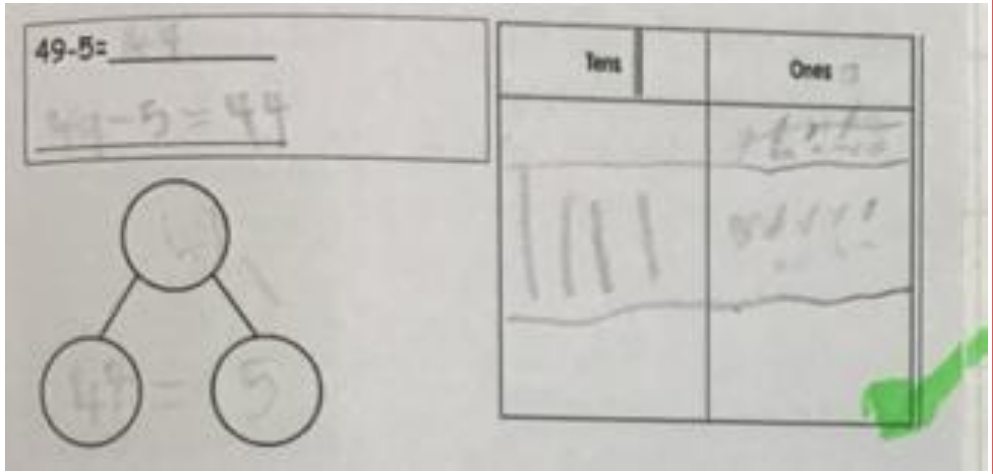
We took our initial steps into understanding living things and their habitats during our Science learning this week. We looked at what categories must be met in order for something to be classified as living using the acronym MRS GREN. The seven processes that all living things must do in order to be classified as living allowed us to sort and categorise whether something was living, not living or never living.

During RE this week, we looked at how diverse opinions can be within a worldview and across worldviews on the influence Jesus has on people's lives. We were able to then fulfil the role of human and social scientists by creating a short survey that would allow us to find out more about a particular worldview and understand how someone's religion influences their personal life.









Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

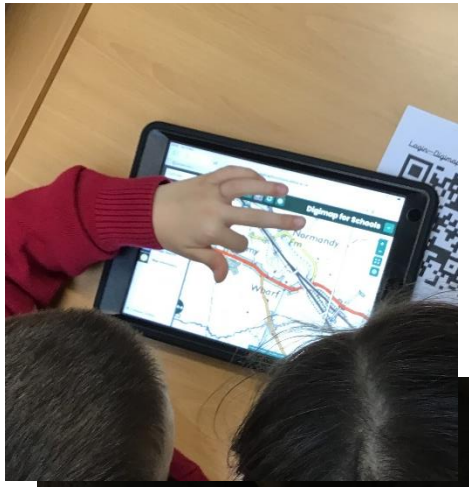
We've had another super week in Year 3.

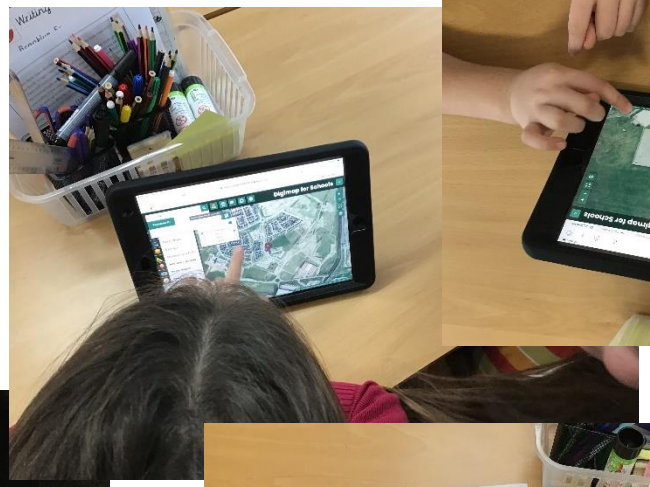
In English, we have continued to explore 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' and have been focusing on using inverted commas to punctuate speech within our writing.

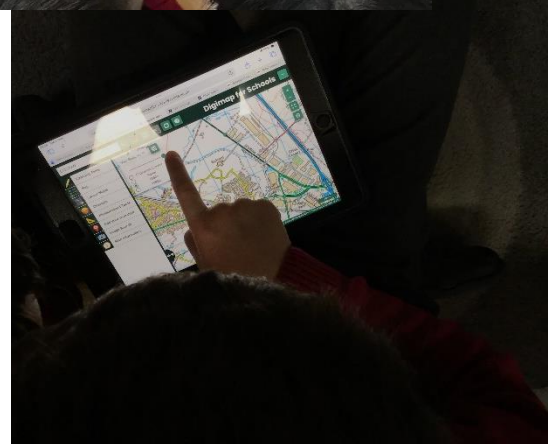
In Maths, we have continued to develop our understanding of column addition and have been adding two 3-digit numbers where you have needed to exchange across 10 and 100.

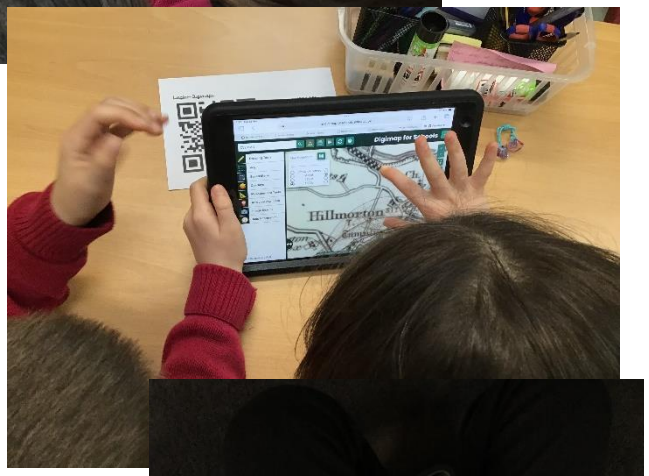
In RE, we have been looking at the Hindu Worldview of time and nature and spoke about the importance of good karma and reincarnation.

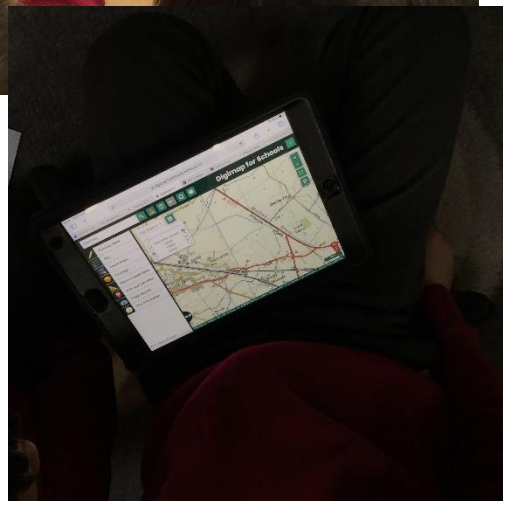
In Geography, we have started our Geography unit of 'Investigating Change Over Time' and this week we looked at digital maps to help us identify changes in geographical features from the past to present as well as using them to identify changes that are planned for the future.





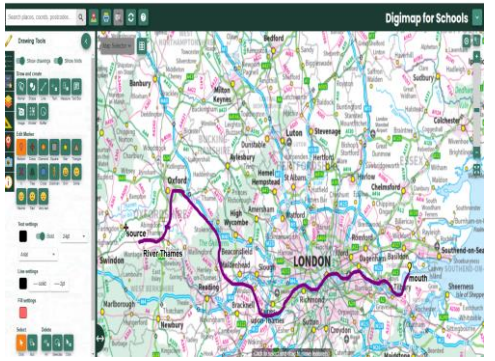






Year 4 (Turing Class and Tagore Class)

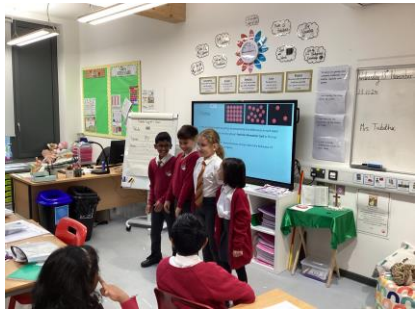
Year 4 have had a great week. In Geography, we have been using digital maps to explore some of the rivers in the UK. We identified them on the maps, traced the length of the river, then labelled it's source and mouth. Did you know that the River Thames flows through nine counties in England, including Greater London?



In English, we have continued our learning on descriptive language features. We have focussed on using fronted adverbials to create emphasis, vary our sentence structure and enhance the flow and rhythm of our writing.

In Science, we are learning about 'States of Matter' and developing our 'Identifying, Classifying and Grouping' scientific enquiry skill. We have been exploring and describing the properties of solids , liquids and gases. During our lesson, we worked in groups to act out the particle arrangement of the three states of matter.

This week in Maths, we have been learning about Area. We have learned that area is the space taken up by a two-dimensional shape or surface. We explored different ways of working out the area of a shape and we compared the areas of rectilinear shapes where the same size square had been used.



In RE, we have been learning about the Muslim worldview. We learned about the Shahadah (the Muslim declaration of faith) and identified that it is the first pillar of Islam. We learned that the five pillars are the core beliefs and practices of many with Muslim worldviews, which they seek to uphold in their lived expressions.

Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Gandhi Class)

We have had a great week in Year 5 this week with lots of fantastic progress being made across both classes.

In English, we have learnt about how relative clauses are used to add further information within sentences and then used these to describe Prisoner Forty-Two in preparation for creating our character descriptions next week. We also spent some time analysing the language features of character descriptions and wanted posters and how these help the reader to understand.

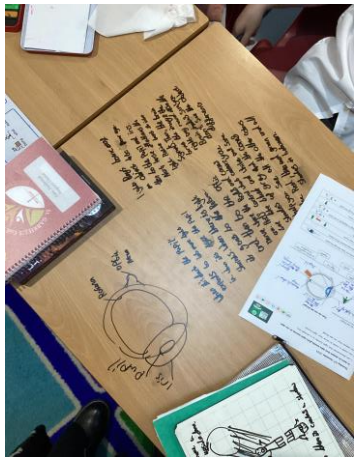
In Maths, we have been learning how to convert between improper fractions and mixed numbers. We have also compared the size of different fractions and started to order them according to their size.

In History, we learnt about a significant event in Ancient Greece – the Battle of Marathon! We took on the role of the Athenians and the Spartans in an attempt to fight off the Persians. We learnt how Pheidippides, a messenger from Athens, ran 26 miles to deliver a message and this inspired the modern day Olympic event of the marathon.

In RE, we explored the role of prayer in different worldviews and how this helps people to live well. We focused in particular on Buddhism and how meditation, mantras and prayer wheels are used to send out positive intentions to the world. We are looking forward to comparing this to Judaism next week.

In PSHE, we have been learning about the importance of asking permission, especially when it comes to touching somebody else. We explored consent through a range of scenarios and how to ask somebody for permission.

Year 6 (Pogson Class and Ahmad Class)



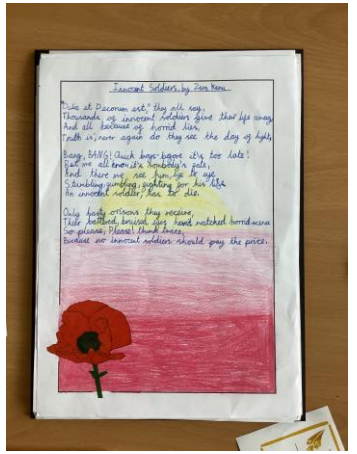
This week has seemed to just fly by in Year 6!

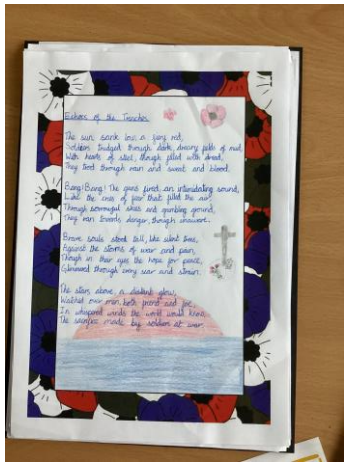
In English, we have finished off our focus on poetry as we have written our own war poems. We then moved on to a new focus on biographies as we have read and identified their different structural and grammatical features. We look forward to learning more about relative clauses, colons and semi-colons to explore how they add further meaning to a biographical text.

In Maths, we have been learning to compare, order, add and subtract a range of fractions with the same and different denominators. The children have done an amazing job at applying a variety of tricks to alter the fractions and break down more challenging tasks into steps that are easier to solve. You might like to ask your child about how they learnt to do this at home!

In Science, we have started our new topic on Light as we explored how light travels in straight lines and how it is that we actually see the things around us! We had a go at creating our own human models of light rays and then labelled the key parts of a human eye to explore their function in how they help us to see.

In History, we have found out about the causes and key events which led up to the declaration of World War 1. The children used a secondary source to answer several questions. We had to make sure to apply a critical lens when reading this source and consider if the source could potentially be biased and aiming to possibly try to alter the ideas of its readers.





Finally, in RE, we have moved on from exploring environmental connections to land and begun to look at political connections to land and how this impacts the ways in which people live and act. This week, we took the time to explore the Doctrine of Discovery - a significant belief system that caused major impacts on a range of indigenous populations around the world. We took the time to explore the possible reasons for why this Doctrine came about, as we explored a few pieces of scripture from the Old Testament. Just like History, we also took the time to apply a Hermeneutic of Suspicion by considering the possible reasons behind certain beliefs, the impact they might have on others and the outcomes that they could cause if they are not questioned or evaluated fully enough.

Collective Worship

During collective worship this week, the children watched a short animation based on the Old Testament record of King David. The children reflected on why some people believe God chose David to be the king of the Israelites and how God's power should be used to spread love and hope in the world.

On Friday, Ahmad class led Celebration Assembly teaching their peers about the importance of Remembrance and the sacrifices made by others for the freedoms we enjoy today. The children sang a song and held their own period of silence to pay their respect to those affected by conflict.

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

Children in Need

It was wonderful to see all the children in their yellow and spotty outfits today and to see so many people visiting the cake sale after school. Thank you so much to Miss Randle and School Council for organising this and to everyone for your donations to Children in Need.

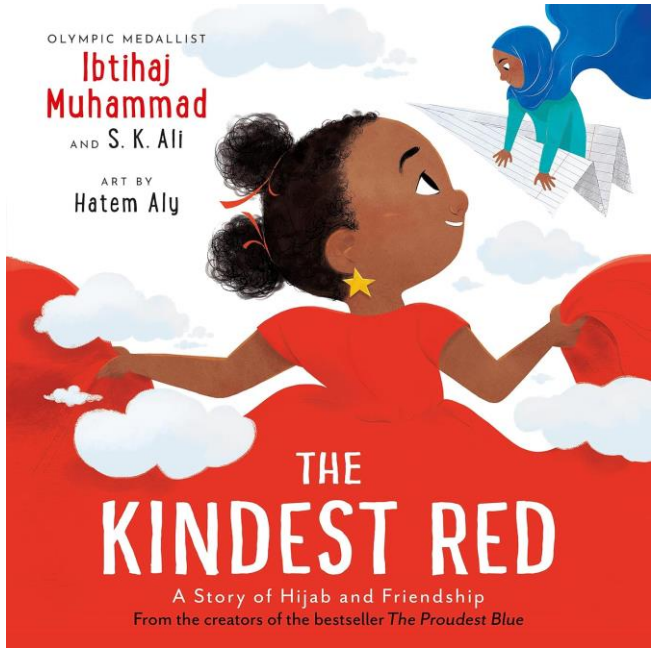
Also, thank you all so much for your generosity of donations of cakes for the cake sale. We have been truly overwhelmed for the love you have all shown our community. We do have enough left over to do a small cake sale after school again on Monday; this will be in the Small Hall again and will be on a first come first served basis. Please note we do not require any cake donations for this cake sale.

Recommended Read

'***The Kindest Red***' by Ibtihaj Muhammad and S.K. Ali

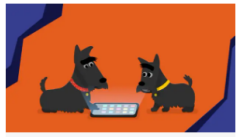
To celebrate World Kindness Day that took place on Wednesday 13th November, this is a book all about friendship and kindness.

When Faizah's teacher asks her class to imagine what kind of world they want to live in, Faizah imagines a world where everyone is kind to one another, and tries to create that world in the school playground. But what Faizah wants most is to be like her big sister, Asiya. Will Faizah's classmates repay her kindness and find a way for her to match Asiya in time for school photo day?



Online Safety

The BBC have a website and app called **Own It**. The website has a lot of content for children to help them navigate their online lives, and the free smartphone app comes with a special keyboard which can intervene with help and support in the moments that children need it the most.



How to stay safe when setting up gaming profiles

An animated video looking at setting up a personal profile for an online game.

Online safety • Ages 7-11

5 things you can do to make the internet a better place

A short article with teacher notes – listing five ways that you can help to make the internet a safer and better place for everyone.

Online safety • Ages 7-11

Celebrity tips on handling online hate

Celebrities such as Greg James, Maya Jama, Stacey Dooley, Kimberley Wyatt and Joe Sugg give tips and advice on how to handle bullying and hate online.

Online safety • Ages 7-11

Quiz: Is what you're posting online mean?

What we post online can sometimes be accidentally unkind. Find out whether your posts are getting others down.

Digital literacy • Ages 7-11

Digital footprint: what is it and why should you care?

An explanation video of what a digital footprint is and how it is created.

Online safety • Ages 7-11

BBC OWN IT

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.9%
This week's attendance	96.6%
Latest Local Authority ranking	24th 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 NEWSLETTER

Friends of St Gabriel's C of E Academy

w/e 15th November 2024 | PTA@stgabrielscofeacademy.org

There are **just 6 spaces left** on our wreath making workshop so book your space to avoid disappointment.

£30 per person

Book by scanning QR code below:

There is still time to choose us for your cash pot for school.

Thank you to those already signed up!

You can raise FREE donations for Friends Of St Gabriel's C of E Academy **EVERY** time you shop online. Just use easyfundraising!

Over 7,000 brands will donate, including all the big names like John Lewis & Partners, BT, Expedia, Argos, ASOS, Just Eat, Uswitch and many more!

Scan the QR code to find out more...

EVENTS

Full details and how to book to follow

- **~~Friday 15th November:~~** ~~Bingo Night~~ **CANCELLED**
- **Thursday 28th November:** Wreath Making Night
- **Friday 29th November:** Hot Chocolate sale
- **Friday 13th - Sunday 15th December:** Santas Grotto at the Barn

Family Support

Family Information Service newsletter – November edition

With the help of Act on Energy, this month's special edition focuses on the cost of energy, energy saving tips and the help that is available to you and your family.

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