Weekly Learning Update

18th October 2024

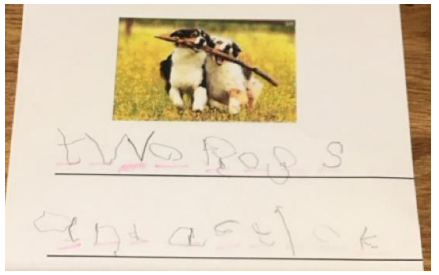
Nursery

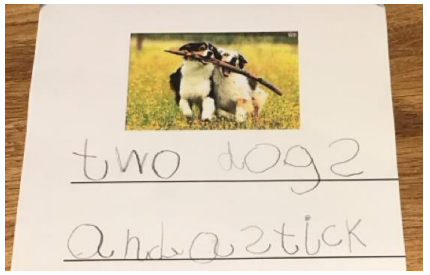
This week, we have been exploring pattern matching using a stegosaurus; the children were encouraged to use the colourful pegs as the spikes and match the pattern from the card. They have enjoyed building their fine motor skills by using the pegs. More importantly, we have taken part in a Science experiment this week! Following on from last week, we used our volcano scenery to create a lava explosion. The children have been very focused and have really enjoyed doing this experiment.

Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

English:

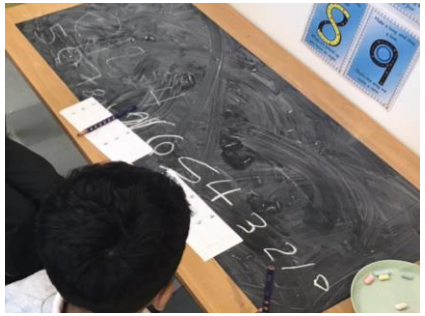
We are continuing to focus on the concept of a caption - a sentence that describes an image. The children have enjoyed looking at a range of images this week and practising throwing their sentence fingers down, in order to retain the order of their caption and then using their phoneme mats and phoneme fingers to segment words for spelling.





Phonics:

We have been very proud of the children's efforts. This week, we assessed the children in their Phase 2 phonics knowledge and we started exploring the initial phonemes within Phase 3. They have all worked so hard.



Maths:

We have been playing a range of games within Reception to deepen recognition of numerals. We started by exploring numerals up to 10 and then moved on to numerals within 20. The children really rose to the challenge!

PSHE:

We have had a focus on why rules and boundaries are important. The children spent time reflecting on the expectations within our school community, as well as the wider community with Houlton. Children agreed that rules and boundaries offer a consistency and that means that there is a level of fairness for all. The children acted a range of ideas where they could show fairness by following rules and boundaries.

The children have enjoyed accessing the different areas within the classroom, especially exploring with the concept of printing. Children were able to create their own potato printed hedgehogs and cut out autumnal leaves for them to hide within.

Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

It has been another brilliant week in Year 1.

In Phonics, we have been focusing on the phonemes 'air', 'ure' and 'er' which brings us to the end of Phase 3. The children have been consolidating and applying their skills by reading books containing the phonemes that they have been taught and we have been so impressed with the growth in their reading.

In English, we have been developing our vocabulary through writing character and setting descriptions. We then used all of our ideas to plan a postcard that we are going to write next week, imagining that we are Katie writing about her visit to London.

In Maths, we have moved on to our Addition and Subtraction unit. The children have been exploring part-whole models and understanding the concept of addition, using cubes and counters to support.

In Science, we have been identifying and classifying. The children classified fruits into sweet and sour, animals into land and water animals, objects based on their colour and themselves based on different categories. They had lots of fun!

In D&T, we have been making our own moving pictures of a London landmark. The children designed and created their own pictures, using split pins to create a moving element.

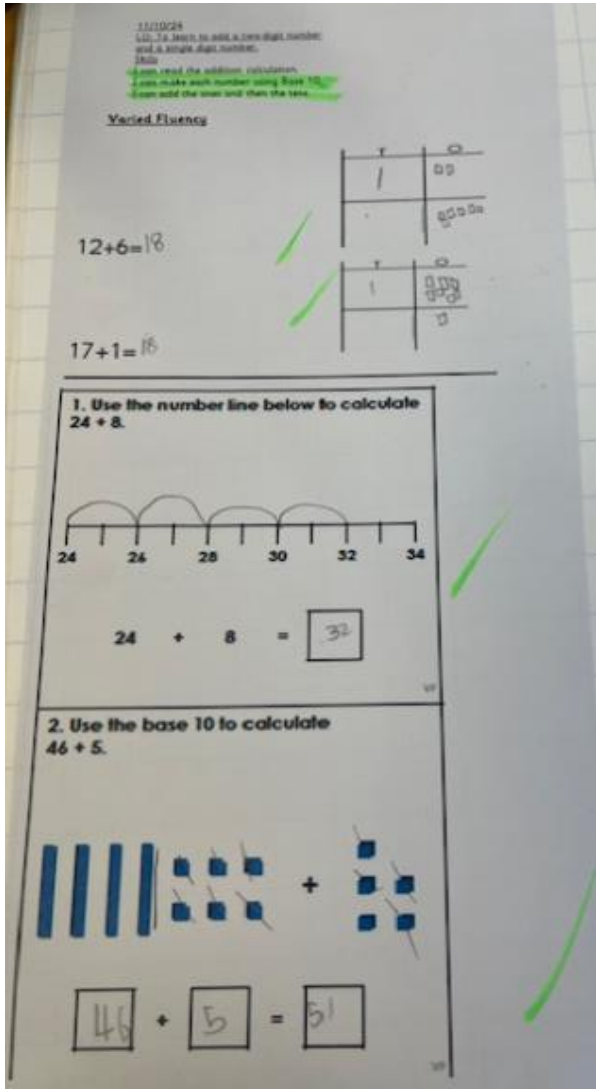
In RE, we explored the concept of puja and how those with Hindu worldviews use their five senses in worship. We thought about all of the different ways this might happen in the Mandir and drew pictures to show.

Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

We have had another super week.

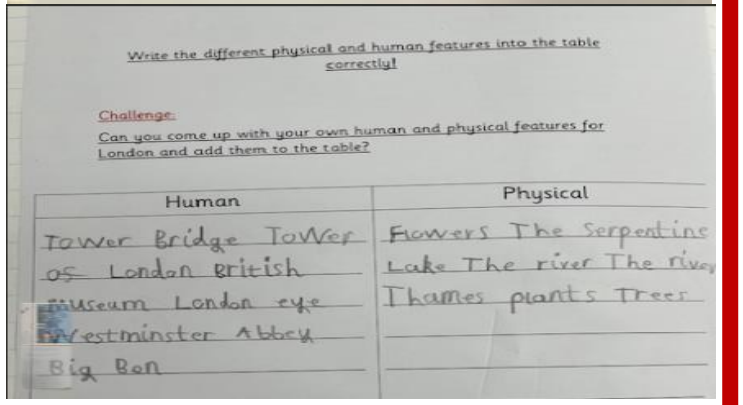
Phonics:
In Phonics, we have learnt that:
-The graphemes o and ou make the phoneme u in words like tough and worry.
-The grapheme ire makes the phoneme ire in words like fire and inspire.
- The grapheme ce makes the phoneme s in words like rice and nice.

Maths:
In Maths, we learnt to add 2-digit numbers and ones and 2-digit numbers and tens using base 10 and number lines.



English:
In English, we have started planning our own versions of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears,' and have started writing our openings. We have been focusing on using descriptive language to create a better visualisation for the reader.

Geography:
In Geography, we have been learning about the difference between human and physical features and have been identifying these within London.



Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

We have had another super week in Year 3!

In English, we have been looking at the features of an information report in preparation for writing our own based on an imaginative extinct animal. The children have been planning their paragraphs and have started to write their first section.

In Maths, we have been adding 10s across 100 alongside subtracting 1s across 10. We have been exploring different ways we can work these calculations out and have been deepening our reasoning and problem solving.

In RE, we have focused on how nature and seasons shape Muslim worldviews. We looked at how the Islamic Calendar uses the lunar cycle and we looked at how this shapes Islamic festivals such as Ramadan and Eid-al-Fitr.

In History, we have been comparing life in the Stone Age to the Bronze Age as well as identifying key changes that happened during this time.

Year 4 (Turing Class and Tagore Class)

It has been another super week in Year 4! We will share news from our trip to Cadbury World in next week's Learning Update.

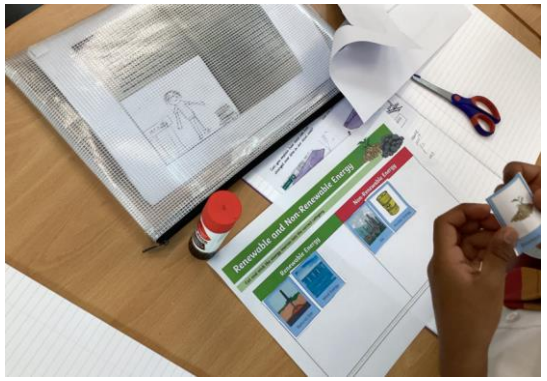
In English, we have planned our own morality tale using a storyboard. We have written our story opening and look forward to continuing the story next week.

In Maths, we have continued our unit on addition and subtraction. We have been adding two 4-digit numbers with exchanges in a variety of different ways. We have also revised the column method for subtraction.

In Science, we learnt all about food chains. We learnt the key vocabulary linked to food chains and that the arrows show the energy transfer. We worked with our partners to create our own food chains. We considered what would happen if a certain animal was removed from the food chain and the impact this could have on the ecosystem.

In Geography, we learnt all about renewable and non-renewable energy sources. We are going to use this knowledge next week to conduct a class debate.

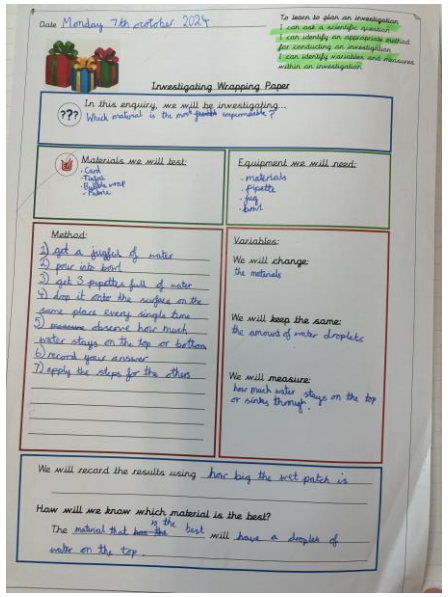
In PSHE, we learnt about harmful and hurtful comments that are sometimes used. We thought about the phrase 'sticks and stones' and completed an activity to prove that unkind words can leave a lasting impact. We then turned the hurtful comments into positive phrases!



Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Gandhi Class)

Year 5 have had another amazing week!

This week, in English, we have continued to explore our text Odyssey and we have begun to consider how to write to inform. We have explored the features of an information text as well as learning how to use possessive apostrophes and fronted adverbials in our writing. In our Reading lessons, we have been developing our skill of inference linked to Odyssey.


Date Monday 7th October 2024

Investigating Wrapping Paper

In this enquiry, we will be investigating...

Materials we will test:

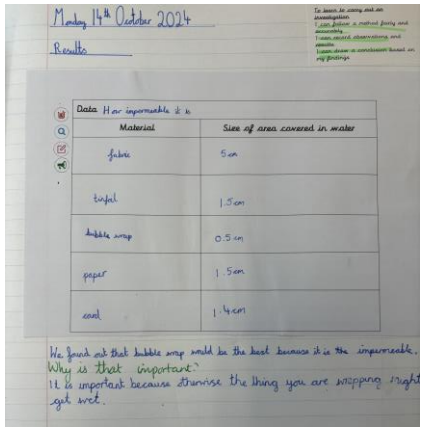
Equipment we will need:

Method:

Variables:

We will record the results using

How will we know which material is the best?


Monday 14th October 2024

Results

Material	Size of area covered in water
fabric	5cm
tinfoil	1.5cm
bubble wrap	0.5cm
paper	1.5cm
card	1.4cm

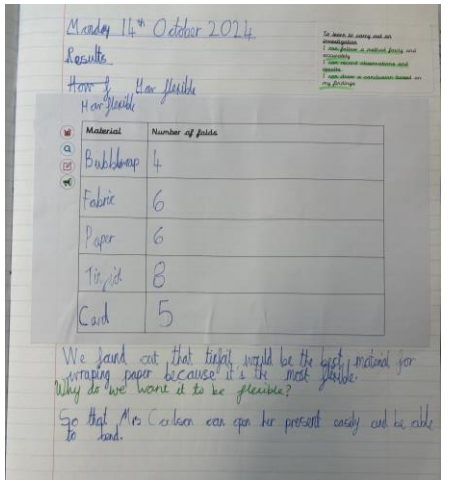
We found out that bubble wrap would be the best because it is the impermeable.

Why is that important?

It is important because otherwise the thing you are wrapping might get wet.

In Maths, we have begun our unit on Multiplication and Division. This week, we have learnt how to find common multiples and common factors as well as exploring what a prime number is.

In Science, we completed our investigation to find out which material will make the best wrapping paper. Some children investigated which material is the most flexible by folding materials of the same size. Other children investigated which material is the most impermeable by measuring the area that water spread. We then used our results to create a bar chart.


Monday 14th October 2024

Results

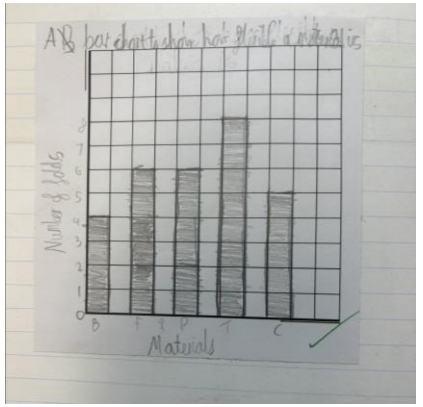
How flexible

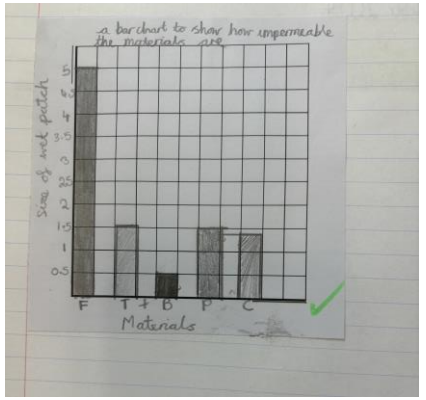
Material	Number of folds
Bubblewrap	4
Fabric	6
Paper	6
Tinfoil	8
Card	5

We found out that tinfoil would be the best material for wrapping paper because it's the most flexible.

Why do we want it to be flexible?

So that Mrs Carlson can open her present easily and be able to read.





In Geography, we explored the physical features of Greece and how this impacted people living in Greece at the time.

In Music, we have learnt how to read music notation and play along on a xylophone.

Year 6 (Pogson Class and Ahmad Class)

It has been a great week in Year 6 this week!

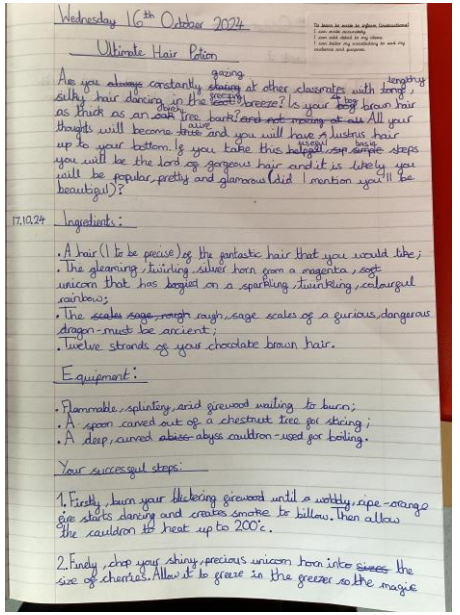
In Maths, we have continued with our use of the formal method for long division. It has been great to see how quickly the children have grown in confidence with their use of this skill. We then had a go at applying our skills of the four calculations when solving a series of more challenging, multi-step problems.

In English, we have planned and started to write our very own potion recipes, using a range of devices to ensure that our writing is as entertaining and informative as possible. The children have thought of some very interesting concoctions including a teleportation potion, a good luck potion and ultimate hair potion!

In Science, we have shifted our focus from exercise onto the topic of drugs and their impact on the body. First, we learnt what a drug was and the different types of drugs that cause positive and negative changes to the body. The children then used secondary sources of information to find out more about the long-term impacts of smoking and alcohol on the body.

In PSHE, our learning has focused on the features and impact of controlling relationships. The children were given a series of scenarios to act out and they had to identify some of the signals of controlling behaviour and how a person can prevent it from happening or get help if they are in a controlling friendship.

Finally, in History, we have been finding out more about witchcraft and why the trialling of witches in the Elizabethan Era has been the focus of so much historical attention. We looked at the tests used to see if someone was a witch and explored the different punishments faced if someone was found guilty of being one.


Wednesday 16th October 2024

Ultimate Hair Potion

Are you constantly gazing at other classmates with longingly silky hair dancing in the breeze? Is your boring brown hair as thick as an oak tree bark? And not moving at all! All your thoughts will become true and you will have a lustrous hair up to your bottom. If you take this because steps you will be the lord of gorgeous hair and it is likely you will be popular, pretty and glamorous (did I mention you'll be beautiful)?

17.10.24 Ingredients:

- A hair (1 to be precise) of the fantastic hair that you would like;
- The gleaming, twirling, silver horn from a magenta, soft unicorn that has begun on a sparkling, twinkling, colourful rainbow;
- The scales sage rough, sage scales of a curious, dangerous dragon - must be ancient;
- Twelve strands of your chocolate brown hair.

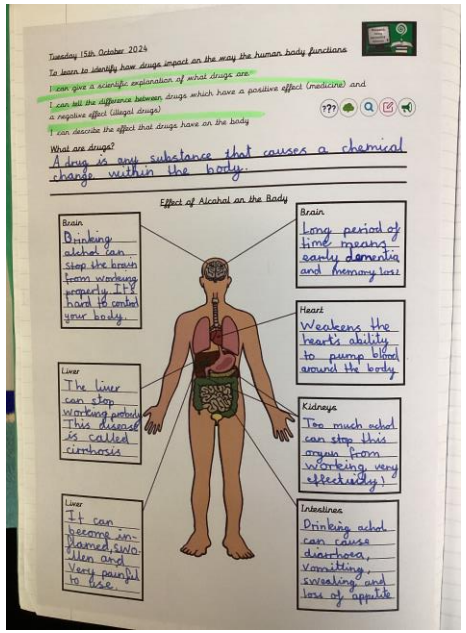
Equipment:

- Flammable, splintery, acid firewood waiting to burn;
- A spoon carved out of a chestnut tree for stirring;
- A deep, curved abyss cauldron - used for boiling.

Your successful steps:

1. Firstly, burn your blackening firewood until a wobbly, ripe-orange fire starts dancing and creates smoke to billow. Then allow the cauldron to heat up to 200°c.

2. Finally, chop your shiny, precious unicorn horn into slivers the size of cherries. Allow it to freeze in the freezer so the magic


Tuesday 15th October 2024

To learn to identify how drugs impact on the way the human body functions

I can give a scientific explanation of what drugs are.

I can tell the difference between drugs which have a positive effect (medicine) and a negative effect (illegal drugs)

I can describe the effect that drugs have on the body

What are drugs?

A drug is any substance that causes a chemical change within the body.

Effect of Alcohol on the Body

Brain: Drinking alcohol can stop the brain from working properly. It's hard to control your body.

Brain: Long period of time means early dementia and memory loss

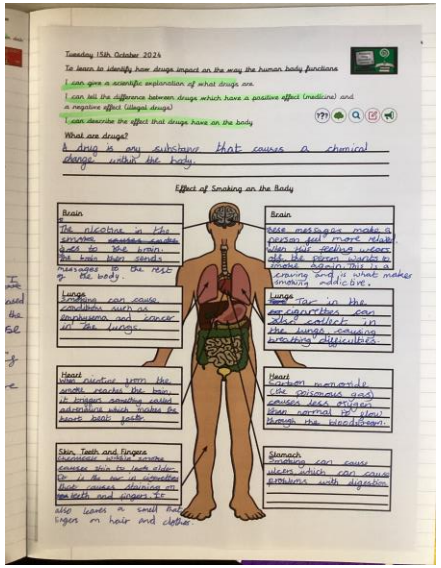
Heart: Weakens the heart's ability to pump blood around the body

Kidneys: Too much alcohol can stop this organ from working very effectively.

Intestines: Drinking alcohol can cause diarrhoea, vomiting, sweating and loss of appetite

Liver: The liver can stop working properly. This disease is called cirrhosis

Liver: It can become inflamed, swollen and very painful to use.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What are drugs?

A drug is any substance that causes a chemical change within the body.

Effect of Smoking on the Body

Brain: The nicotine in the smoke reaches quickly to the brain. The brain sends messages to the rest of the body.

Brain: These messages make a person feel more relaxed when still feeling uneasy all the time. Lighting a cigarette again this is a craving and is what makes smoking addictive.

Lungs: Tiny hairs in the lungs can collect in the lungs causing breathing difficulties.

Lungs: Smoking can cause conditions such as emphysema and cancer in the lungs.

Heart: When nicotine from the smoke reaches the brain, it triggers another chemical which tightens the heart beat fast.

Heart: Carbon monoxide (the poisonous gas) causes less oxygen than normal to flow through the blood.

Skin, Teeth and Fingers: Smoking can cause skin to look older or is the one in ashtray that causes staining on the teeth and fingers. It also leaves a smell that lingers on hair and clothes.

Stomach: Smoking can cause ulcers which can cause problems with digestion.

Collective Worship

During collective worship this week, we have been learning about the story of Moses and the Exodus. The children were able to recall the key moments in his life and reflected on the dedication he had to God.

Thank you to Pogson class who led Friday's collective worship. We all enjoyed learning about your wonderful lessons in school.

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

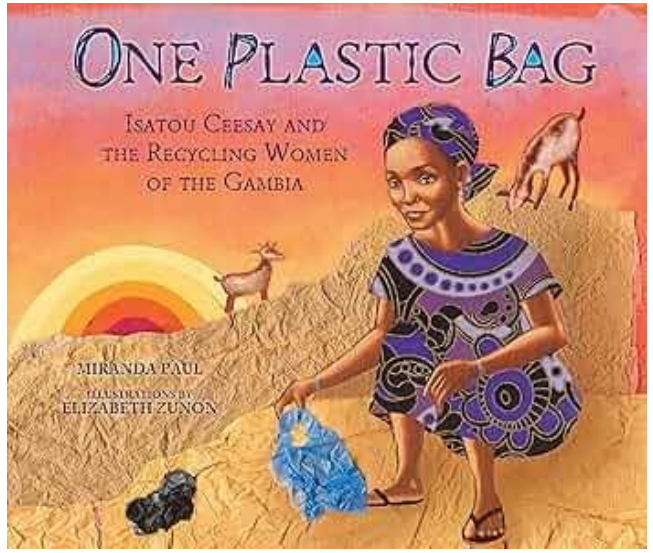
Recommended Read

This week's recommended read is inspired by Recycle Week - 'One Plastic Bag' by Miranda Paul. Discover the inspiring true story of Isatou Ceesay, an African woman who started a recycling movement to combat the pollution caused by plastic bags in her community.

For years, plastic bags were a cheap and convenient option for carrying goods in Njau, Gambia. However, when these bags broke or were no longer needed, they were carelessly discarded, leading to an unsightly accumulation of plastic waste alongside roads. The stagnant water in the bags provided a breeding ground for mosquitoes and diseases, while the burning of bags left behind a foul smell. The bags also strangled gardens, killed livestock, and polluted the environment.

Isatou Ceesay decided to take action, and she began to collect the plastic bags and recycle them into something new. Her efforts not only helped to clean up the environment, but also provided income for women in her community who had been struggling to make ends meet.

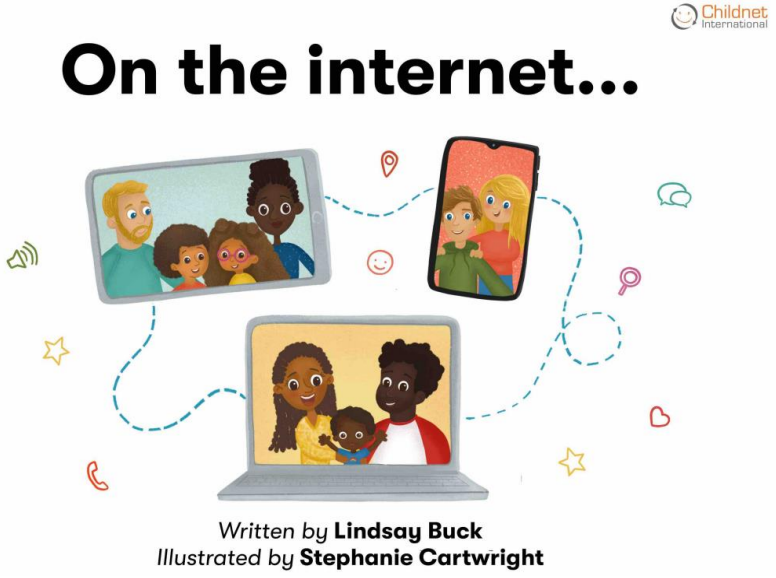
This powerful and moving book showcases the impact of one person's determination and ingenuity in creating positive change. It highlights the urgent need to address the plastic pollution crisis and encourages readers to take action to make a difference in their own communities. Join Isatou Ceesay and be inspired to become a changemaker in your own right.



Online Safety

Sharing stories with your child helps to make learning to read an enjoyable activity! 'On the internet' is a story that has been written for 4-7 year olds by Childnet to help them to understand how to keep safe online. At the end, you will find some activities to complete together.

https://www.childnet.com/resources/a-learning-to-read-book/



Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	97%
This week's attendance	97.7%
Latest Local Authority ranking	73 out of 188 schools
Latest National ranking	Top 30-40% 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 18th October 2024 | PTA@stgabrielscofeacademy.org

Last night we held our AGM to celebrate the successes of the last year.

Next Friday (25th) we will be holding another **DONUT SALE** after school to mark the end of term.

We will also be holding a **SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE** at the same time so please pop along and grab a bargain.

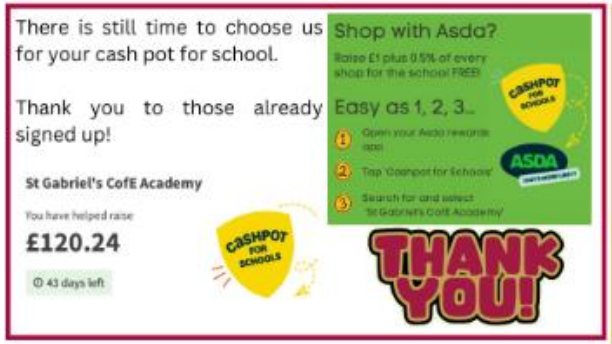
A new date has been agreed for the postponed Bingo Night

FRIDAY 15TH NOVEMBER

We will send out booking details over the next few days

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

Thank you to those already signed up!



YEARS 4-6

THURSDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

EVENTS

Full details and how to book to follow

- **Friday 25th October:** Donuts and second hand uniform sale
- **Thursday 7th November:** Yrs 4-6 Disco
- **Friday 15th November:** Bingo night **NEW DATE**
- **Thursday 28th November:** Wreath Making Night
- **Friday 29th November:** Hot Chocolate sale
- **Friday 13th - Sunday 15th December:** Santas Grotto at the Barn

Family Support

Every year, it is estimated that 192,912 children are separated from a parent by a prison sentence in England and Wales (Ministry of Justice - 2024). Children Heard and Seen is a charity (1157879) dedicated to helping children, young people, and families affected by parental imprisonment. They work to address their needs, listen to their concerns, and ensure their voices are heard. All their services are provided at absolutely no cost to families and without the need for a referral from an agency or school.

They offer tailored one-on-one support from trained practitioners, assistance for parents/carers, peer support groups for both children and carers, engaging online activities, fun-filled activity days and residentials, as well as practical support such as legal advice and guidance on financial well-being.

If you are caring for a child with a parent in prison and would like to access support, please take a few moments to complete the self-referral form or email info@childrenheardandseen.co.uk

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

✉office@stgabrielscofeacademy.org ☎01788 222405