Weekly Learning Update

17th April 2026

Nursery

It has been a fabulous first week of our Summer Term! We have welcomed new children to the Nursery and this has presented opportunities to demonstrate our school values. Children have reflected on our values of Community and Love and shown kindness and care to support the new children to settle.

Our focus this week has been to support the successful transition back to Nursery routines and linking this with Personal, Social and Emotional Development. Children have had opportunities to play a range of small and larger group games with a focus on turn taking, supporting name recognition and developing friendships.

We have also started our summer PE curriculum this week. Our focus this half term is on Gymnastics, with children being able to develop their core strength and hand to eye cordination. We began the unit with the objective of being able to copy and create different shapes, using the body with an inspiration of rainforest animals!

As we have welcomed new and returning students to the setting this week, our focus in Continuous Provision has been supporting interactions and engagement through play. Children have enjoyed accessing the outdoor provision with a range of water play and the outdoor role play.

Inside, children have enjoyed exploring our creative areas and loose part play, investigating different ways to represent numbers and developing fine motor control by rescuing hidden animals in rice.

Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

We have had a brilliant first week back in Reception this week.

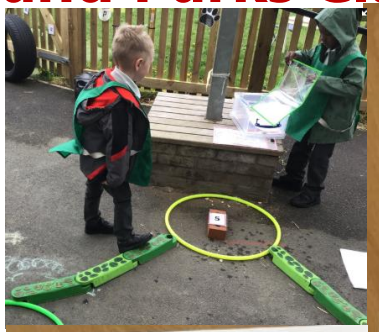
In Phonics, we have started teaching Phase 4 blends. This week, we introduced the children to the new lesson format and took time to familiarise ourselves with it. We have been learning to blend and spell words ending in *nt, lt, lp,* and *lk*, such as bent, burnt, paint, milk and help.

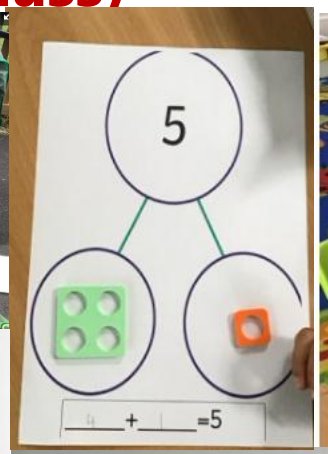
In English, we have begun exploring writing to inform and are learning how to write clear instructions. The children have been focusing on creating instructions for how to care for our special visitors - the eggs!

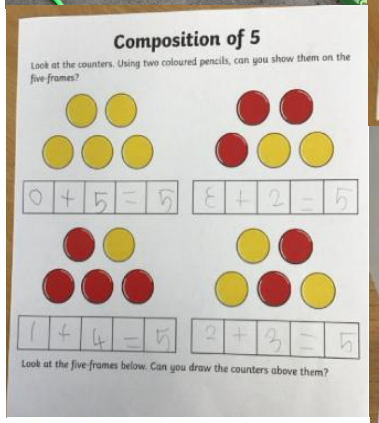
In Maths, we have been learning to recognise and recall number bonds to 5. We have used a variety of resources, including part-whole models, Numicon and five frames, to support our learning.

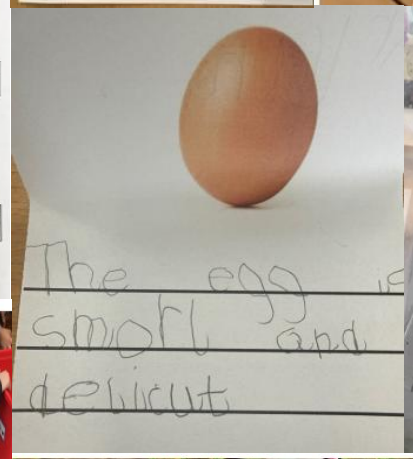
In Expressive Arts this week, we have learnt all about botany and have been creating observational drawings of flowers, carefully looking at shape, detail and colour.

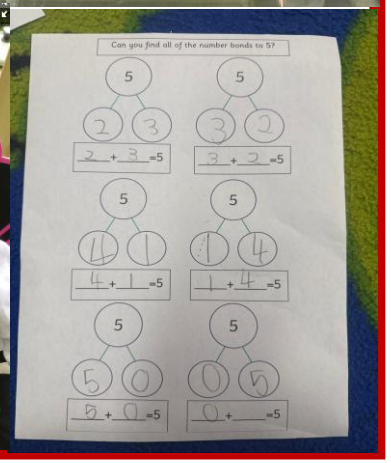
We have had a special delivery in Reception this week as we welcomed some eggs into our classrooms. The children have loved watching them develop and hatch and we are very excited to continue observing and caring for them.











Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

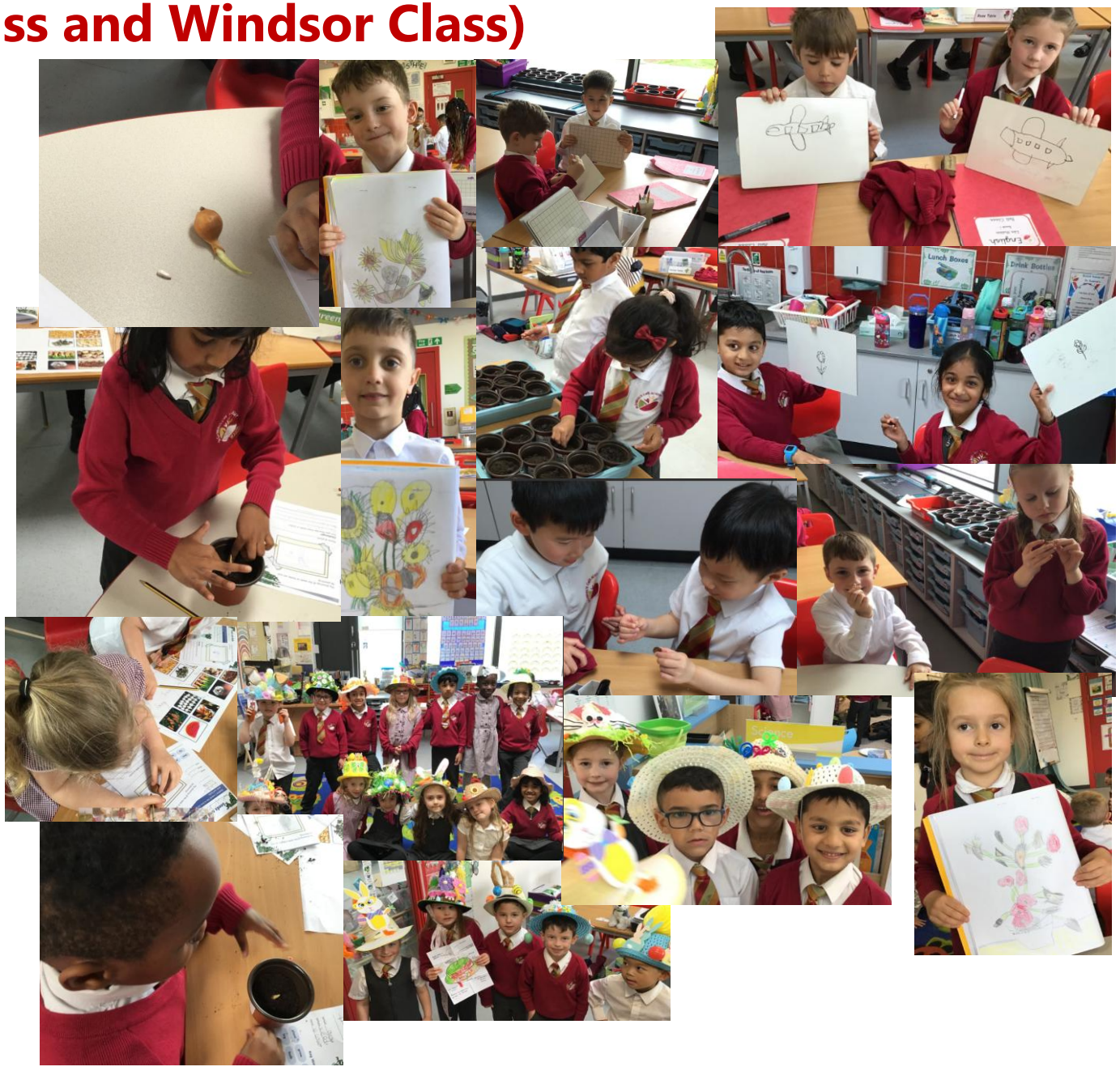
What a great start to our final term of year one this week!

This week in English, the children investigated the contents of a mystery picnic basket, searching carefully for clues linked to our new class text. They did a brilliant job analysing the clues and making thoughtful, accurate predictions, which eventually led us to discover our new story: The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch by Rhonda and David Armitage. We are very excited to explore this text together.

In Maths, we have continued our work on measure, focusing on capacity and volume. The children impressed us with their use of mathematical vocabulary and worked confidently to solve a range of practical problems.

In Science, we began our new unit on Plants. The children got green-fingered as they planted both a bulb and a seed, after setting up an investigation to observe how plants grow over time. We discussed the differences between seeds and bulbs and examined them closely, making predictions about the plants they might grow into.

Thank you very much for your support with our Easter Bonnet Parade. The children loved showcasing their fantastic creations, and it was wonderful to see everyone joining in with our celebrations for Eastertide.



Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

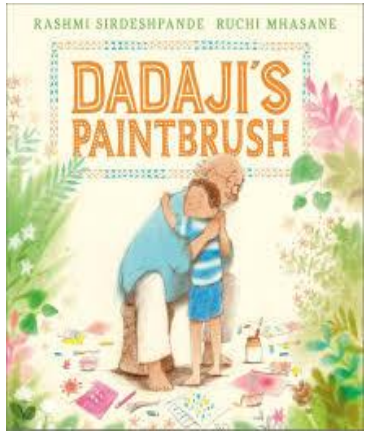
What a wonderful start to the summer term it has been. The children have returned with great enthusiasm and have settled beautifully into their new learning.

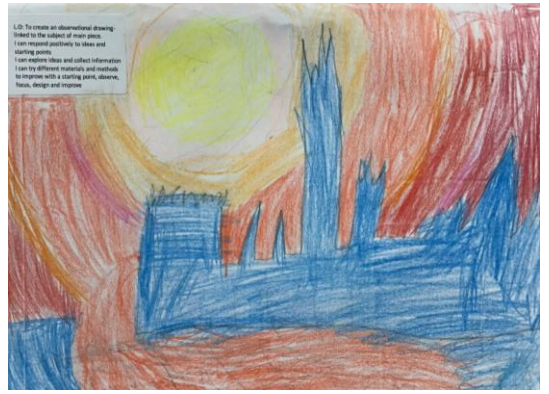
In Art, we have been exploring the work of the famous artist Claude Monet, one of the founders of Impressionism. We learned that he was known for painting outdoors and for capturing light, colour and movement in his work. The children looked closely at some of his most well-known paintings, including Water Lilies, and then created their own versions inspired by his style. We were incredibly proud of how creative they were, and it was lovely to see them applying previously learned art skills such as colour mixing and mark-making to bring their pictures to life.

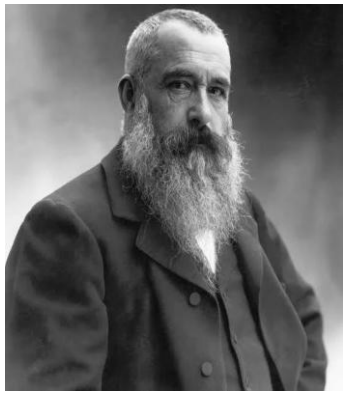
In Maths, we have begun our Fractions unit. This week, the children have been focusing on understanding equal and unequal groups, identifying the whole and the parts, and building the foundations needed to find half. They then moved on to recognising and finding ½. The children have shown great focus and are beginning to use the correct mathematical vocabulary with growing confidence.

In English, we have started reading our new text, Dadaji's Paintbrush, written by Rashmi Sirdeshpande. It is a beautiful, heartwarming story about family, creativity and the special memories we share with loved ones. This week, we have focused on asking questions about the story and linking the events to our own experiences. The children have enjoyed sharing their ideas and making thoughtful connections with the characters.

In Science, we have begun our new topic on Materials. We started by recapping different materials and identifying the uses of everyday objects such as glass and plastic. The children then took part in a fun investigation using a "mystery bag". They took turns to feel an object inside the bag (without looking), describe what they noticed, predict what the object might be and suggest what material it could be made from. This encouraged brilliant scientific thinking and lots of great vocabulary.







Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

It has been so lovely welcoming the children back into school this week. They have all settled back into routines quickly and have returned with a fantastic level of enthusiasm and positivity, ready to make the most of our final term together.

In English, we have been enjoying our new text The Silver Shadow by Mariesa Dulak. The children have been developing their reading skills by making thoughtful predictions about what might happen next and using evidence from the text to support their ideas. They have also been exploring characters in more depth, describing their thoughts and feelings and explaining how these are conveyed by the author. Alongside this, we have been focusing on using conjunctions to extend our sentences, applying this skill in our writing about marine life and the importance of conservation. In our Reading lessons, we have also been enjoyed The Last Bear by Hannah Gold.

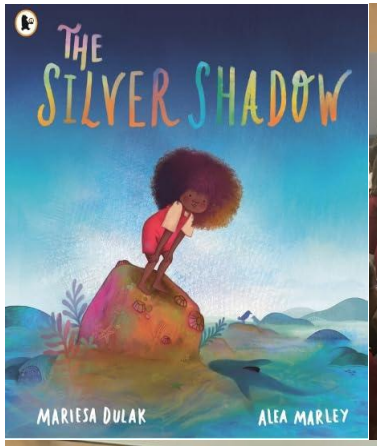
In Maths, we have continued our Fractions unit. The children have been learning how to add and subtract fractions, as well as developing their understanding of how to find a fraction of an amount. They have been working hard to apply these skills to a range of problems and are becoming increasingly confident in explaining their reasoning.

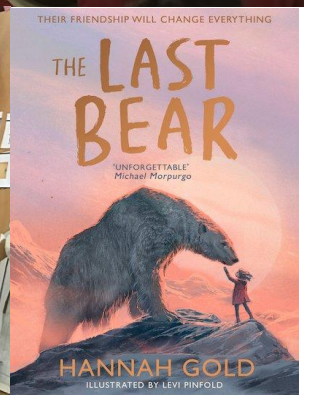
In History, we have begun our Local History unit focusing on Houlton. The children have been learning about how communication has changed over time, from older methods such as letters to the modern digital communication we use today. They have enjoyed discussing how these changes have impacted people's lives and the local community.

In PSHE, we have been thinking about hazards and risks. The children worked together to rank different scenarios from most risky to least risky, sharing their ideas and justifying their choices. We also discussed practical solutions to help manage or reduce risks, encouraging the children to think carefully about how to keep themselves and others safe in different situations.

On Tuesday, we also enjoyed a visit from author Matt Goodfellow, who inspired us with stories about how he became an author and shared his love and passion for reading and writing.

Malala class are really looking forward to sharing their Celebration Collective Worship with you next week at 10:15am. We hope you are able to join us!





Year 4 (Tagore Class and Turing Class)

We hope all our families had a lovely Easter break! We have had a great first week back!

In English, we have started reading our new class book Puloma and the Bear. The children made thoughtful predictions using their background knowledge and learned that the story is about a bear who is forced to perform in a circus. This led to some sensitive and mature discussions about performing animals, where the children considered how animals in these situations might feel and why people's choices matter.

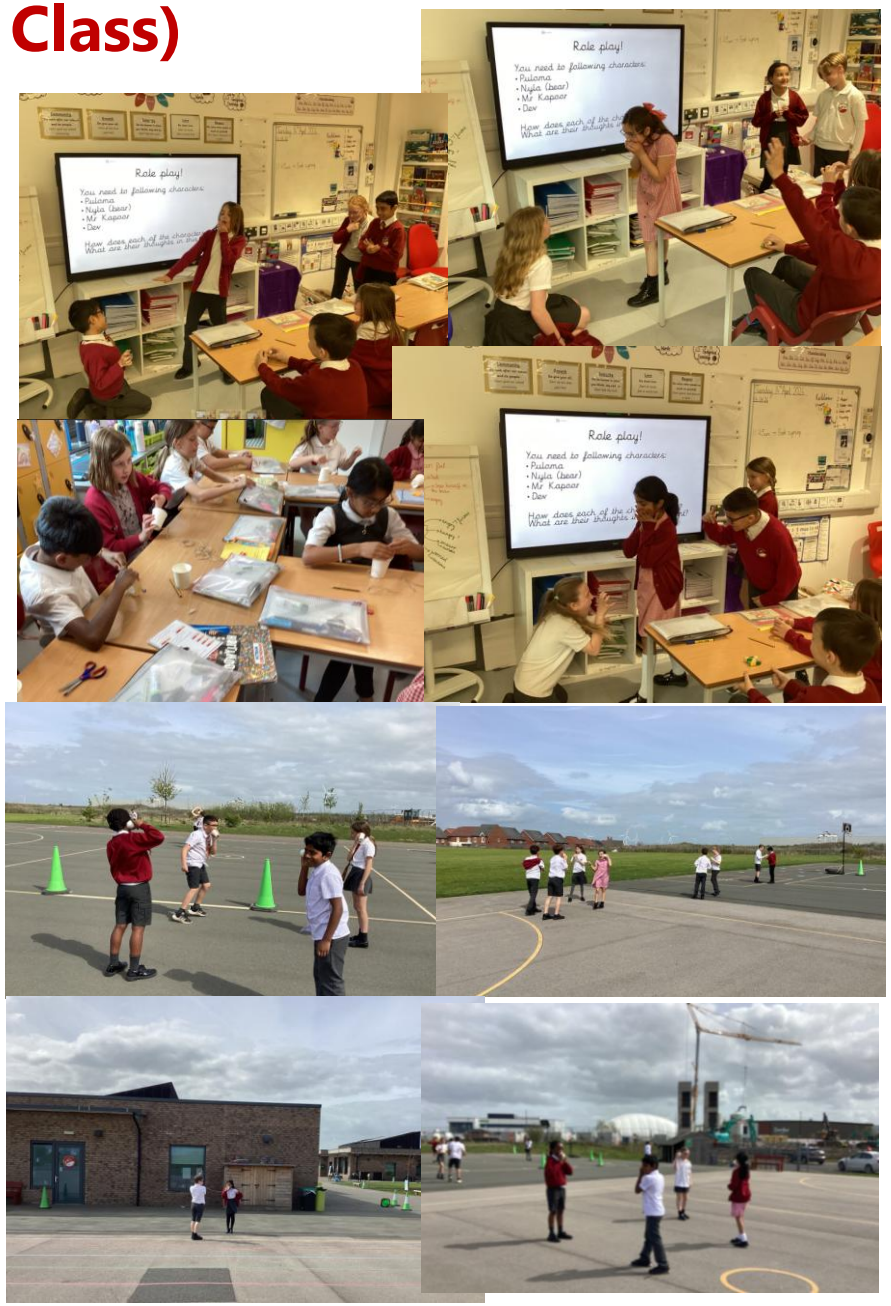
In Maths, we have begun our new unit on decimals. We started by linking back to our fraction learning and recapping tenths. The children then learned how to represent tenths as decimals, using place value charts to support their understanding.

In Science, we investigated the patterns between distance and volume. The children had great fun creating string telephones to test how sound travels, while making careful observations and drawing conclusions from their results.

In RE, we learned about religious pilgrimages. We began by reflecting on special journeys we have been on ourselves, before learning about the significant journeys other people take to feel a spiritual connection.

In DT, we launched our new unit by investigating existing products. The children created mood boards for their own nightlight designs and worked together to produce a design criteria to support the design process.

In Geography, we started our new topic on Egypt. The children discovered which continent it is located in and explored key physical features using a range of maps and atlases.



Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Rauf Class)

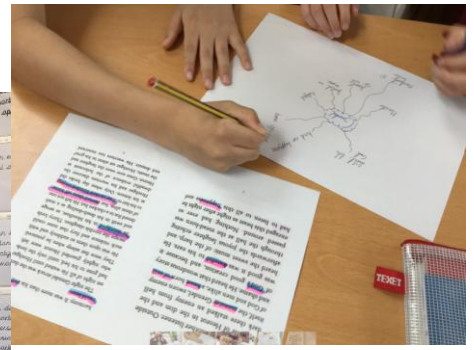
In English, we began a new class text, Beowulf. We explored the early character development of the main characters and learned more about the historical time period in which the story is set. They enjoyed reading the opening chapters and noted how the author creates suspense and engages the reader, encouraging them to want to read on.

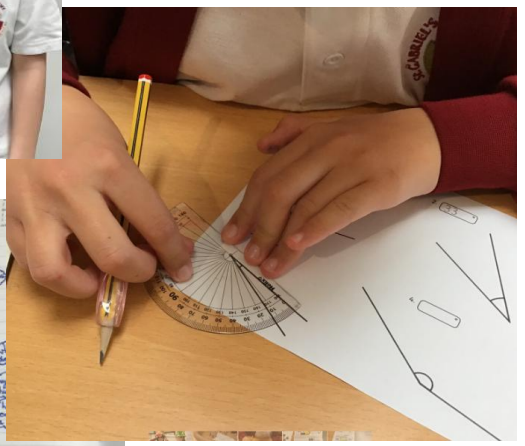
In Maths, we started a new unit on shape, with a focus on angles. The children learned to classify angles using the correct terminology: acute, obtuse, and reflex and were able to justify why an angle is given a particular name. They also practised estimating the size of angles in degrees before learning how to accurately measure and draw angles using a protractor.

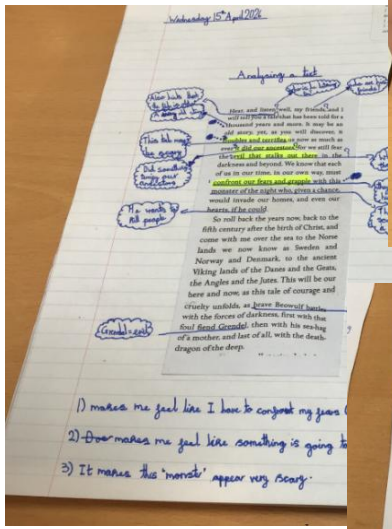
Our new Science unit is Living Things and Their Habitats. This week, pupils learned about life cycles, focusing on frogs and butterflies. They discussed the four key stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult and compared how different animals grow and change over time.

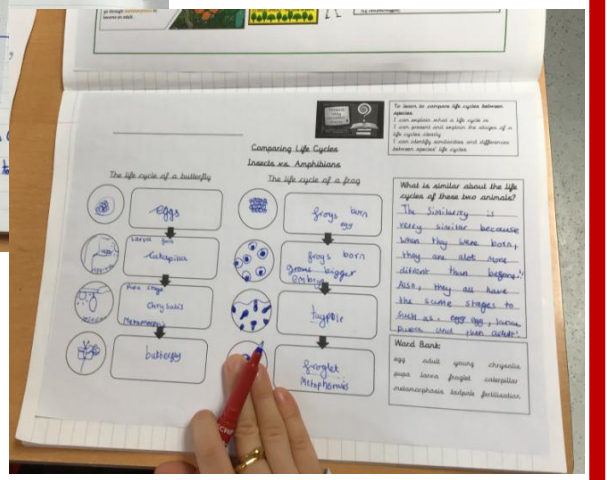
In RE, pupils began exploring the question "What would Jesus do?" They learned about the Gospels and Jesus' teachings, with a focus on the Sermon on the Mount. We read and analysed quotations, discussing the messages Jesus was teaching his followers and how these ideas can be applied today.

In Music, we really enjoyed learning a new song, "Kisne Banaaya", and were introduced to the Indian classical scale. This week's focus was on the pronunciation of new words and learning the actions that accompany the song to help support understanding of its meaning.









Year 6 (Pogson Class and Walker Class)

It has been so lovely to welcome the children back to school this week. We hope that you all had a wonderful Easter break!

On Tuesday, we were visited by the poet Matt Goodfellow, who inspired some of our writing at the beginning of the school year. We were so lucky to be able to hear Matt talk about his life and experiences which led to him becoming a published author. He then worked with us in our classes on a writing workshop in 'rebel writing', which is how Matt describes writing poems. It allows us to express ourselves in a range of ways, without the same rules of writing that we follow in other pieces of our work. We were then able to have a go at writing our own poems and we even got our books signed by him! We'd like to say a huge thank you to the Friends of St Gabriel's PFTA, who have paid for this opportunity for the children using fundraising from previous events.

In English, we have been exploring how teachers use the learning updates as a way to inform parents about what has been going on in their child's year group each week. We have discussed the features of a learning update and its purpose, considering how we could write our own learning update about our visit from Matt Goodfellow.

In Maths, we have been learning about Statistics and Shape.

We began the week exploring a range of graphs and charts, including line graphs, bar charts and pie charts. We were able to read and interpret a range of data, by seeing what we could learn from the graph or chart. We also drew our own graphs and charts!

We then moved on to shape, specifically learning about angles within different shapes. We recapped our learning from Year 5 about the different types of angles and calculated the value of missing angles. When reviewing the internal angles of a triangle, we had to remember that they always add up to 180 degrees.

Collective Worship

During Collective Worship this week, we had our Easter Bonnet Parade! It was brilliant to see the effort that children had made creating their Easter bonnets. Our panel of judges (Mr McCormick, Mr Marshall and Mr Nobes) had a very difficult decision choosing the winners! Thank you for helping to create the bonnets – they were amazing!

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

Playground and Gates

Please may we politely remind parents and carers that the single gate near the Year 5 classrooms is for children in years 4-6 in order to reduce congestion. We ask that children in years R-3 use the double gate by the car park.

Please may parents and carers be reminded that mobile phone usage is not permitted on school site.

Thank you for helping to keep our school site safe.

Young Carers

Young carers are children and young people under eighteen who provide regular care for someone who has an illness, disability, mental health or substance misuse problem.

Warwickshire Young Carers is here to help improve the lives of Young Carers across Warwickshire by offering free and confidential support. They work with young carers from the age of 6 upwards and aim to help make a difference to their lives by encouraging them to take time out to relax, take a break and to realise their own dreams.

If you believe your child may be a young carer, please contact the school so we can offer support and help you access local services.

WARWICKSHIRE YOUNG CARERS

Upcoming Dates

Friday 24th April: Malala Class Celebration Worship

Friday 1st May: Braille Class Celebration Worship

Friday 8th May: Attenborough Class Celebration Worship

Friday 15th May: Rauf Class Celebration Worship

Friday 22nd May: Anning Class Celebration Worship

Other news

We wish Miss Ford all the best as she moves on from her successful time here at St Gabriel's.

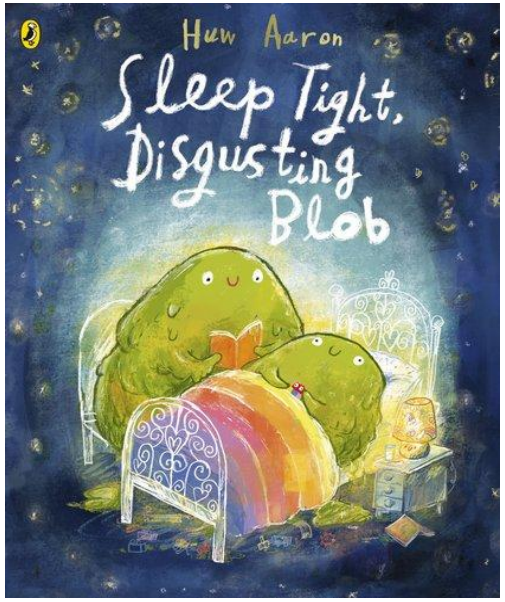
It was wonderful to see so many children wearing their Easter bonnets on Thursday as we continue our celebration of Eastertide. Thank you for all the support in helping the children to make these- they looked incredible!

Recommended Read

Recently voted winner of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2026, **Sleep Tight, Disgusting Blob by Huw Aaron** is a warm, funny and slightly slimy rhyming bedtime picture book about getting even the most monstrous creatures ready for sleep.

It's time to go to bed, and whether you are a phantom, a vampire, a Dark Lord or a yeti, you still must brush your teeth, put on your pyjamas, and settle down with a cosy story. The book follows a loving parent Blob gently encouraging their little "disgusting" blob child to go to bed, while pointing out that all kinds of creatures - from demons and dragons to cyclopes and cyborgs - are also settling down for the night.

Full of warmth and humour (and slime!), this rhyming bedtime book will disgust and delight sleepy children everywhere. It combines witty, lilting text with colourful, cosy illustrations, turning traditionally spooky characters into sweet, relatable figures who follow the same bedtime routines as children.



Online Safety

The adventures of Smartie the Penguin is a series of six stories for use with 3 to 7 year olds to help explore life online and understand how and when to ask for help.

In each story, Smartie the Penguin encounters three different scenarios. Each time, the children are encouraged to talk about what has happened, and explain what they think Smartie should do and why. In every story, children are also asked to join in with Smartie's special song, to help him make his decisions! Follow this link to find the stories:

https://www.childnet.com/resources/smartie-the-penguin/

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.3%
This week's attendance	98.2%
Latest Local Authority ranking	32nd of 196 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:

- Jobs and Future Fair
- Employment Rights Awareness Week 2026
- Setting up your young person's first phone

and much more!

The Family Information Service (FIS) supports families across Warwickshire with information and signposting. You can get in touch with the team by emailing fis@warwickshire.gov.uk, calling 0800 408 1558 or finding support at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies.

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.

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