# Weekly Learning Update

# 17th October 2025

# Nursery

We have had another brilliant week in Nursery and it has been wonderful to meet with families to discuss the successes of the half term. Thank you for your continued support.

Our focus in English has been developing the understanding of what a book is and its features. As a result, we have been creating our own Biles Class book! Following the sequence of our text 'From Head to Toe' by Eric Carle, each session, we have added an animal and thought about the action the animal can make with the corresponding body part. The children are gaining confidence on the sequence and retelling of this story.

Our Phonics focus links to instrumental sounds and distinguishing the differences that can be heard. Children have enjoyed playing a range of games and exploring the sounds that can be heard, as well as making the sounds themselves.

The children have enjoyed accessing a range of different areas this week during Continuous Provision, including our mark making area, where they have been drawing their own animals, inspired by our key text. In the Maths area, they were matching number to quantity. In the investigation area, they were donning scientific goggles and learning about the human body. In the creative area, they were using papier mache to create a sculpture. Finally, in the role play area, it became the Biles Class Café!

# Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

We have had another super week in Reception.

In Phonics this week, we revised the phonemes *p, i, n* and *m* and focused on blending for reading in partners and segmenting words for spelling.

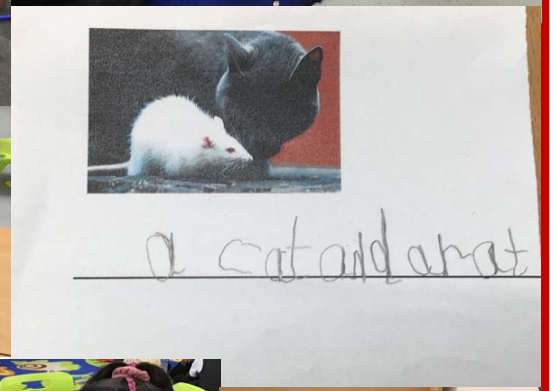
In English, we carried on writing the captions:

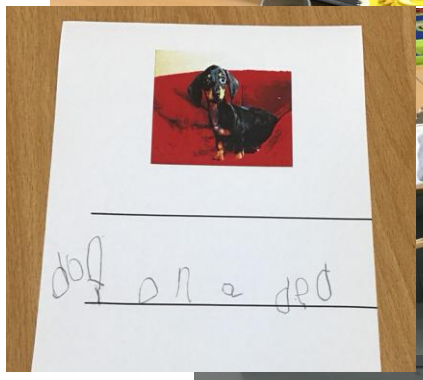
- A rat and a cat
- A dog in a bed
- A man in mud

We have used sentence fingers to help the children to identify the different words that make up the caption and used phoneme fingers to help the children to segment and spell each individual word.

In Maths this week, we started recognising numbers to 10. We have used songs, games, number lines and number fans to help the children to recognise their numbers to 10 in fun and engaging ways.

The children have had lots of fun this week in the different learning areas within our indoor and outdoor classrooms. They have especially loved the creative area, writing area, small world area and fine motor area.



# Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

We've had a busy and exciting week in Year One and the children have been working so hard across all areas of learning!

In English, we've been planning our very own information reports all about Houlton! The children have loved thinking of interesting facts to include and worked together in groups to create spider diagrams full of brilliant ideas. It's been great to see them so engaged and enthusiastic.

In Maths, we've started looking at part-part-whole and how we can split numbers in different ways. We've used lots of hands-on resources to help us understand this and the children have really enjoyed exploring numbers in a practical way.

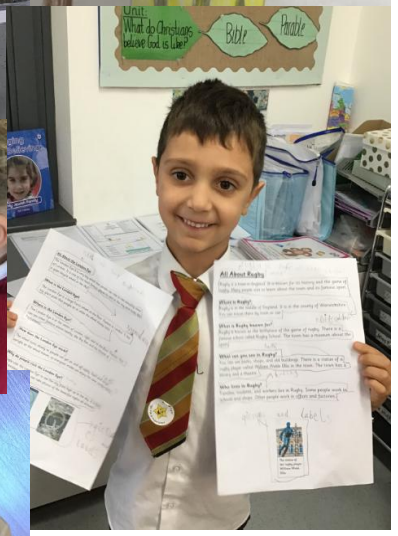
Our RE lessons have continued with our topic on Hinduism. This week, we thought about how Hindus use the five senses in worship and we had some lovely discussions about how we could use our senses to welcome visitors into our homes.

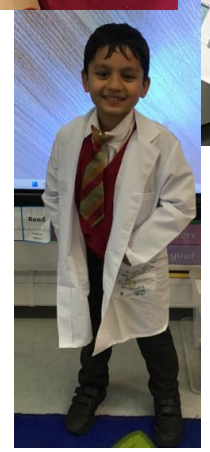
We've finished our final moving picture designs in Art! The children created pictures of either Big Ben or the London Eye, which ties in beautifully with our English work on Katie in London. They've done a fantastic job and should be really proud of their work.

In Science, we've been practising our skills in identifying and classifying. We had fun sorting ourselves into groups based on different criteria and then moved on to classifying animals by whether they live on land or in water. Lots of great thinking and teamwork!

Finally, a big thank you to all of you who came to the parent consultations. It was lovely to catch up with you and we really appreciate your continued support.

Have a lovely weekend!



# Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

We've had another exciting week of learning, full of curiosity, creativity and thoughtful discussions!

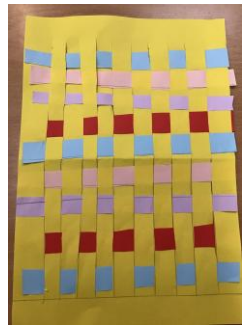
This week, in Maths, we continued building our confidence with addition and subtraction. We explored how our knowledge of number bonds to 10 can help us find number bonds to 100. For example, knowing that 3 + 7 = 10 helped us realise that 30 + 70 = 100! We used number lines, base ten blocks and mental strategies to spot patterns and strengthen our understanding.

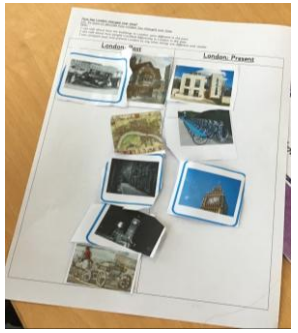
In English, we continued exploring the beautiful and imaginative story Grandad's Island. This week, our focus was on using expanded noun phrases, especially choosing appropriate adjectives to describe characters, settings and emotions. For example, instead of writing "the tree," children might write "the towering, leafy tree" or "the ancient, twisted tree." We discussed how carefully chosen adjectives help paint a vivid picture in the reader's mind and create a stronger emotional connection to the story. This not only makes writing more engaging but also helps the reader feel immersed in the world the writer is creating. The children enjoyed experimenting with different word choices and reflecting on how their descriptions could make the reader feel wonder, excitement or even sadness.

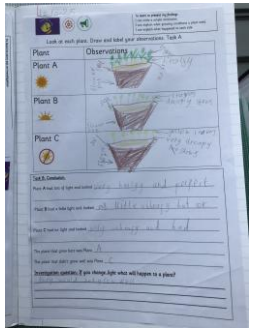
We concluded our investigation into plant growth by observing our cress plants and writing up our findings. Plant A thrived with plenty of light, while Plant C struggled due to limited exposure. Interestingly, Plants B and C grew taller than Plant A, which sparked a fascinating discussion. We discovered that this was a survival instinct—plants stretch and grow taller when searching for light. It was a brilliant moment of scientific thinking and deepened our understanding of how living things adapt to their environment.

We also had a magical morning with Jessie this week, where we worked on our own version of The Big Frieze, focusing on the story of creation. We imagined the world as an empty vessel that God poured life into. Each child created a 'jar of creation' filled with things they would bring into the world—plants, animals, the moon, stars and so much more. The children showed such thoughtful imagination and spiritual reflection in their artwork.

In Geography, we continued comparing London in the past and present world. We looked at landmarks, population, transport systems and even climate. This helped us understand what makes London unique and how cities can be similar or different depending on where they are in the world.







# Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

It's been another brilliant week in Year 3, topped off by having such wonderful conversations with you all about how amazingly the children have settled into Year 3. Thank you all for your time and support.

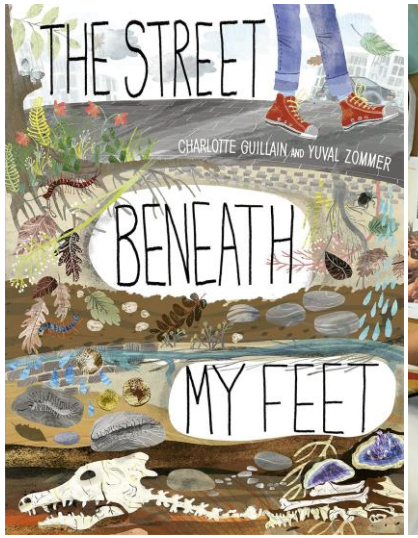
In English, we have been looking at the features of an effective setting description, with a focus on powerful adjectives. The children have created their own word banks of exciting vocabulary and enjoyed writing sentences including expanded noun phrases to describe the setting of The Café at the Edge of the Woods.

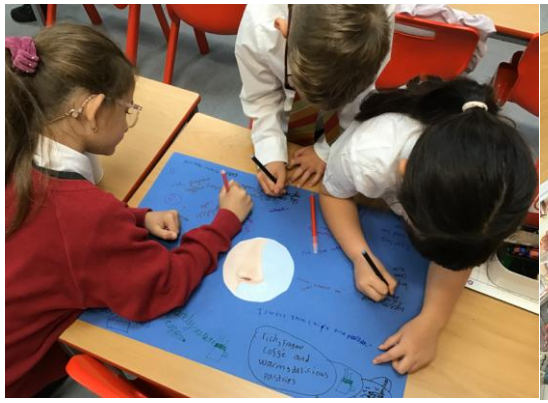
In our Reading lessons this week, we have been reading 'The Street Beneath My Feet' by Charlotte Guilan and Yuval Zommer which is a wonderful non-fiction book about what's going on deep in the ground under our feet. The children have loved sharing their own background knowledge and developing their reading skills of asking questions and visualising.

In Maths, we have been focusing on adding ones and tens to three-digit numbers that involve an exchange. The children spent time using place value counters to understand what is happening when we exchange, followed by using the formal written method.

In Science, we have been learning about how fossils are formed, describing the process and learning about different types of fossils.

In History, we have been describing the changes from the Stone Age to the Bronze Age. The children used sources to gather evidence and suggested which changes they thought were the most significant and why.





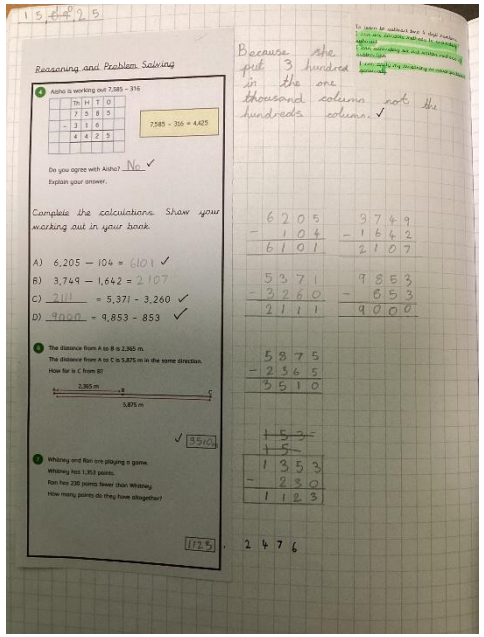
# Year 4 (Tagore Class and Turing Class)

It has been a fantastic week in Year 4!

One of the highlights was our Art workshop on Tuesday, where we kicked things off with some fun drawing activities, including the challenging task of drawing without looking! It was quite tricky, but it certainly got everyone thinking creatively. We then focused on the panel from the Big Frieze related to our topic of Incarnation. Using various mediums like watercolours and collage, the class worked collaboratively to create some outstanding pieces. We can't wait to see the finished design!

In English, we've been busy planning our persuasive posters, honing in on those key ideas that will effectively convince our readers. We're looking forward to creating our posters next week and showcasing our creativity!

Maths has seen us using the column method for addition and subtraction. We've sharpened our reasoning skills to identify different errors and tackled some missing number problems, which challenged our resilience.



In Science, we explored food chains, learning the specific vocabulary associated with them before attempting to create our own.

Geography this week involved delving into renewable and non-renewable energy sources. We uncovered various types of energy and asked lots of questions to deepen our understanding.

Finally, in RE, we engaged in a thought-provoking discussion about our individual views of God and whether God is male. We also looked at how different individuals perceive God in diverse ways.

# Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Raúf Class)

It has been a wonderful week with Year 5 this week! In English, we have been refocusing our attention on suspense writing as we have taken a look at specific structural and language features used in a scary story. This was later applied when planning our very own suspense narratives to write next week!

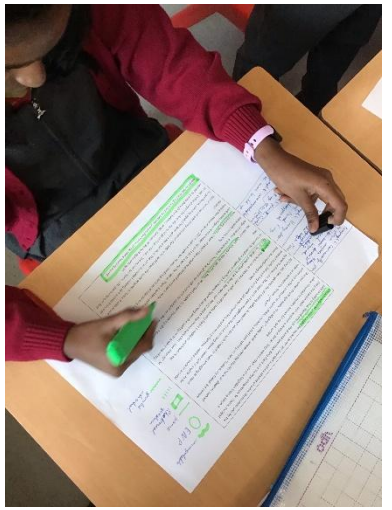
In Maths, we have completed our unit on Addition and Subtraction by exploring lots of different strategies that we might use to compare calculations and find missing numbers. Over the next week, we look forward to beginning our next topic on Multiplication and Division.

In Science, the children had the opportunity to finally carry out their investigations they had planned last week. It was really great to see them work together to effectively carry out their methods to determine what material might make the best wrapping paper.

In RE, we continued our exploration of what it might mean to live well by taking a look at the Buddhist worldview. We recalled the concept of the Eightfold Path and then considered what paths might be more or less challenging to follow.

In Art this week, Year 5 have been very lucky to have the chance to take part in our whole school Big Frieze Project where they were required to use collage and watercolours to illustrate a series of symbols linked with different key words.

Finally, this week, we also visited the Belgrade Theatre to see the Percy Jackson Musical! The children had such a fantastic time as they made links between the performance and our learning about Ancient Greece in History and Geography as well as seeing our class reading come to life on stage!



# Year 6 (Pogson Class and Walker Class)

This week, we have been working really hard to showcase all of the learning we have done so far this year. We have shown growth in the progress we are making and we are ready for more learning to come!

In Art, we have started our final piece for our project, which involves weaving using wool. We have had to look really carefully to make sure we go over one piece of wool and then under the next. We will be continuing with this next week!

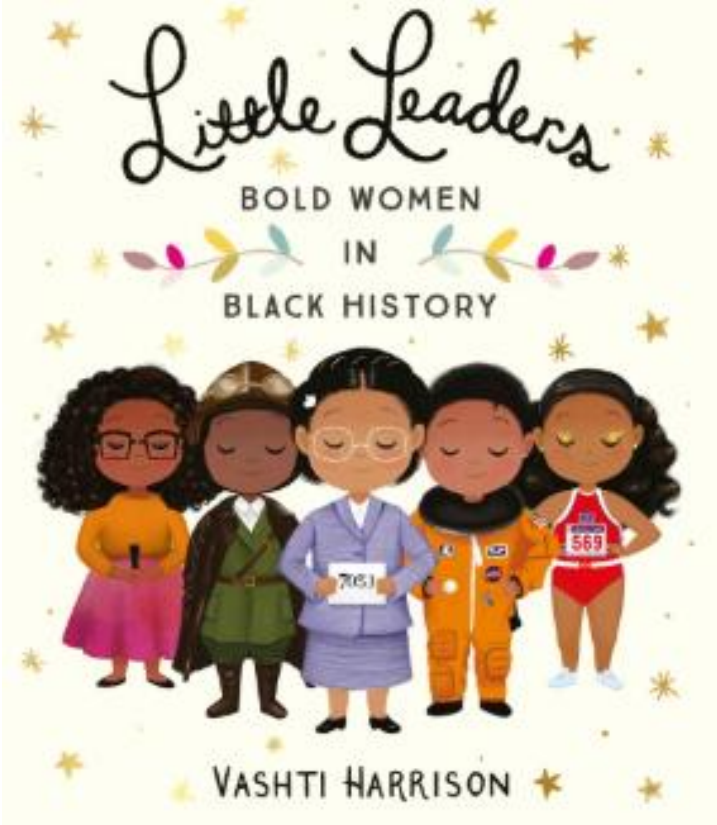
In English, we have been learning to use adverbials to add more detail to our writing, showing where, when and how something happens. We can also use adverbials to show the manner in which a character does something too. We have explored how writers use adverbials in a prologue, alongside other features too.

Here are some pictures from our amazing trip to Tudor World last week!

# Collective Worship

During Collective Worship this week, we have been reflecting on 'Thankfulness'. We spoke about being thankful even when times may be difficult for us. We spoke about how we might feel disappointed or sad at times but taking a step back and considering the wider picture helps us to show genuine thankfulness in our lives.

During Worship Through Story, we explored the inspiring life of Katherine Johnson — a brilliant mathematician whose work at NASA helped launch astronauts into space. Her story, shared from the book Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History, reminded us of the power of perseverance, courage and breaking barriers.
This was part of our celebration of Black History Month, as we honour remarkable individuals who have shaped history and continue to inspire us today.




Collective worship at St Gabriel's always aims to be **inspirational** for all, **invitational** to all and **inclusive** of all. **17**

# Community Events

We are accepting donations of pre-loved items, in good condition, to be sold on the day, including:

- Books (for all ages)
- Toys
- School uniform

Are you able to donate a prize for our raffle or know someone who could? Perhaps a product, voucher or service?

We also have stalls available for local businesses to sell their products.

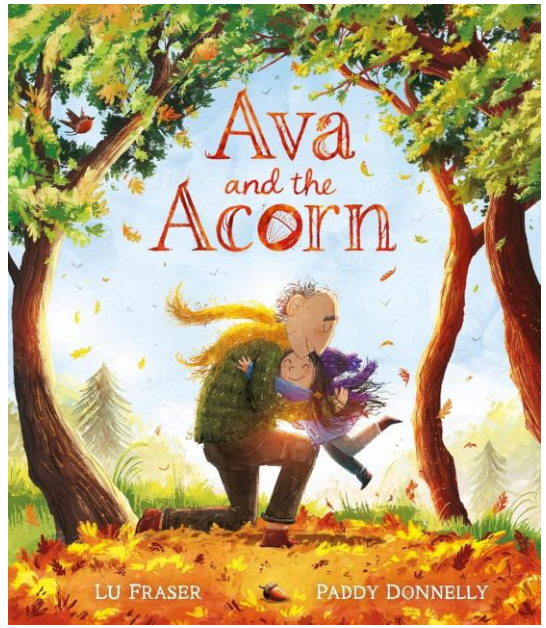
Thank you in advance for supporting our fundraising efforts, which will contribute towards enrichment opportunities for the children. For more information, or to offer your support, please contact office@stgabrielscofeacademy.org.

# Recommended Read

Ava and her grandad share a special bond as they visit their favourite oak tree through the changing seasons, making memories together.

As the tree transforms with spring's hope, summer's abundance and autumn's beauty, their connection deepens. When winter comes and both the tree and her grandad fade, they plant an acorn together, symbolising new life and remembrance. Years later, Ava learns that love and memories live on in the heart, just like the growing tree.

This gentle, beautifully illustrated story explores themes of growth, change and loss through the natural rhythm of the seasons.




# Online Safety

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed. In the below guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as bullying, inappropriate content and unknown members.

https://nationalcollege.com/guides/group-chats

| Whole School Attendance | |
|---|---|
| **Attendance since September** | 96.49% |
| **This week's attendance** | 96.4% |
| **Latest Local Authority ranking** | 91st out of 195 schools |
| **Latest National ranking** | Top 30-40% 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?

# Family Support

This week's Family Information Service newsletter includes information about:

- Child Friendly Warwickshire newsletter
- Early years workshops
- Halloween fun this October half-term

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.

# Uniform

As part of our commitment to fostering a strong sense of community at St Gabriel's, we kindly ask that all children wear crested school jumpers or cardigans.

If you need additional uniform items, our second-hand uniform shop will be open on Wednesday 22nd October, from 3.25 to 3.50pm, on the playground.

# Non-Uniform Day

On Friday 24th October, the children are welcome to come to school in non-uniform and bring a bottle to collect donations for our St Gabriel's Christmas Fair tombola and raffle.

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

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