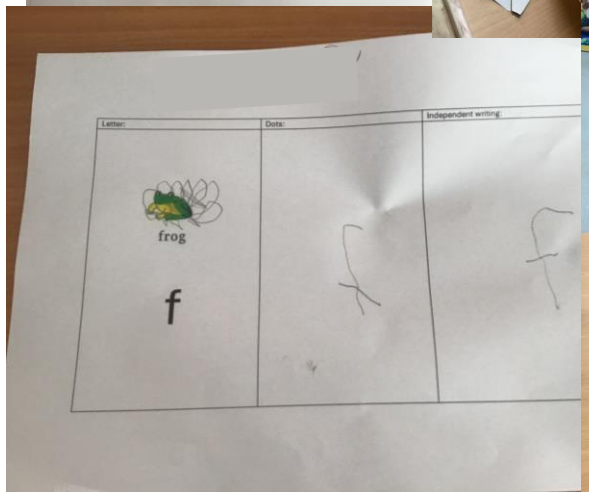
Weekly Learning Update

20th June 2025

Nursery

This week, we have celebrated Shine Day; we organised a cake sale to raise funds towards the charity. The children participated in cake decorating for the event and the whole school participated in 'wearing yellow for shine'.

The children have introduced a new key text this week of 'Dear Zoo'. Our learning experiences will be based around this until the end of term.



Shine
Spina bifida • Hydrocephalus
Information • Networking • Equality

Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

What a sunny and exciting week it has been in Reception! It has been brilliant to see so many children with hats and sun cream this week. With the weather set to be warm next week as well, we would encourage those hats and cream to be brought into school daily.

English:

This week, we have really engaged with our key text of Handa's Surprise by Eileen Browne. The children thought about the different types of fruit that are mentioned in the story and thought about the similarities and differences between the fruits. We took the learning a step further, by having the fruits in class and the children tasting them! They thought about how the fruits felt, smelled and of course tasted and then wrote sentences describing them. Children had to focus on the use of adjectives as well as conjunctions 'and' and 'but.'

Maths:

The children have been focusing on pattern within the number system. This week, we have been building our understanding of the concept of two digit numbers in order to count up in 10s. We have also explored the patterns with counting in 2s and 5s.

PSHE:

We have been focusing on healthy and safe choices. We have spent time thinking about how a person can keep their body healthy through exercise, good eating and drinking habits and hygiene. We also thought about this week in particular and the importance of sun care, especially with the weather this week!

Expressive Art and Design:

We have continued to learn about our key artist, Petrit Halilaj. Petrit is an artist and sculptor, who uses animals to represent a range of feelings, emotions and even represents himself as animals. The children have really enjoyed taking on the challenge of representing themselves as an animal of their choice.

Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

What a great week it's been for Year 1!

In English, the children have written their own setting descriptions and we have been blown away by the descriptive language they have used. They have all tried hard to use exciting adjectives, powerful verbs, a variety of sentence openers, as well as consistent punctuation and beautiful handwriting. We are so proud of them!

In Maths, we have been learning about money. The children have been learning to recognise different coins and notes, as well as add them together. We wonder if they can show you at home!

In History, we looked at royal family trees before thinking about our own family tree.

In Science, the children grouped and classified plants in different ways, thinking about their key features and have made a poster on their learning about plants.

In RE, we discussed what a naming ceremony is and why it is important for those with humanist worldviews. We watched a video to help us to learn more and the children thought about promises and pieces of advice you might hear at a naming ceremony.

In D&T, the children explored how to create a freestanding structure with paper.

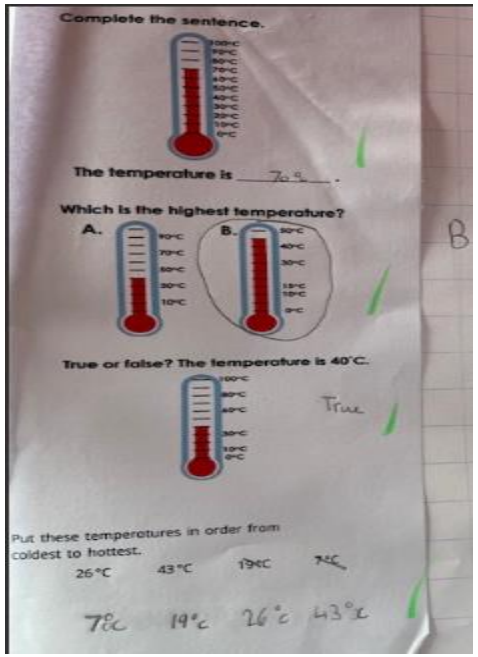
Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

We have had another great week!

Handwriting:
In writing fluency lessons, we have been learning to join the letters r, m, n, s and e.

English:
In English, we have continued our amazing stories. We have enjoyed using purple pens to edit and improve our writing.

Art:
In Art, the children have been replicating Monet's 'Bridge over a Pond of Water Lilies.' Here is an example of their amazing work so far!



Maths:
In Maths, we have been learning to measure, compare and order temperatures.

History:
In History, we learnt to compare Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale.

RE
In RE, the children created their own stained-glass window designs linked to reconciliation. Here are some super examples.

Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

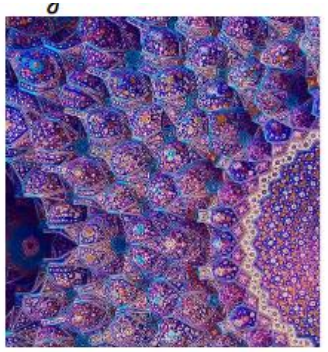
We have had a super busy week completing our assessments. All of the children have done amazingly and we are super proud of them. They all should be so proud of themselves too!

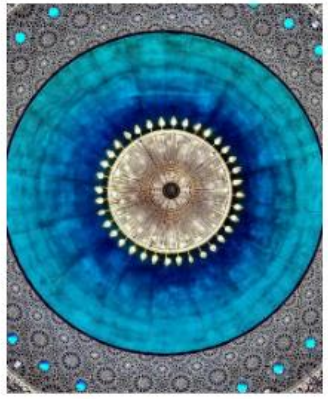
In Maths, we have finished our unit of 'Capacity and Mass' by adding and subtracting different capacities.

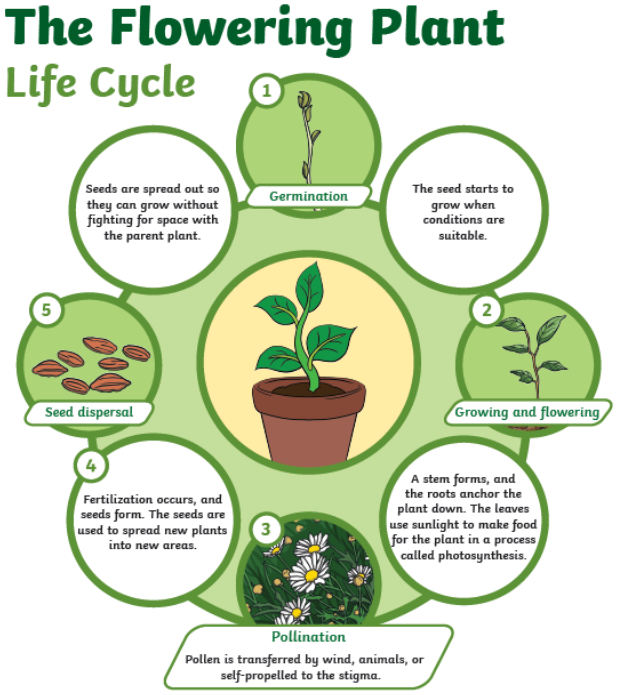
In History, we have explored the human and physical features of Mexico as well as looking closer at topographical maps and what they tell us about the features of the environment.

In RE, we have been learning about the Islamic worldview; we learnt how geometric patterns and calligraphy can be used to represent the oneness of God.

In Science, we have been looking the life cycle of a flowering plant and have been describing the process. This linked in with an activity at Conkers all about seed dispersal!







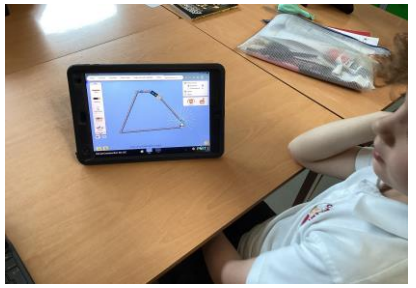
Year 4 (Turing Class and Tagore Class)

What a fantastic week it has been! The sunshine has filled our days with joy, making learning even more enjoyable. The children have shown great enthusiasm and teamwork as they tackled exciting topics across subjects.

English: We've been busy planning our persuasive speeches for Ra, thinking carefully about how to construct strong arguments. After writing our first drafts, we worked as supportive peers, providing positive feedback and sharing ideas on how to enhance our writing further. Everyone showed fantastic collaboration, and the improvements have been incredible!

Science: Investigating insulators and conductors has sparked curiosity and creativity. We explored a variety of objects to determine which materials were the best conductors and insulators. This hands-on discovery has inspired us to think like scientists, and we hope it will lead to even more exciting experiments in the future!

RE: Our big question, "When Jesus left, what was the impact of Pentecost?" helped us understand how the apostles receiving the Holy Spirit marked the beginning of the Christian Church. To bring our learning to life, we reenacted Pentecost, deepening our understanding of its significance. It was a memorable and engaging experience for everyone.



Wellbeing Ambassadors: Our wonderful Year 6 Wellbeing Ambassadors joined us to support and inspire! They challenged us to teach or learn something new, and we embraced the task with enthusiasm. By the end, we had mastered new handshakes, dances, martial arts routines, and songs—it was an incredible display of creativity and teamwork. A massive thank you to them for their encouragement and positivity!

Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Gandhi Class)

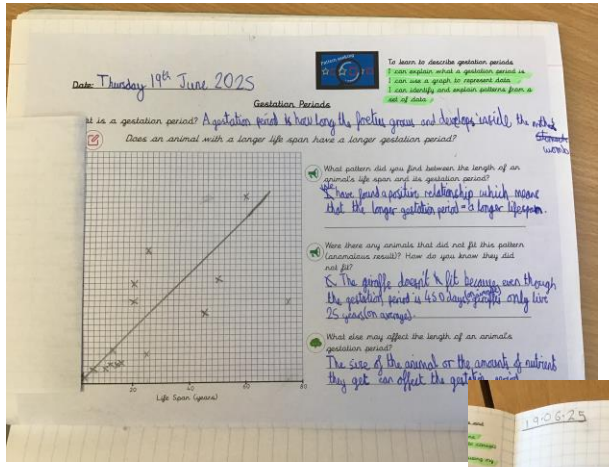
Gandhi Class were absolutely fantastic on their residential to Viney Hill this week! The children were incredibly resilient and showed such huge growth in challenging themselves to try lots of new things – well done everyone!

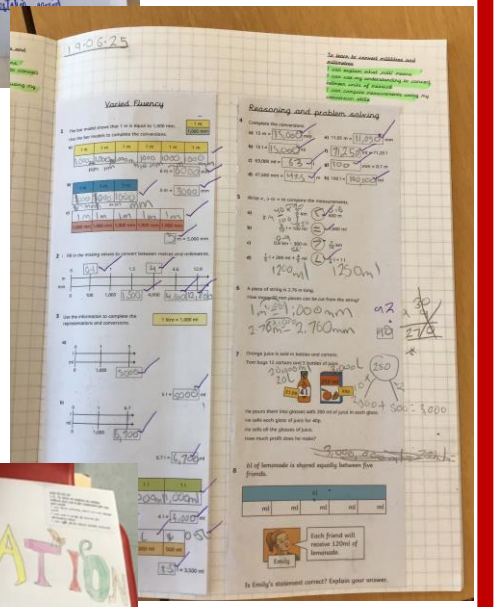
In Maths, we have been continuing our topic on converting units, including millimetres to metres, millilitres to litres and converting between other units of length too!

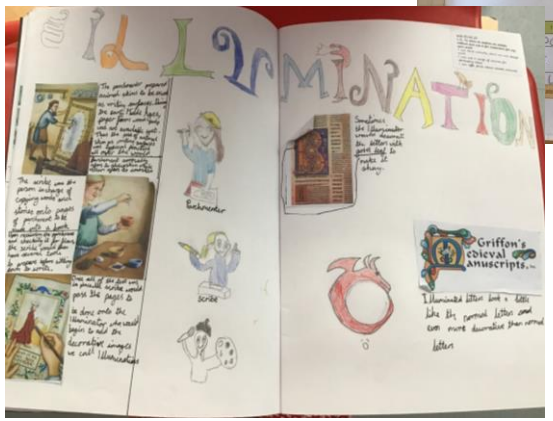
In Science, we have started a new topic about Animals including Humans, in which we have explored the link between gestation periods and life span. We found that there is a positive relationship between the two, meaning that the longer the gestation period of an animal, the longer the life span. We also noticed that smaller animals, like rats, mice and hamsters have shorter gestation periods.

In History, we have learnt about the Viking Invasion and how this impacted the settlers already in Britain at that time. We have considered the reasons the Vikings chose to invade, such as invading for valuable riches or to show their power, and how this would have impacted the communities.

We have been continuing to learn the songs for our Year 5 production of 'Wind in the Willows'. We are really excited to start rehearsals after Attenborough Class have returned from their residential next week!







Year 6 (Pogson Class and Ahmad Class)

It has been another great week in Year 6! In English, we have been applying our proofreading and editing skills to publish our suspense narratives in a final form. The teachers are so so proud of the children and the work they have done with their writing this year – it has been wonderful to look through their books and see how much they have progressed over the last three terms!

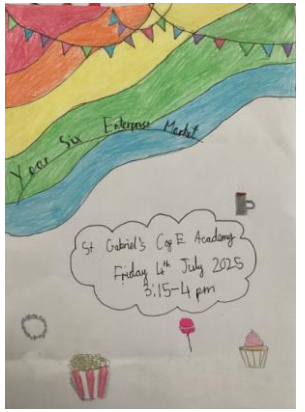
For 'Make £5 Grow', we have been carrying out some more marketing as teams have been designing posters to advertise their product. The children are very excited to get started on producing their items to be sold in the coming weeks!

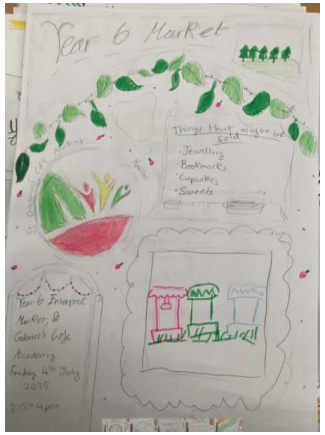
In Science, we have been using our investigation and pattern seeking skills to plan and carry out our own enquiry to determine the links between voltage and the function of lamps within a circuit. From the experiment, we were able to find that an increase in voltage was linked with an increase in lamp brightness, whereas adding more lamps to a circuit led to lamps becoming dimmer over time.

In Geography, we built upon our learning from last week as we explored the specific features of the coast of Swanage. The children recalled their learning from earlier years as they used Ordnance Survey maps to identify and write about the geographical landmarks of the coastline.

In D&T, the children took on the role as food testers as they tried and tested a range of vegetables that will be used in the creation of their own soups later on in the term. Surprisingly, their favourite was the spring onion!

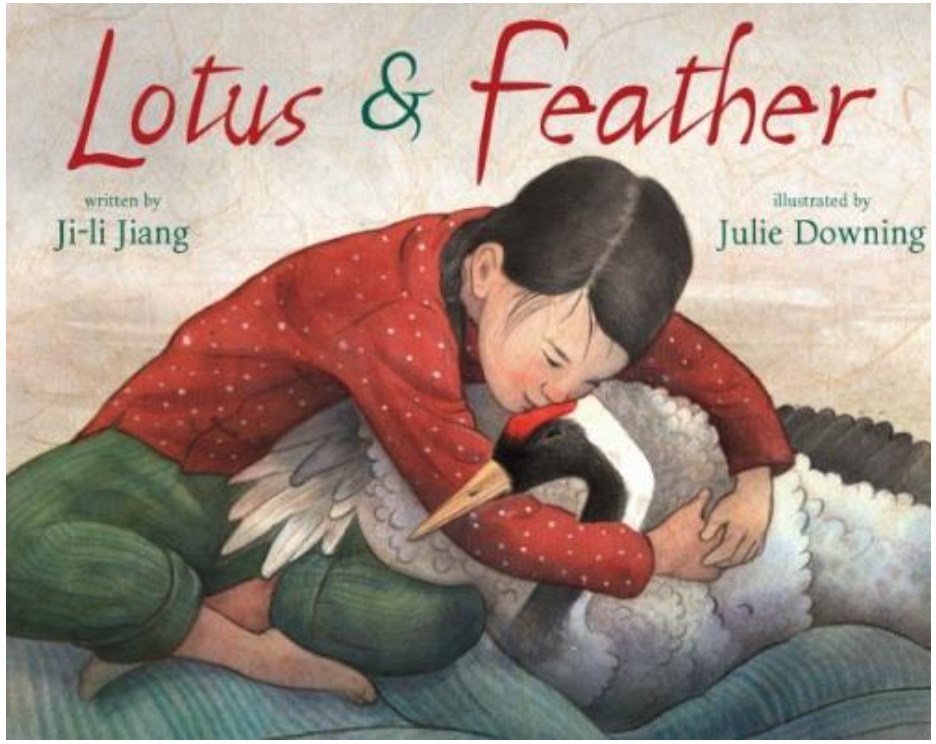
Finally, in PSHE, we took some time to think about the theme of Mental Health and what it actually means to be 'mentally healthy'. The children looked at different representations of mental health and considered different ways a person might try to look after their own wellbeing before applying this to a more specific scenario.





Collective Worship

During collective worship this week, we listened to the story Lotus and Feather which is inspired by the true story of a crane that rescued a Chinese village. The book is about respecting nature and centres on the idea that humans and nature are deeply reliant upon each other.



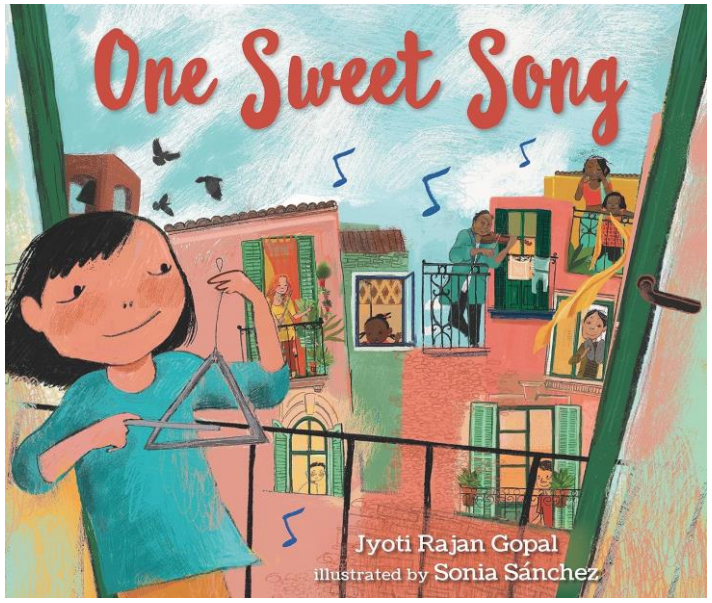
This week, Ahmad class led Celebration Worship teaching us all about emotional and mental wellbeing. Congratulations to all of the children who received a Head Teacher's Award.

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

Recommended Read

'One Sweet Song' by *Jyoti Rajan Gopal*

In a quiet neighbourhood, a single note trills through the air. Another note joins, and then another. One by one, curious people are drawn to their windows, doorways, and balconies to support the medley. Professional musicians play instruments from around the world, while others bang pots and pans. All are welcome as the notes swirl and dip and crescendo, coming together to make one sweet song. And when the music fades, and this diverse neighbourhood is once again silent, the reverberations of unity remain.



Online Safety

The internet is a fantastic resource and can be helpful to children and young people in lots of ways, but they can put themselves at risk without realising it. Here are some guidelines to help your child stay safe whilst using the internet:

G – Ground Rules: it is important to have ground rules.

O – Online safety: activate security settings.

L – Location: keep the computer in the family room. Prevent your child from using tablets in his/her bedroom, alone. Set time limits.

D – Discuss: talk to your child about what they are doing on the internet.

The 'Think You Know' website is a great stating point.

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.5%
This week's attendance	96.5%
Latest Local Authority ranking	11th out of 195 schools
Latest National ranking	Top 10% 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?