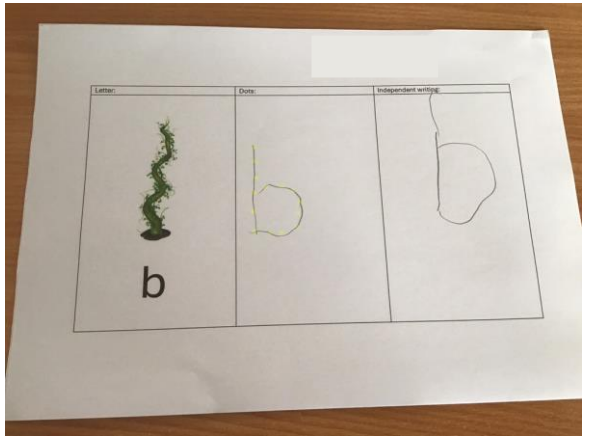
Weekly Learning Update

16th May 2025

Nursery

This week, we have introduced some caterpillars to the children! We have four caterpillars that we are taking great care of for the purpose of observing a real life cycle! This has helped the children to observe and understand the idea of growth. It has been marvellous to see the children's prior understanding which enables us to learn so much more. We have had lots of opportunity to build our fine motor skills with the activities set up as well as putting our carpet session learning objectives to the test in the Writing Area. We cannot wait to update you on the caterpillars' development next week!



Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

English:

We have been focusing on our new key text 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle. We have enjoyed beginning to create class story maps and writing sentences to support retelling the story. The children will be collating their writing to create books, which will go home with the children next week.

Phonics:

We have focused on blending assessments and have now moved on to Phase 4 phonics. There is a focus on finding patterns in certain types of words; we have explored the ending of groups of words with 'nt' 'nd' and 'mp'.

Maths:

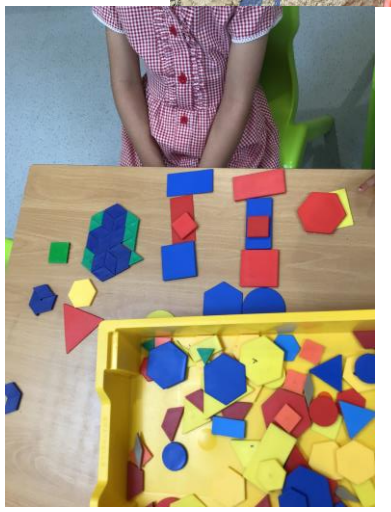
We have been exploring the concept of halving. We have had 'halving horse' to come and join us! Halving horse loves to share fairly between two friends and the children have been through a range of problems and scenarios where the different quantities and groups of objects have needed to be shared and halved. The children have enjoyed exploring the pattern that certain numbers can be halved and certain ones cannot be. This has led to conversations about odd and even numbers.

Expressive Art and Design:

The children have enjoyed learning about the artist Niki de Sant Phalle. They have really enjoyed exploring some of her key artwork and sculptures as well as thinking about bold colour and pattern and how it can be used to express a message.

We have also enjoyed our PE lessons where we have been exploring different ways of movement with a focus on gymnastics.

Just a reminder that it is Parks Class's Celebration Collective Worship on Friday 23rd June; we are so excited to be able to share our learning with you then!



Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

Year 1 have had a super week!

In Phonics, we have been continuing to consolidate our Phase 5 phonemes, reading a variety of real and alien words containing these phonemes. It has been wonderful to see that the children have been practising these words at home. The growth that they are showing in their reading because of this, is really shining through. Thank you for all that you are doing to support your child with their homework.

In English, the children have been getting into the character of Mr Grinling from The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch. They have started to write their own diary entry from his point of view, describing the events of the story and thinking about how he might have been feeling. We also focused on writing in the past tense and using the suffix 'ed'. The children acted out different past tense verbs to their partner for them to guess, before trying to put them into sentences.

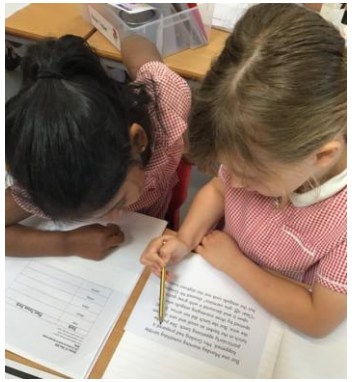
In Maths, we have been focusing on Position and Direction. The children have been using key vocabulary such as left and right, above and below and forwards and backwards.

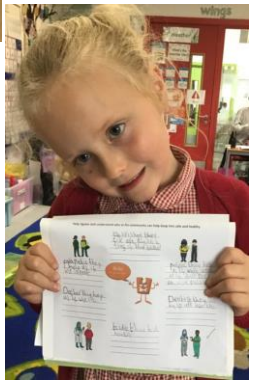
In Science, we went on a walk around our school grounds to spot garden and wild plants. The children drew pictures and labelled them.

In RE, we talked about the meaning of the words religion, freedom and rights. We discussed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and thought about how this links to religion and organised worldviews.

In Geography, we compared features of a seaside town to Rugby, thinking about similarities and differences.

We can't wait for our trip to Mud and Moos Farm on Tuesday! A reminder to send the children in with their wellies.





Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

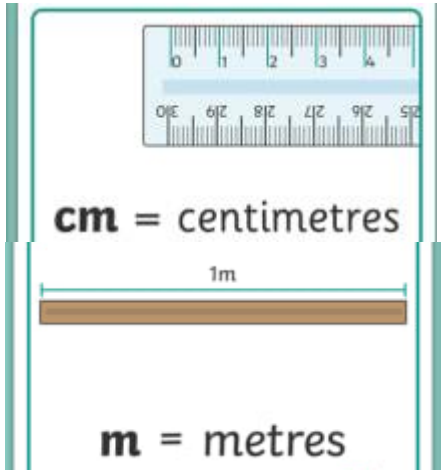
We have had another amazing week!

English:
In English, we have started planning our own versions of 'Jim and the Beanstalk,' by Raymond Briggs. The children came up with some very creative ideas and we can't wait to start writing our own versions of the story.

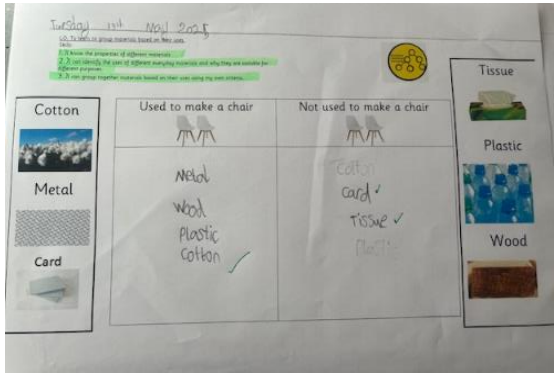
Writing Fluency
In writing fluency, we have been focusing on forming capital letters correctly and have been learning the spellings: money, some and dozen.

Handwriting:
Today we are going to learn how to form the capital letters G, H and I.

Maths:
In Maths, we started our new topic of measures. We have started learning about the units that we measure in and have had lots of fun measuring in centimetres and metres.



Science:
In Science, we have been grouping materials based on their uses.



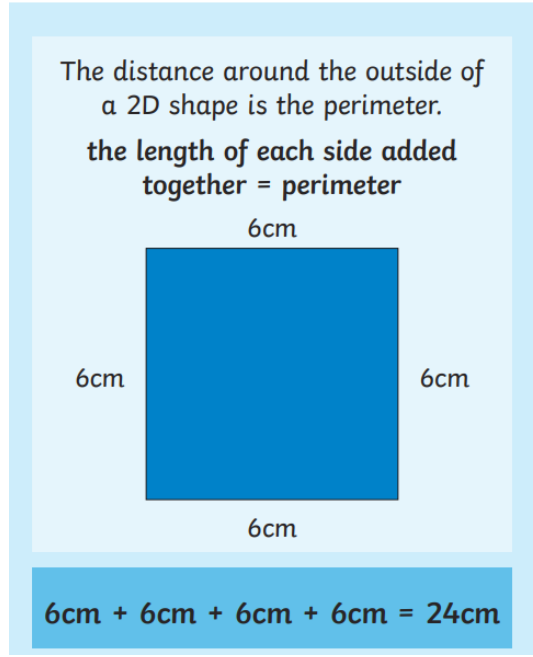
Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

In English this week, we have been planning and beginning to write our persuasive speeches linking to climate change. We have been using our audience (World Leaders) as motivation to help use write our speeches. We have looked at the use of rhetorical questions within our speeches and how we can use repetition to get our message across and have an impact on our audience.

In Maths, we have developed our understanding of **perimeter** which is the distance around the outside of a 2D shape. The children have been measuring and calculating the perimeters of a range of shapes and have also been using their conversion skills to support measuring perimeters in cm, mm and m.

In Science, we have looked at what plants need in order to survive and grow well. We recapped the different parts of a plant and how their functions link to plant survival. We also spoke about how different species of plants require different amounts of the things that they need to survive, such as water, light and temperature.

In History, we looked at how and why timelines are important for historians. We spoke about how they allow historians to order events in chronological order and allow them to seek any patterns or identify changes throughout different time periods.



Year 4 (Turing Class and Tagore Class)

It has been another busy week in Year 4!

In English, we completed some engaging group work designed to generate vocabulary for our setting descriptions. Following that, we each took the opportunity to plan our own setting descriptions and dived into learning about main and subordinate clauses, which really helped us enhance our writing skills.

In Maths, we kicked off our unit on money. The children have quickly grasped how to write money in decimal notation and make conversions between pounds and pence. They also picked up the essential skill of estimating with money, which will certainly come in handy!

In Art, we continued our World Art Day project by planning our final pieces inspired by the vibrant works of Keith Haring. The students are excited to incorporate elements related to Houlton in their creations. Over in Geography, we explored the physical and human features of Antarctica. The students demonstrated their understanding by grouping the various features, showing a good grasp of the topic. Lastly, in RE, we delved into the events led by the church. The children thoughtfully considered which events they felt were most important based on their individual world views and what a typical calendar might look like for a church leader. It's been a week full of insightful learning!

Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Gandhi Class)

In English this week, we have been exploring the use of exaggeration and emotive language as persuasive techniques, ready to start writing our persuasive speech to King Hrothgar next week. We have orally rehearsed our ideas in groups, getting into role as Beowulf, preparing to slay the monster Grendel.

In Maths, we have started a new unit on Position and Direction, in which we have been using coordinates to translate shapes across a grid, and reflecting shapes too.

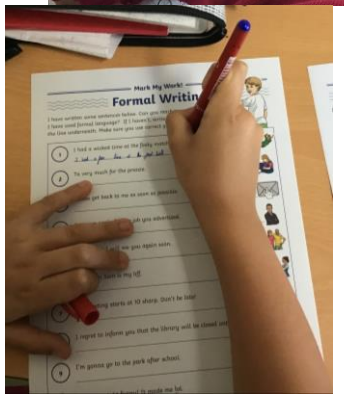
In Science, we have dissected a flowering plant to explore the plants of a flower. We labelled each part and explained the function of it, and identified the male and female parts of the flowers too.

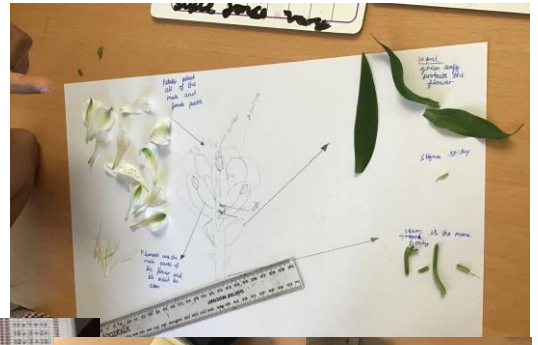
In History, we have researched the seven kingdoms which existed during the Anglo-Saxon Era. Many of the kingdom names we still use today as names for different counties! Each kingdom had its own King or warrior-chief, which meant that there were lots of battles to gain greater power.

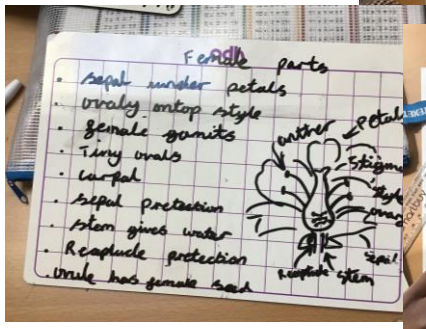
On Wednesday and Thursday, we had auditions for our Year 5 play, 'Wind in the Willows'. The children have all done an amazing job of learning their lines for the audition and singing solo!

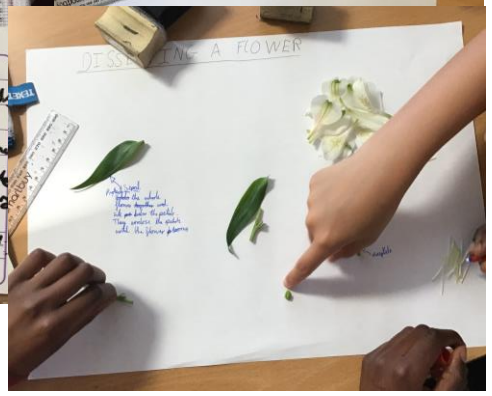
In Art, we are celebrating World Art Day. We are focusing the artist Hilma af Klint. The theme for this year is about a 'Garden of Expression'. The children are planning their final piece around one of our school values of respect, integrity, growth, love and community, using pastels as a medium.

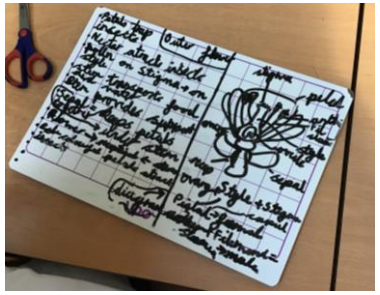
In PSHE, the children explored how to manage common injuries using first aid techniques then how to respond in an emergency if someone becomes unconscious. They learnt how to carry out the recovery position and why this could potentially save someone's life. Perhaps your child could show you this important skill at home.











Year 6 (Pogson Class and Ahmad Class)

We are so proud of all of our wonderful Year 6 children who have completed their SATs this week! They enjoyed a sweet treat to celebrate their efforts.

Collective Worship

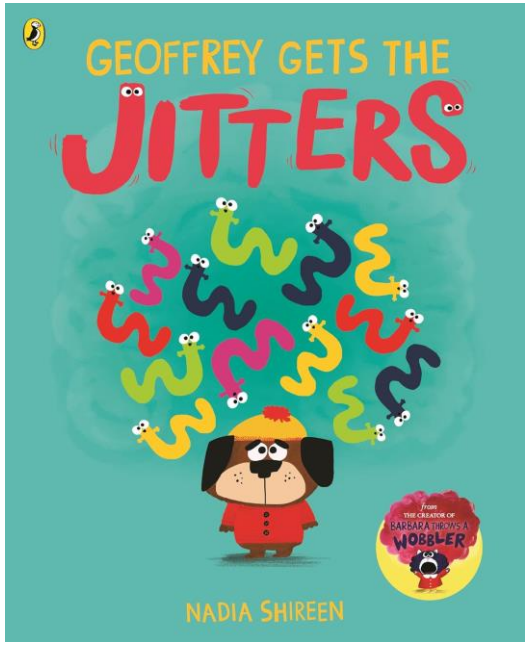
During class worship, children have been looking at key news stories from around the world including the election of a new Pope, which is a significant event for people with a catholic worldview.

This week, Malala class led Celebration Worship sharing their wonderful learning. The class proudly read the stories they had written as well as showing off their ability to add and subtract fractions. The children finished with a West End song about history's Henry VIII and his 6 wives.

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

Recommended Read

Geoffrey Gets the Jitters by *Nadia Shireen*



Geoffrey's got the jitters! It started last night when he was thinking about school - a funny, wiggly feeling in his tummy that grew and grew. But when Geoffrey's tummy jitters started talking to him - that's when he knew they were out of control. Geoffrey had to do something.

Through a laugh-out-loud story and loveable character, Nadia Shireen shows how to understand and dispel anxieties, one jitter at a time.

Online Safety

Many children are now online, and the lines between their online and offline worlds are becoming increasingly blurred. There are many positive aspects to spending time online, such as entertainment, learning and peer connection. Conversations about online safety can sometimes be hard to navigate so Barnados have worked with Elly Hanson, a clinical psychologist, to put together some tips to get these conversations started. Click the link below for more information, including a selection of videos to support.

https://www.barnardos.org.uk/get-support/support-for-parents-and-carers/child-abuse-and-harm/keeping-children-safe-online/how-to-talk-children-safe-online

BARNARDO'S Changing childhoods. Changing lives.

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.5%
This week's attendance	98.2%
Latest Local Authority ranking	15th out of 196 schools
Latest National ranking	Top 10% 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:

- Foster Care Fortnight
- Mental Health Awareness Week
- Kingsbury Water Park 50th Anniversary event
- Free car seat check events

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