# Weekly Learning Update

# 17th January 2025

# Nursery

This week, we have been exploring our key text of Each, Peach, Pear, Plum. The children have been focusing on getting to know the characters and recognising the traditional rhymes from the story. We have been creating our own houses for the characters on our Maths table as well as looking at counting in order and describing different sizes using the language of big, small, biggest and smallest.

# Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

What a busy and exciting week it has been in Reception!

**English:**

We have now moved on to writing our own sentences to support the children creating their very own 'Where The Wild Things Are' books. They are so excited to share their finished books with you; they have worked hard so far and we will continue to develop our books next week.

**Phonics:**

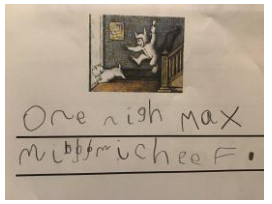
We have been working through a range of Phase 3 digraphs this week and the children look forward to bringing their phoneme cards and word cards home with them to continue practising recognising the graphemes and blending for reading.

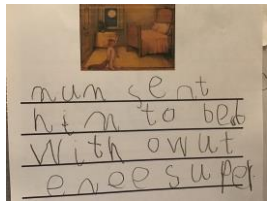
**Maths:**

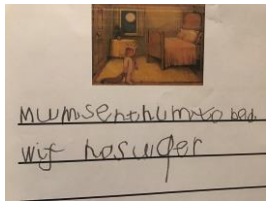
The children have been awesome in their additions this week! Moving on to writing number sentences, the children are also exploring the circle method to identify the total of two numbers.

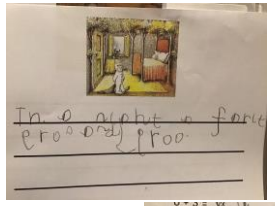
Within the classroom, children have also enjoyed accessing a range of activities, including becoming Wild Things themselves and doing some wild thing writing, making wild thing masks and using bingo dabbers to support creating addition number sentences.

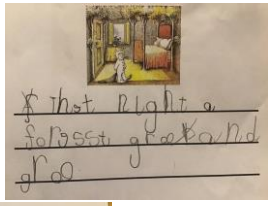
Great work Reception! We hope you have a lovely and restful weekend, ready for another exciting week on Monday.

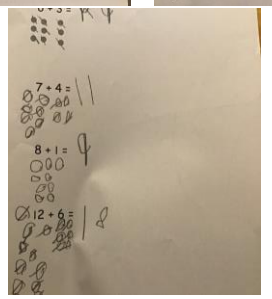












# Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

It has been another great week in Year 1!

In Phonics, we have been reading and writing words and sentences with the digraphs 'ie', 'ea', 'oy' and 'ir'. We're sure the children will be excited to share what they have learnt with you for their homework this week.

In English, we began to plan our own fairy tales. We started by looking at a variety of different settings to decide on where we would like our story to take place, followed by choosing the 'hero' and 'villain' for our stories. We are so excited to get writing next week!

In Maths, we have continued to focus on numbers to 20. The children have represented teen numbers in different ways and solved problems to apply their understanding of place value.

In Geography, we learnt about weather forecasts and the symbols that are used to represent the weather. We looked at examples of weather forecasts before becoming television presenters ourselves, presenting our own forecasts!

In Art, we completed observational drawings, looking closely at shape, size and colour.

In RE, we have been learning about the importance of the Qur'an for people with Muslim worldviews.

We also had a visit from Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service this week who talked to us about fire safety. We learnt all about smoke alarms, how to 'stop, drop and roll' and even got to take a look at the fire engine!

# Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

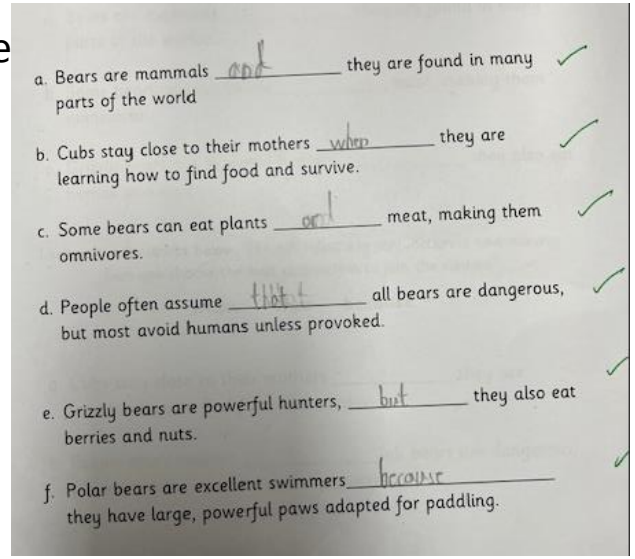
## Phonics:

In Phonics we have learnt that:

-The grapheme a makes the phoneme o in words like want, squash and watch.

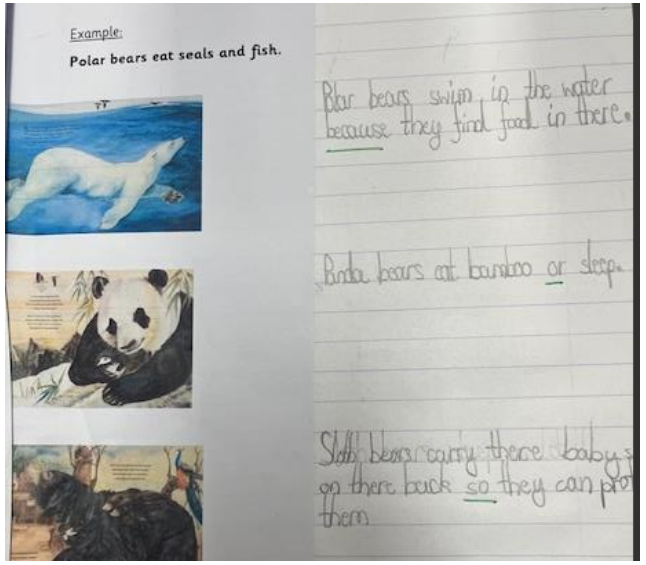
-The graphemes eigh, ey and ei make the phoneme ay in words like eight, vein and they.

-The graphemes ie, y, ey and eo make the phoneme ee in words like field, monkey, people and grumpy.




## English:

In English, we have been learning about questions and conjunctions and have been creating our own sentences linked to our book 'Something About a Bear.'

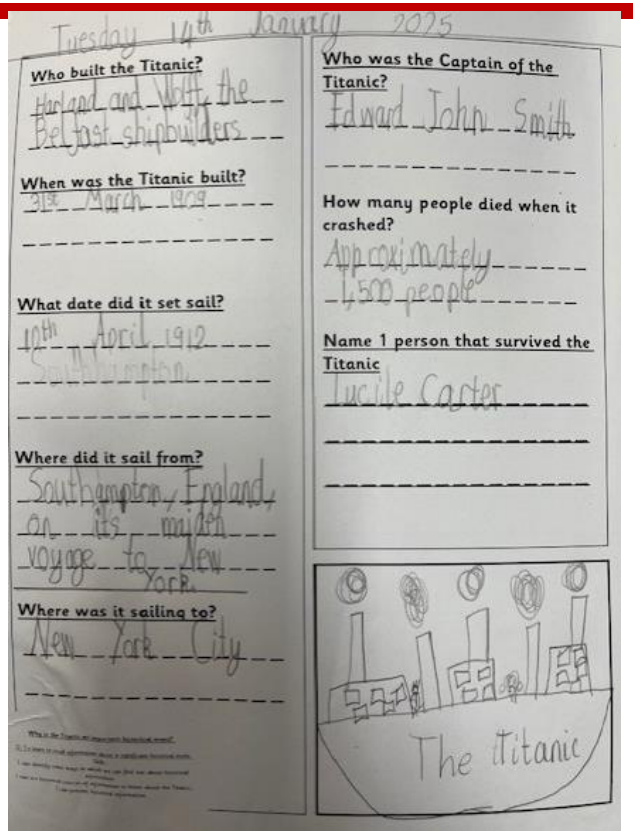



## Maths:

In Maths, we have learnt to find the difference between different amounts using column subtraction or by counting on.

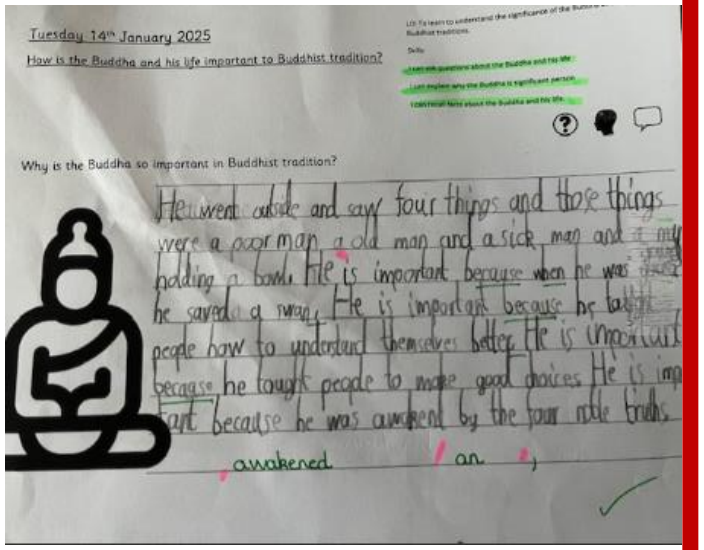
## History:

In History, we learnt about primary and secondary sources and used ipads to create our own fact files about the Titanic.




## RE:

In RE, we have been learning about Buddhist traditions and we learnt about why Buddha is important to people with Buddhist worldviews.



# Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

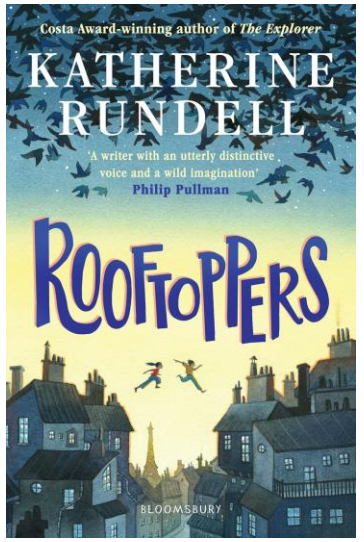
In our Reading lessons, we have started our new fiction text 'Rooftoppers' by Katherine Rundell. This week we have focused on reading fluently, looking at how we can find and fix breakdowns in our reading alongside making inferences based on what we have read.

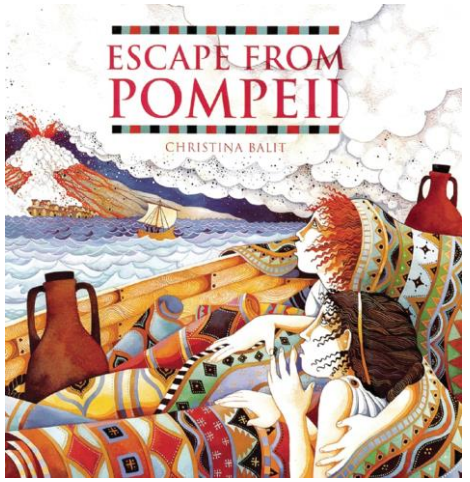
In English, we have started to look at our next text 'Escape from Pompeii'. This week, we have explored the story and we have also used time adverbials within our writing, understanding the purpose of using these for the reader. We have also looked at writing sentences in the present perfect tense.

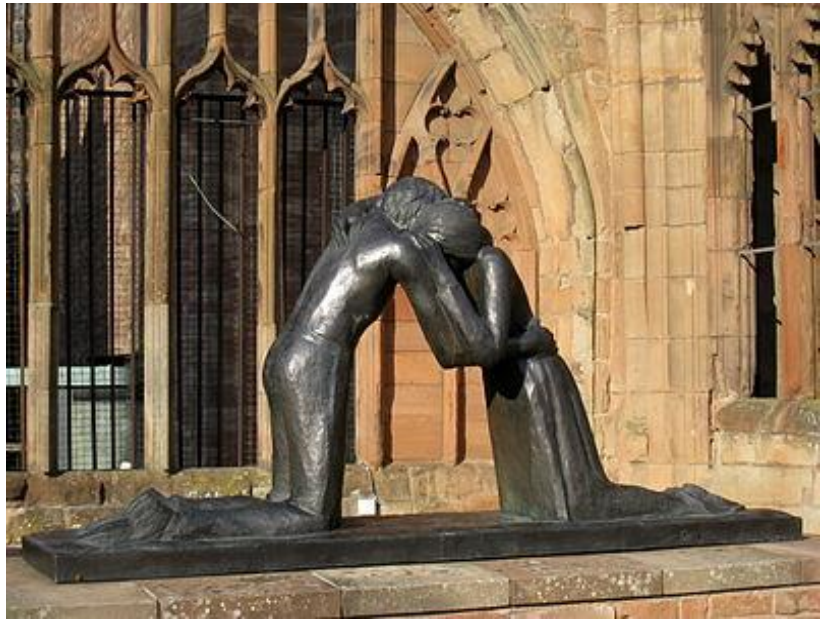
In Maths, we have started our unit of 'Multiplication and Division' and we have focused on developing our knowledge of multiples of 2, 5 and 10 up to 1000. We have also been using arrays to support our understanding of multiplication.

In RE, we have looked at **reconciliation.** As classes, we discussed how sometimes there is conflict, which is then sometimes followed with forgiveness and reconciliation. We looked at the 'Reconciliation' sculpture by Josefina de Vasconcellos at Coventry Cathedral and looked at what it represents. We then created a drawing for our own statues that symbolise reconciliation.

In Science, we started our 'Forces and Magnets' unit and looked at the forces push and pull. We discussed the balance and imbalance of forces and how these can cause objects to be still or to move.



# Year 4 (Turing Class and Tagore Class)

It has been a busy week in Year 4!

In English, we read our English text from the beginning to the end, considering the predictions we made in week 1. We explored new and unfamiliar vocabulary using online dictionaries to find definitions. We are planning to create our own civilisation so, for that reason, we used the text to research and presented our findings in a spider diagram.

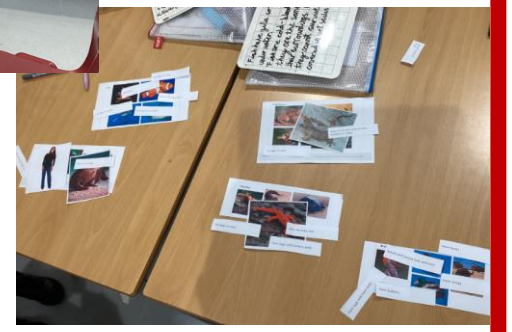
In our reading lessons, we have been reading Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. We have used the text to complete visualisations, drawing what the Dursley's living may have looked like and exploring questions we may have about the text.

In Maths, we have been learning how to multiply and divide by 10 and 100. We have explored various reasoning and problem-solving style questions to showcase our understanding and skills.

In Science, we learnt more about animal classification. We learnt about the characteristics of different animal types such as birds and mammals. We worked as a group to become experts before sharing this knowledge and completing a group challenge.

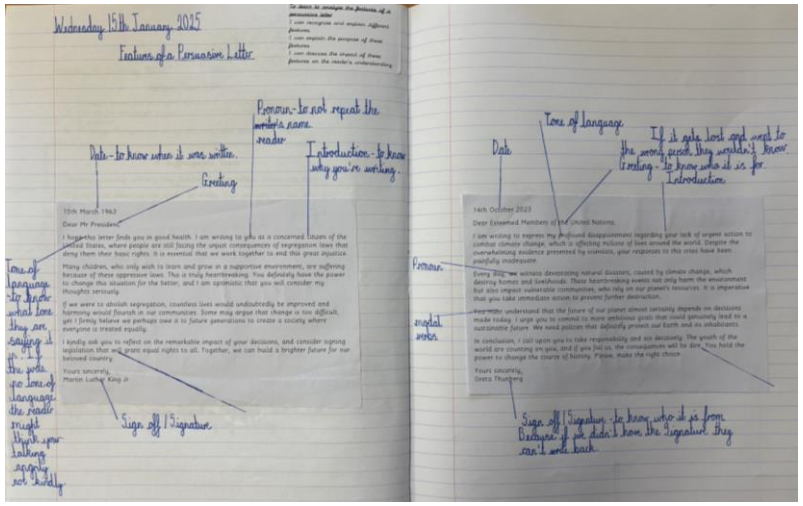
In Latin, we started to learn numbers and explored how words we use today are related to the Latin numbers.

In History, we learnt about how the lands the Romans conquered changed over time. We looked at different maps to see how the empire expanded.

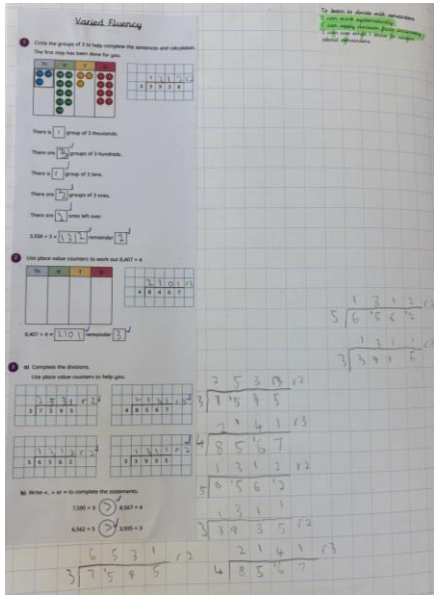


# Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Gandhi Class)

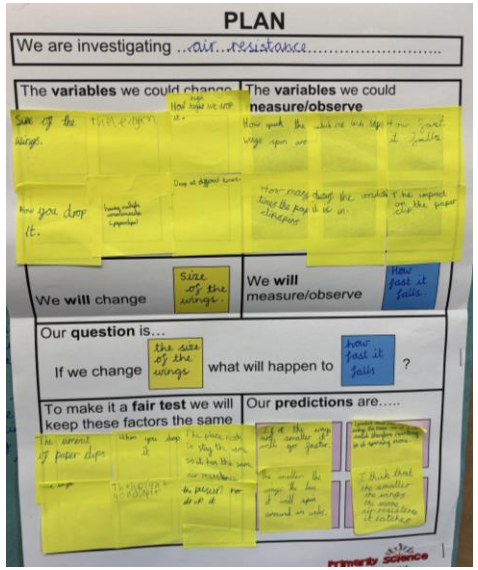
In English, we have been developing our inferences to gain a greater understanding of key figures within the Suffragette movement. We have started to analyse the features of a persuasive letter, and the impact of these features on the reader.




In Maths, we have been focusing on short division. We have worked on dividing 4-digit numbers by a 1-digit number, making exchanges and calculating remainders too. We have considered which may be the most efficient methods to solve different division calculations.




In Science, we have been applying our new knowledge of forces to plan an investigation. Our investigation is into the role of air resistance, and how it can prevent crashes in parachutes. We have considered the different variables, and chosen to change the size of the wings of our spinner, which will act as our parachute. We will measure how long it takes the spinner to land after being dropped.




In History, we have been developing our understanding of gender inequalities and considering the different barriers which women have faced throughout different periods of history. We were particularly shocked by how many obstacles women have faced throughout history and how unfair it is!

In PSHE, we have started our new unit about belonging to a community. This week, we have explored the difference between income tax and council tax, by considering the different areas of the community and how these taxes may be used to improve it.

# Year 6 (Pogson Class and Ahmad Class)

It has been another successful week in Year 6.

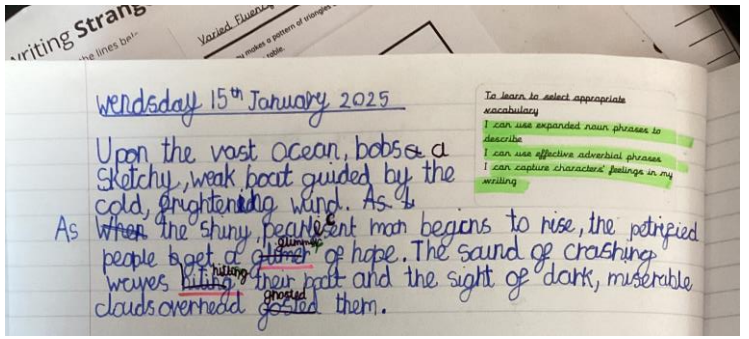
In Maths, we have rounded off our unit on Ratio by applying our learning to a range of ratio and proportion problems, this included more challenging, recipe- based scenarios. The children had to think carefully about how they read and understood each problem and made sure that they checked their answers were logical and accurate. You might want to support this learning at home by having your child join in when following recipes with you!

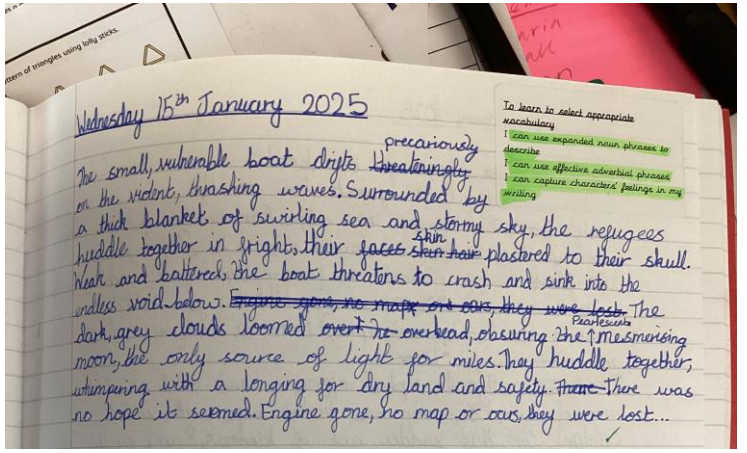
In English, we have been focusing on the incredibly heart-wrenching writing of Gill Lewis, in her book A Story Like the Wind. Each class took the time to carefully think about how Lewis uses emotive language effectively to create atmosphere and elicit emotion from the reader. Using this, we then planned and wrote our own descriptive pieces based on setting, emotions and using speech; all to be used in our narrative writing next week.

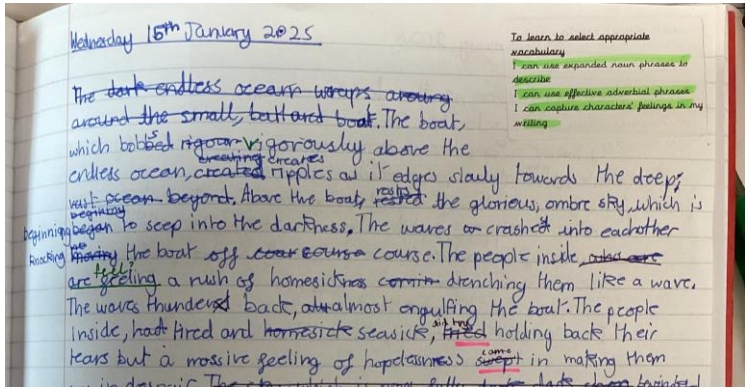
In Science, we have recalled the work of Carl Linnaeus by having a go at sorting a range of living things into set kingdoms. The children first had to recall their learning around living things as they identified the specific features that determine whether an animal is an invertebrate, vertebrate, fish, mammal, bird, reptile or amphibian. They then had to use their observation skills to classify them correctly, alongside other living things like plants, fungi, bacteria and protozoa.

In History, we have been finding out more about the city of Baghdad and its importance to the Early Islamic Civilisation. As there were no cameras between the 7th and 15th century, the children had to rely on a range of written primary sources to determine what the city actually looked like and how it was arranged.

In Design and Technology, the children began to design their own Islamic inspired bowls. We cannot wait to see what they come up with before they begin experimenting with the medium of clay.



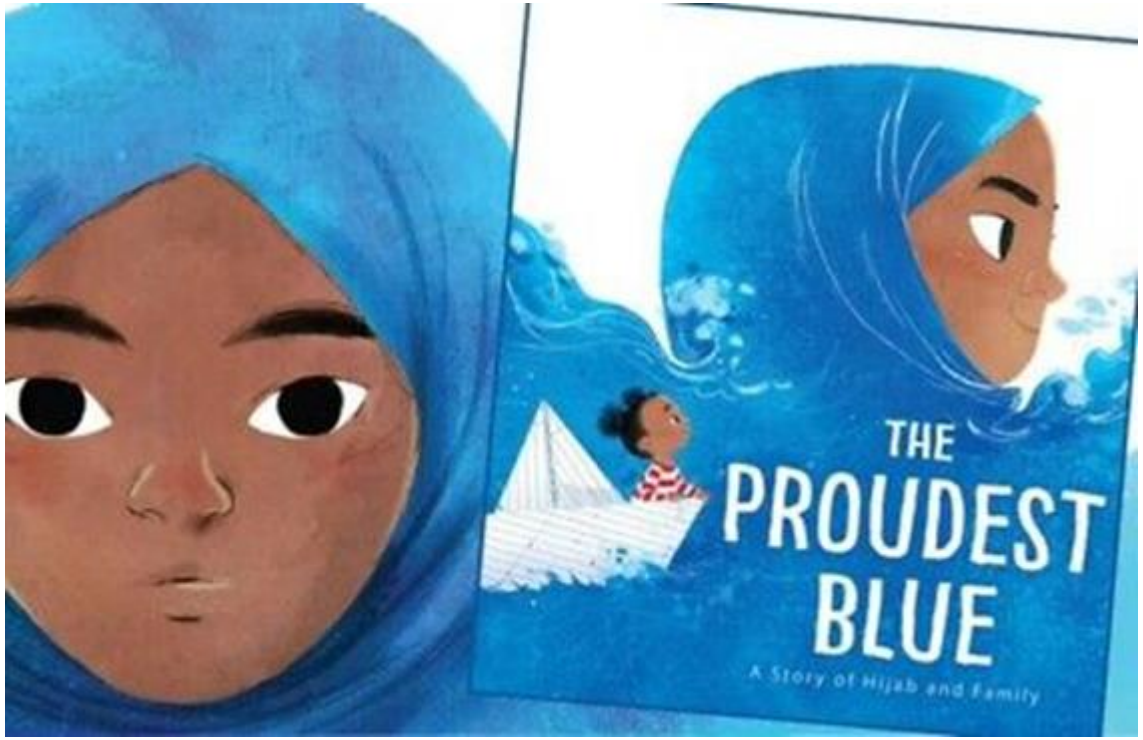



# Collective Worship

During collective worship this week, we have been reflecting on the value of Hope. Mr Taylor has been teaching the children about the importance of hope and how this leads to positive action in our lives.

During Spiritual Storytime, everybody listened to the story The Proudest Blue. Children reflected on the value of Integrity, learning that being proud of your authentic self is a display of this.

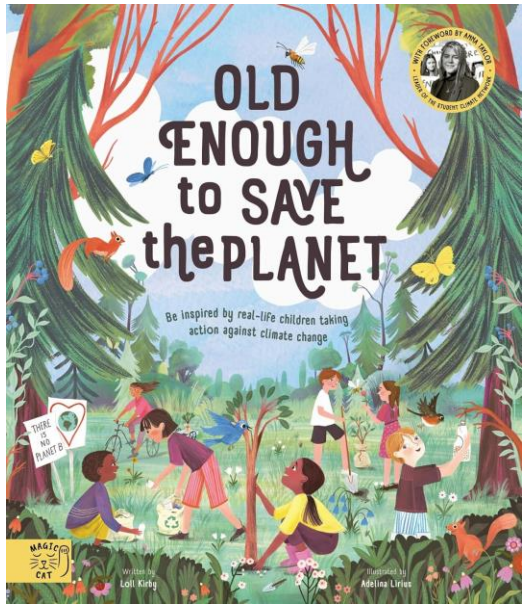



Collective worship at St Gabriel's always aims to be **inspirational** for all, **invitational** to all and **inclusive** of all.

# Recommended Read

***'Old Enough to Save the Planet'*** *- by Loll Kirby*

A book that is inspired by real-life children taking action against climate change. In this book you'll learn about the work they do and discover how the future of our planet starts here, right now!




# Online Safety

**This week, we would like to share with you some top tips for online safety from the**

**Mental Health in Schools Team.**

Mental Health in Schools Team
Tips For Wellness

**1. Have regular conversations about online safety.** Making communication about online activity a normal part of the conversation will create an open and more relaxed dialogue around what your young person is accessing online. This can also make it easier for your young person to come and speak to you if they do have any worries.

**2. Encourage time away from devices.** Spending too much time online and looking at a device can begin to blur the lines between the online world and what is happening right in front of us. Encourage regular screen time breaks. This could be by completing an activity which the whole family can get involved in e.g. playing a board game or going for a walk. There are also wellbeing setting on apps, including Instagram and Tik Tok to support setting these boundaries.

**3. Keeping it real.** It can be useful to remind our young people that not everything they see online is real. Some of this content may have a negative impact on how they feel about themselves and what they are doing. It can be useful to remind young people that an online post is only one snapshot of time. Encourage your young person to take control of what they are looking at and help them to feel empowered to choose to access online content that encourages positivity and makes them feel good about the work they do and discover how the future of our planet starts here, right now!

| Whole School Attendance | |
|---|---|
| **Attendance since September** | 96.3% |
| **This week's attendance** | 97% |
| **Latest Local Authority ranking** | 17th out of 188 schools |
| **Latest National ranking** | Top 10% of schools |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Outstanding** | **100%** | 190 days of full learning<br>All lessons complete |
| **Very Good** | **98%** | 186 days of learning<br>4 days and 20 lessons missed |
| **Good** | **96%** | 182 days of learning<br>8 days and 40 lessons missed |
| **More needed** | **94%** | 178 days of learning<br>12 days and 60 lessons missed |
| **Concerning** | **92%** | 174 days of learning<br>16 days and 80 lessons missed |
| **Very concerning** | **90%** | 171 days of learning<br>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?

# Local Events

## ROALD DAHL AND THE IMAGINATION SEEKERS

**Sunday 16 February 2:30PM**

All around the world Roald Dahl's words are disappearing, not only from books but children's minds too! Now only a secret organisation known as the Ancient Guild of Tale Tenders can save the stories - and they need your help...

Especially made for ages 6 and up, the show develops both creative and literacy skills through performance, games and creative play, while exploring Roald Dahl's extraordinary stories, including **The BFG** and **The Twits** along the way.

**Find out more and book now at www.macreadytheatre.co.uk**

MACREADY THEATRE

**Macready Theatre**
**Lawrence Sheriff Street**
**Rugby, CV22 5EJ**

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LOST & FOUND

# Family Support

Warwickshire Family Information Service is a source of advice and guidance on a wide range of subjects including housing, finance, childcare, parental conflict and contact and special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

You can sign up to the Family Information Service's weekly newsletter here.

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

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