Weekly Learning Update

19th June 2026

Nursery

It has been another fantastic week in Nursery! The children have enjoyed the challenges within the learning areas and have edited them to challenge themselves further! We have been promoting independent learning opportunities with the children, especially those preparing for Reception in September.

There have been two phonic focusses this week. One of them has been on oral blending and children building sounds into words. The teacher has broken words down for example d-o-g and the children have identified what the words are.

We have also continued to explore the concept of alliteration and identifying words starting with the same initial sound.

Within our English focus this week, we have focused on recalling events of the story. This then led to recognising certain words within the text to support blending these. Along with the ability to orally blend these words, the children have been developing recognition of writing letters within words. The children have been working very hard within their English this week and are enjoying exploring developing letters within their mark making.

The children have enjoyed accessing the different areas of learning within the learning areas. Children have been developing their sharing, turn taking and resilience within one of the role play areas, which is the St Gabriel's construction site! The children have also been developing their observational skills with classroom I Spy pictures. Photos were taken of different areas of the classroom with differences within them and the children enjoyed exploring these differences.

With the warmer weather making another appearance, we kindly ask that all children are coming into their sessions with sun cream already applied and named sun hats. Can you also ensure there is a named sun cream in setting, so staff can support reapplying suncream as required.

Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

What another great week we have had in Reception! We have used the water colours to create backgrounds for our silhouette pictures. We have explored different homes from around the world in our investigation area and enjoyed being teachers in our reading area.

In Maths, we have been consolidating our knowledge of number to 20, looking at the pattern in teen numbers. In our Maths area, we have been sorting and matching 3D shapes.

In English this week, we have been using adjectives to describe the fruit in Handa's basket. In the writing area, we are using our phase 3 phonics knowledge to create sentences about the pictures, checking we have included full-stops, capital letters and finger spaces.

Our RE lesson was full of discussions around our school values and how these link to world views. We explored how stories told in different faiths linked to our values too. We heard the Islamic story of the crying camel, linking back to our value of love.

Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

We have had another wonderful week of learning in Year 1 and the children have worked incredibly hard across all areas of the curriculum.

This week, we have begun learning about money and the value of different UK coins. The children first practised using pre-money counters before moving on to ordering and comparing coins by both their size and value. We then did the same with notes and have started using simple calculations to find different combinations of coins and work out how to make a given amount. The children have shown great enthusiasm and are becoming much more confident in recognising and using money.

In English, we have begun writing setting descriptions for our very own secret gardens, which the children individually designed. We have focused on using adjectives and powerful verbs to help readers imagine visiting our magical gardens. We are also exploring how to use our senses to make our descriptions more detailed and engaging. The children have come up with some wonderfully imaginative ideas and vocabulary.

In History, we learnt about family trees and explored how Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth II and King Charles III are all related. We then created our own family trees, including ourselves, siblings, parents, aunts and uncles and grandparents. It was lovely to hear more about the children's families and to see how excited they were to share information and learn about each other's families.

In D&T, the children explored how to create a strong structure using only paper. They investigated how changing the shape of the paper and combining multiple pieces together could create a stronger foundation for building. The children enjoyed experimenting with different ideas and are very excited to begin planning and constructing their own thrones over the next few weeks.

A huge well done to Bell Class for their wonderful collective worship linked to World Rainforest Day. The children spoke brilliantly, entertained us all with their lovely singing, and looked fantastic in their adorable costumes. We are incredibly proud of them and the confidence they showed. Thank you to everyone who was able to come along and watch - the children were delighted to share their hard work with you.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend and look forward to another exciting week of learning ahead.

Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

In English this week, we have been working hard to write our own speeches to the Houlton community about what people can do to look after it and make it the best community it can be. We have used different types of sentences to create our speeches and tried hard to make our sentences accurate.

In Maths, we have started learning about position and direction. We've learnt to use directional language – like up, down, left and right. We've then applied this to shapes that have moved in a grid. We finished the week by exploring how to describe turns.

In Science, we explored how materials can change shape by twisting, stretching, squashing and bending. We investigated a range of materials in the classroom and sorted them into groups according to how they can change shape.

In Geography, we had a go at using maps to plan a route for a walk around Houlton later in the term. We applied our knowledge of compass directions to describe the route we might take.

In RE, we explored why reconciliation matters. We looked at some Bible stories and identified how these related to the reconciliation shown after the Blitz in Coventry.

In PSHE, we started our learning about growing and changing. This week we focused on life cycles in nature and how change happens that cannot be controlled.

We've had another great week in Year 2 – keep up the great work!

Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

It's been another great week in Year 3 and the children have worked incredibly hard.

In English, they have been writing their own robot character descriptions. They used powerful adjectives, ambitious verbs, expanded noun phrases and similes to bring their robots to life. Their writing has been incredibly interesting to read and it has been wonderful to see just how much progress they have made since September. The children should be very proud of the creativity and descriptive language they have developed throughout the year.

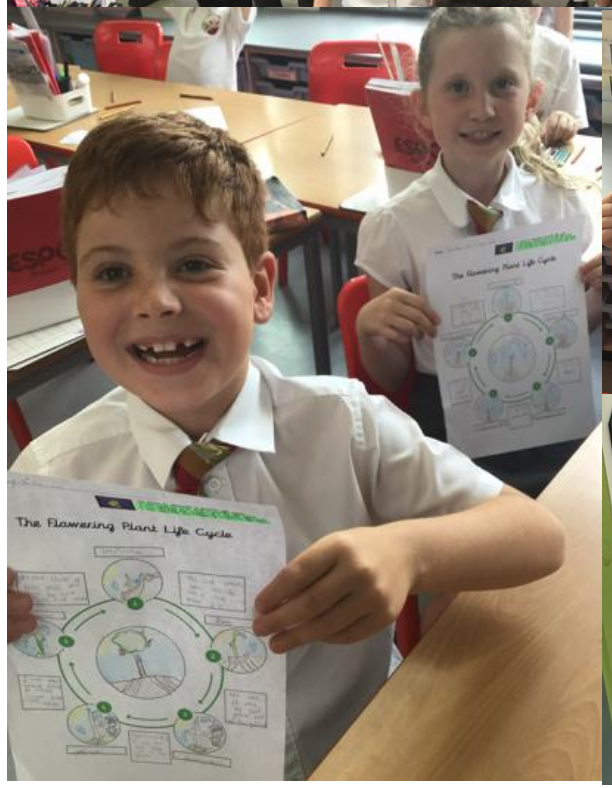
In Maths, we have been focusing on telling the time to the minute. The children have practised reading and interpreting both analogue and digital clocks and have become increasingly confident in converting between the two formats.

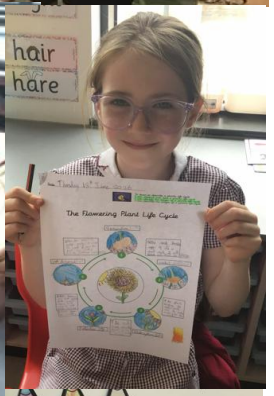
In Geography, the children have been identifying the human and physical characteristics of Mexico. They sorted photographs into the two categories and used their geographical knowledge to justify their decisions, demonstrating excellent discussion and reasoning skills.

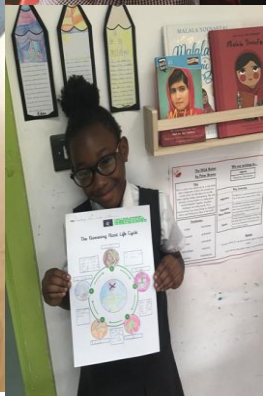
In RE, we have been exploring how dance can represent religious ideas and beliefs. The children enjoyed learning a Garba routine, a traditional folk dance originating from Gujarat, India, which is performed during the Navratri Festival. They showed great enthusiasm and appreciation for learning about a different cultural and religious tradition.

In Science, we have been learning about the life cycle of a plant. The children explored the different stages of plant growth, from seed to mature plant and developed their understanding of how plants reproduce and continue their life cycle.

The children had a fantastic time at the Year 3 sleepover on Friday. Please take a look at the next slide to find out more about our evening and to see some of the wonderful memories we made together...







Year 3 Sleepover

Wow, what an amazing time we had on Friday at our Year 3 Sleepover! To link with our Geography topic, we enjoyed a fantastic Mexican-themed evening filled with fun, laughter and plenty of memorable moments.

We began the evening with a picnic and games outside, making the most of the beautiful sunshine! The children then got creative by making their own colourful sombreros, played Lotería (Mexican Bingo), took turns at the piñata and enjoyed a game of pin the tail. They also learnt some Mexican dancing and showed off their dance moves at the disco!

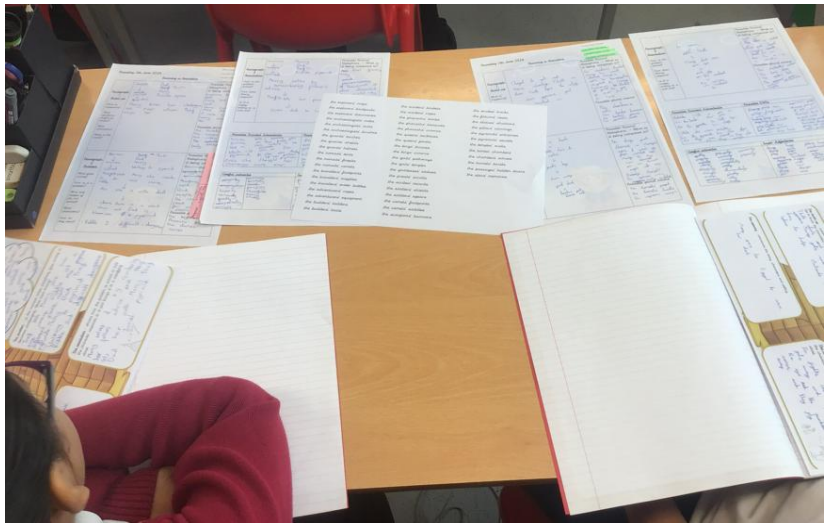
As the evening drew to a close, everyone settled down to watch a film with a delicious hot chocolate and biscuit before snuggling into their sleeping bags and getting some sleep… or at least trying to!

It was a truly memorable and special experience for all of the children. They made us so proud with their independence, resilience and enthusiasm throughout the event. It was wonderful to see friendships strengthen, teamwork develop and confidence grow, all while having lots of fun together.

Thank you for your support in helping to make this experience possible. We hope the children will treasure these memories for a long time to come!

Year 4 (Tagore Class and Turing Class)

We have been hard at work this week during our English lessons. We got to putting our writing plans into action! We carefully constructed our story by making sure to use our story pyramid formula. We built up towards our hero's problem, how they faced the dilemma and then how they overcame it... if they did! All the while making sure to include the plural possessive and metaphor skills we had been developing. The children showed a tremendous amount of growth during this key part of our writing journey, well done everyone!



This week in Maths, we learned to classify triangles, quadrilaterals and polygons by their sides, angles and other key properties, recognising examples such as equilateral and right-angled triangles, squares, rectangles and other four-sided shapes. We also developed an understanding that polygons are closed shapes made of straight sides and then we and described lines of symmetry by finding shapes that can be folded into matching halves.

In Science, we began planning an investigation into how certain materials perform in relation to insulating or conducting and electricity flow. We carefully deliberated on the enquiry question that would inform our procedures, gave our prediction as to our thoughts on material performance, put together our equipment list and then transcribed our process that would ensure a fair comparative test.

During RE this week, we spent some time learning about Jesus healing a leper and how this affected his disciples as well as the lives of those who knew the leper. The children really dug deep into the meaning behind the story and how people of any worldview can use it in their lives; by treating everybody equally and making sure to include people of all backgrounds and circumstances.

We spent a long time developing our understanding of how important death masks were to the Ancient Egyptians and the significance it held for those moving on to the afterlife last week. This week, we experimented with the different approaches we can take to painting them. We explored techniques such as stippling and watercolour washing as well as the use of other tools such as lollipop sticks, small brushes, big brushes, brush handles and spatulas. It was an incredibly inventive lesson with all sorts of unique death masks being created.

Well done on another great week Year 4!

Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Rauf Class)

It has been a very busy week in Year 5 as we have been completing a range of assessments ahead of our residential trip next week. We are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved this term and the progress they have made across the curriculum. They should all be very proud of themselves and the hard work they have put into their learning.

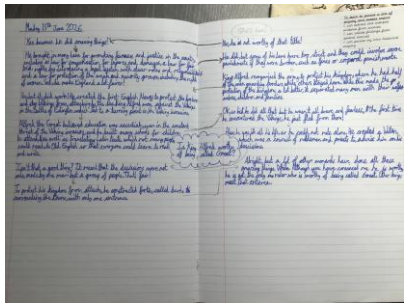
In English, we have spent time planning our upcoming writing based on our class text, 'Foxlight'. The children are preparing to write a discussion-based text in the form of a dialogue between Fen and Rey as they debate whether they should leave the Lighthouse and set out to search for their mother. The children have generated some fantastic ideas and arguments from both perspectives and we are excited to see their finished pieces over the coming weeks.

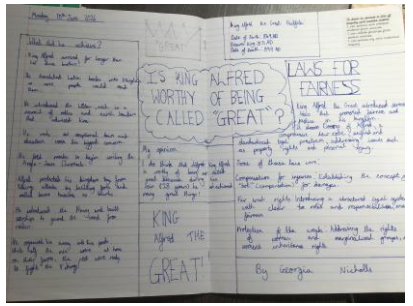
In Science, we have been exploring the human life cycle. The children investigated the different stages of life, including childhood, adolescence and adulthood. They considered how long each stage lasts, the physical and emotional changes that occur and how humans continue to grow and develop throughout their lives.

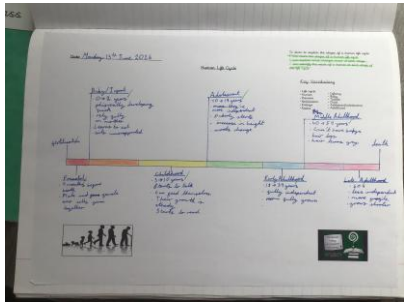
In History, we explored the inquiry question: Is King Alfred worthy of being called great? The children examined a range of historical sources and evidence before creating their own fact files. Using what they had learned, they evaluated Alfred's achievements and considered whether he truly merits his famous title. It was wonderful to see the children thinking critically and using evidence to support their conclusions.

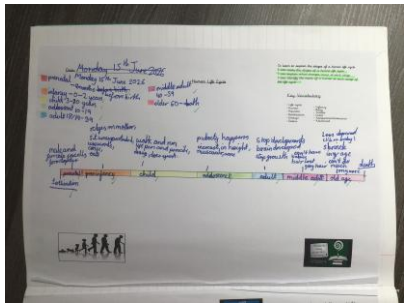
Finally, in PSHE, we explored the importance of food and how people can develop both positive and negative relationships with it. The children discussed the impact that these relationships can have on physical and mental wellbeing and considered ways that someone who may be struggling could seek support. We also looked at some of the signs that may indicate a person needs help and why it is important to offer support before problems become overwhelming.

As we come to the end of another successful week, we are all looking forward to our residential trip next week. The excitement is certainly building and we cannot wait to enjoy some more sunny weather while making lots of wonderful memories together.









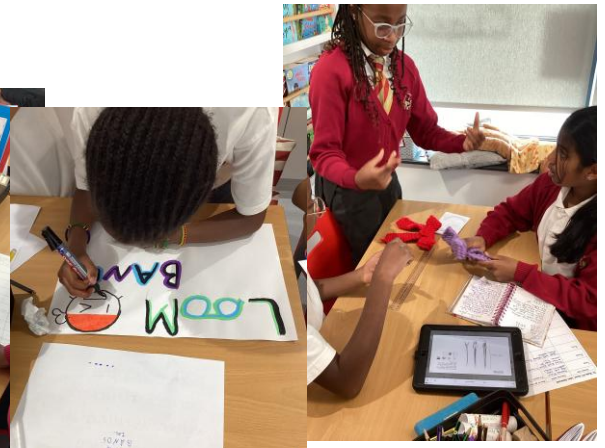
Year 6 (Pogson Class and Walker Class)

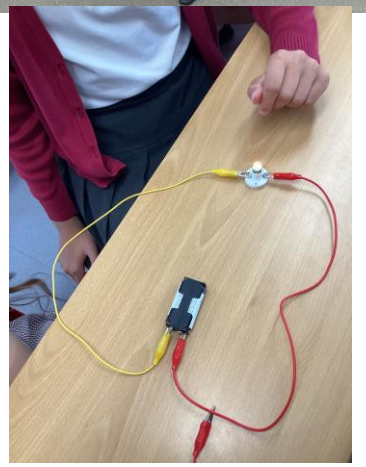
In English, the children have planned and written an information text about Year 6. It has been written for the Year 5s to inform them about what they can expect as they move into Year 6. The children considered different events from the year, including SATs and school trips, alongside the rules and expectations of being in Year 6. The children used a range of layout devices to make their writing clear for the reader to follow.

In Maths, the children have continued their Enterprise Market project. They have conducted research into different materials they need to create the products for their business and have started to create the items ready to sell! We are getting more excited for our Enterprise Market, which will be taking place on Monday 6th July.

In Science, the children have started their new unit on Electricity, building on their learning about Electricity in Year 4. The children created a range of simple circuits, which included a cell to power the circuit, wires to connect the different components together and either light bulbs or a buzzer to test the electrical current.

In RE, the children have explored how Islamic dress has changed over time and how different people with Muslim Worldviews embody this (express it) in different ways. The Qur'an makes suggestions about how women can protect their modesty, so some Muslim women may choose to wear a Hijab, a Burka, a Chador, a Niqab or Khimar. The children read 'The Proudest Blue' by Ibtihaj Muhammad and considered the author's notes to think about why Islamic clothing could have changed over time and how it even differs between Muslims still today.





Collective Worship

This week is Men's Mental Health Week, which is all about helping everyone - especially boys and men - understand that it's okay to talk about their feelings. In Collective Worship Through Story, we read a story called Big Boys Cry by Jonty Howley. It shared the message:

Everyone has feelings and it's healthy to show them.

This week, Bell Class led Friday's Celebration Collective Worship, which focussed on World Rainforest Day. Well done, Bell Class!

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

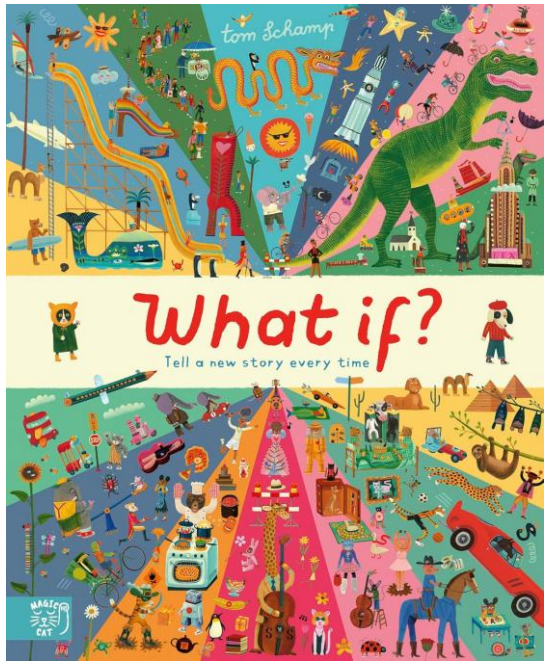
Recommended Read

What if you could wake up on top of your very own rainbow house? What if you had a lion on roller skates for a pet?!

Asking "what if?" is amazing. It fires your imagination and makes magic happen. So be brave, ask yourself... What if?

The first in a brand-new multiple-choice picture book series for curious minds, readers can create new stories again and again, each time discovering the magical power of asking 'what if?'.

Brought to life by iconic and playful illustrations from the bestselling author-illustrator Tom Schamp.



Online Safety

The UK Government has announced plans to ban under-16s from accessing certain social media platforms as part of new online safety legislation expected to be introduced from Spring 2027.

The aim is to protect children from online harms, reduce exposure to inappropriate content, and strengthen safeguards such as age verification and restrictions on contact from strangers.

Families do not need to take any action at present, but we encourage parents to continue having regular conversations with their children about staying safe online and using technology responsibly.

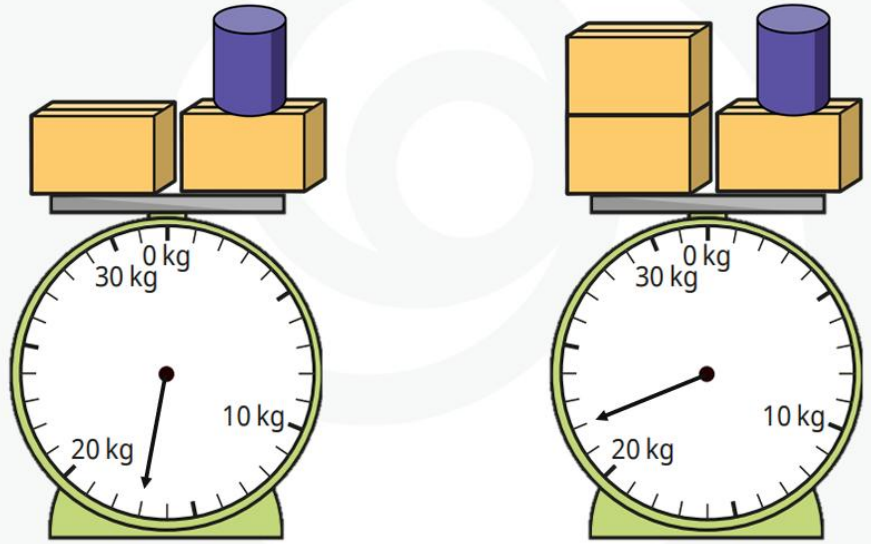
For further support and guidance on this, visit:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fact-sheet-new-rules-to-protect-children-online/fact-sheet-new-rules-to-protect-children-online

Maths Problem of the Week

KS1

a) What is the mass of the cylinder?



b) What is the mass of 10 boxes?

LKS2

Some numbers are placed in ascending order.

4.15 < 4.1○ < 4.52 < 4.5□ < 4.5△

a) What could the value of each symbol be?

b) What is the greatest value of ○ + □ + △?

c) What is the smallest value of ○ + □ + △?

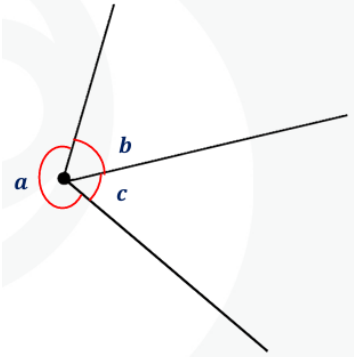
UKS2

Work out the sizes of the unknown angles.

Angle a is three times the size of Angle b.

Angle c is 15° smaller than angle b.

Draw a bar model to represent this problem.



Answers

KS1

a) 7 kg

b) 50 kg

LKS2

ANSWERS

a)

= 0.06, 0.07, 0.08 or 0.09

= 0.03, 0.04, 0.05, 0.06, 0.07 or 0.08*

= 0.04, 0.05, 0.06, 0.07, 0.08 or 0.09*

*The value of the square should be less than the value of the triangle.

b) 0.09 + 0.08 + 0.09 = 0.26

c) 0.06 + 0.03 + 0.04 = 0.13

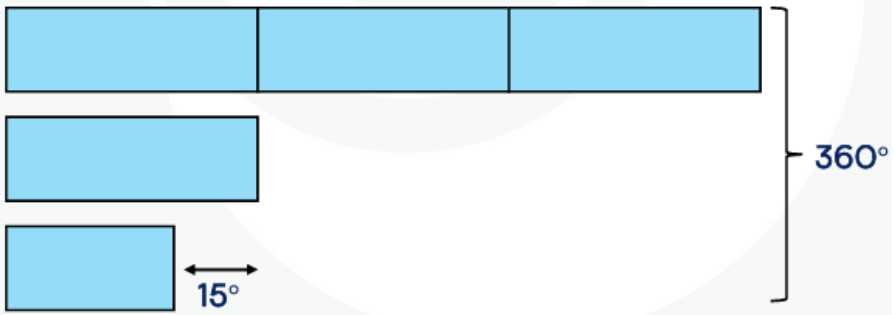
UKS2

ANSWERS

$a = 225°$

$b = 75°$

$c = 60°$



Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.5%
This week's attendance	96.6%
Latest Local Authority ranking	25th out of 195 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?

Key Dates

Thursday 25th June – Teddy Bear's Picnic Reading Event (Nursery and Reception)

Friday 26th June – Parks Class Celebration Worship

Friday 3rd July – Tagore Class Celebration Worship

Monday 6th July – Year 6 Enterprise Afternoon

Wednesday 8th July – Transition Day

Friday 10th July – Kerr Class Celebration Worship

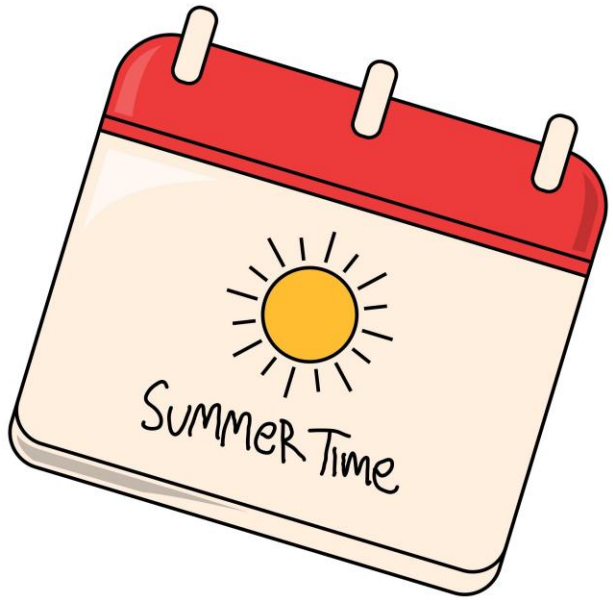
Tuesday 14th July – Sports Day (R-Y6)

Wednesday 15th July – Y5 Production

Wednesday 15th July – Nursery Sports Day

Thursday 16th July – Y6 Leavers' Disco

Friday 17th July – Y6 Leavers' Service (9.30am)



Family Support

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

- Drowning Prevention Week
- Summer holiday activities at Warwickshire Country Parks
- Learning Disability Week

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.

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