Weekly Learning Update

20th November 2026



Nursery

What another fantastic week Nursery have had! This week, our small group learning sessions have focused on **English**, where we have been exploring positional language such as in, on, under, behind and beside. The children have loved the challenge of listening carefully to instructions and placing objects in different positions. They have shown fantastic listening skills and are becoming increasingly confident using these new words in their play and conversations.

The children have been busy exploring all areas of our Nursery provision!
Maths Area: The children have been exploring the concepts of big and small by sorting different-sized animals into categories. They have also been creating repeating patterns using coloured teddy bears, developing their early mathematical thinking and problem-solving skills.
Writing and Fine Motor: The children have been using stencils and felt-tip pens to create pictures and marks. This has encouraged careful control and helped to develop confidence in mark making.
Fine Motor Area: This week, the children have been practicing their scissor skills by cutting along lines. They have shown great concentration and perseverance whilst learning how to safely and effectively use scissors.
Creative Area: The children have enjoyed free painting exploration this week. Working on very large sheets of paper, they have created big, colourful artwork and explored what happens when different colours are mixed together.
Investigation Area: The children have been investigating weight using our weighing scales. They have been comparing different objects and discussing which are heavier and lighter, making predictions and testing their ideas.
Small World Area: The train set has been a popular choice this week, with children building tracks, creating journeys and developing imaginative stories through their play.
Sensory Area: The sand tray has provided lots of opportunities for exploration, with a variety of tools available for scooping, digging, building and creating.
Outdoors: Outdoors has been full of exciting learning opportunities. Our mud kitchen has been particularly popular since the addition of glitter, inspiring lots of sparkly recipes and imaginative creations! The stage area has also continued to be a favourite, with children using costumes and props to create and perform their own shows. In our water area, the children have been exploring ice and discovering how to free sea creatures trapped inside. Our large construction resources have led to some wonderful collaborative projects, with children demonstrating excellent communication, cooperation and teamwork as they built together.

Home Learning Suggestion: Why not help with the laundry at home by pairing up socks? This is a fantastic pre-maths activity that encourages children to sort by colour, pattern or size while developing their observation and language skills. Talk together about how the socks are the same, how they are different, and why they make a matching pair! Share a photo on Tapestry!

It has been wonderful to see the children becoming increasingly independent, confident and collaborative in their learning. We are so proud of the curiosity, creativity and teamwork they demonstrate every day!






Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

It has been a fantastic week within Reception. Alongside delivering our full curriculum, we have also reflected on last Friday's special visit from the police. Children have had lots of discussions about roles within the wider community that support and are keen for future visits to take place. As well as this, the children have been expressing an interest in the roles they would like to perform in our Early Years Nativity. They have been enthusiastic and already, very excited to learn families are invited to watch the performances.









English:

This week, the children have been adapting the key text of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by creating new images and actions to our whole class story map. Alongside this, children have also been writing sentences to support this, which have been generated through discussions and looking at images. With sentence writing, the children have been thinking about beginning with a capital letter, writing accurately formed letters, utilising their phonics knowledge and ending with a full stop.

Maths:

We have been exploring ordering number. This has been supported through the children's number recognition and rote counting skills. At the beginning of the week, the children were using the concrete resource of Numicon and throughout the week have extended their learning by ordering numbers in ascending order a range of numerals within 10.

Reader 3

Phase 2

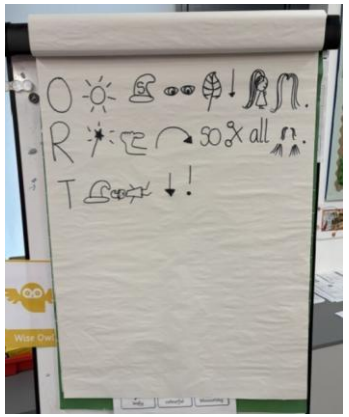
kick

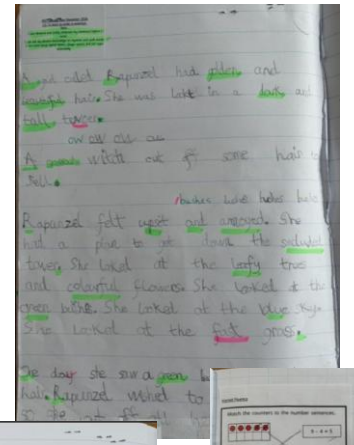


Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

English

In English, we have continued writing our retelling of *Rapunzel* by Bethan Woollvin. The children have now planned and written the problem and the ending of the story, completing their retell. They have worked hard on using correct sentence structure and applying their phonics knowledge to write independently. The children have also been thinking carefully about how to entertain their reader by adding adjectives to make their descriptions more interesting and engaging. We are very proud of the effort they have put into their writing.

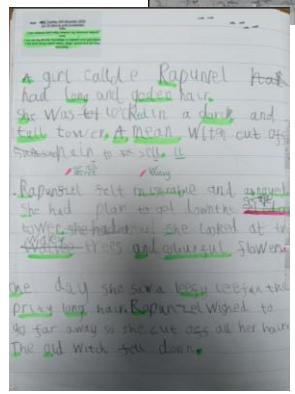


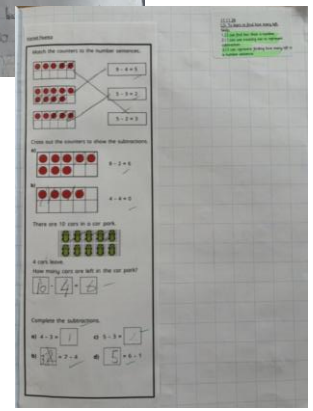


Maths

In Maths, we have continued our learning on addition and subtraction within 10, with a particular focus on finding how many are left in subtraction problems. The children have explored a variety of methods and resources to support their understanding, including number lines, ten frames, counters and using their fingers to subtract. They have worked hard to explain their thinking and choose the most appropriate strategy to help them solve problems.

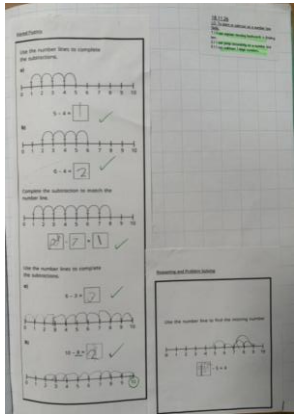


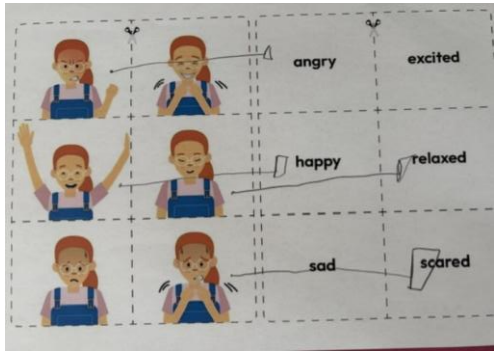




Science

In Science, we have continued our topic, Animals Including Humans. The children have been learning about the different body parts of animals and have practised identifying and labelling them. They explored a range of animal groups and discussed similarities and differences between them. The children enjoyed applying their knowledge to accurately label animals and talk about their features using scientific vocabulary.





Art

In Art, the children have been experimenting with tin foil to create their own 3D sculptures. They used their imagination and creativity to explore how materials can be shaped, twisted and manipulated to create different forms. This activity has helped them develop their sculpting skills in preparation for creating their own 3D butterflies in future lessons.

Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

What a wonderful week we have had in Year 2! The children have worked incredibly hard and have shown great enthusiasm in all areas of their learning.

In English, the children became authors and wrote the setting narrative that they have been working towards over the past few weeks, inspired by The Night Gardener. We are so proud of their final pieces. The children worked hard to include rich vocabulary, descriptive language, and detailed setting descriptions to help bring their writing to life. It has been fantastic to see how much confidence they have developed as writers and how they have applied the skills they have been learning in lessons.

In History, we created fact files about Guy Fawkes. The children used secondary sources to research and find specific information about Guy Fawkes in order to complete their fact files. This was a valuable skill as it helped the children develop their research abilities, identify important information, and improve their understanding of how historians learn about events from the past.

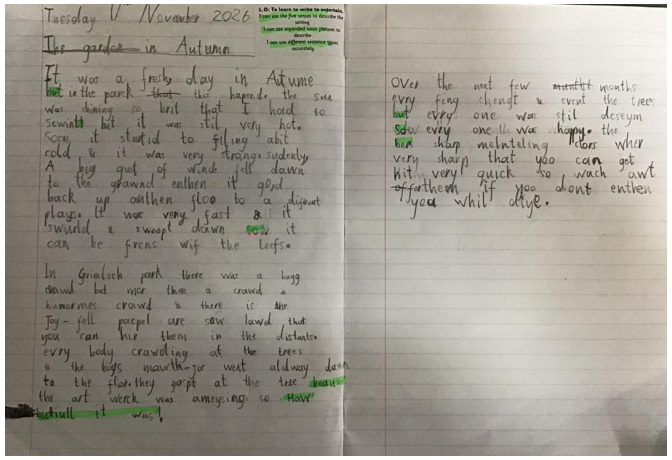
In Science, we have continued our learning about plants and have begun our investigation linked to the question: What happens to plants when you change the amount of light they receive? We planted three plants to help us answer this question. Plant A will receive lots of light, Plant B will receive some light and Plant C will be kept in total darkness. Over the next few weeks, we will carefully observe the growth of each plant and use our findings to draw conclusions and answer our investigation question.

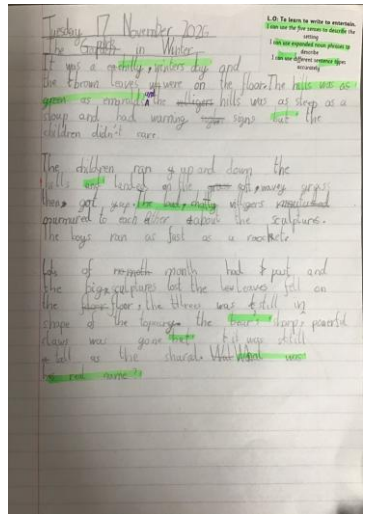
In PSHE, we have been learning about staying safe online. We discussed what to do if we see or hear something online that makes us feel worried, anxious, upset or uncomfortable. The children identified the importance of speaking to a trusted adult and created their own helping hands, where they listed four safe adults they can turn to for support. This activity helped remind children that there are always people around them who are ready to listen and help when they need it.

Thank you for your continued support, especially with reading at home. We hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Reader 44
Phase 5
What do they eat?



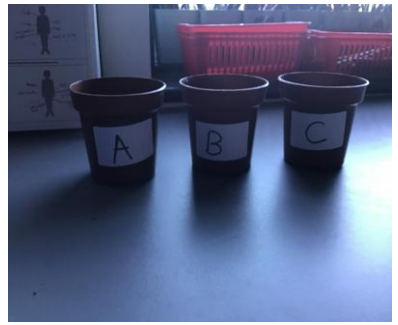






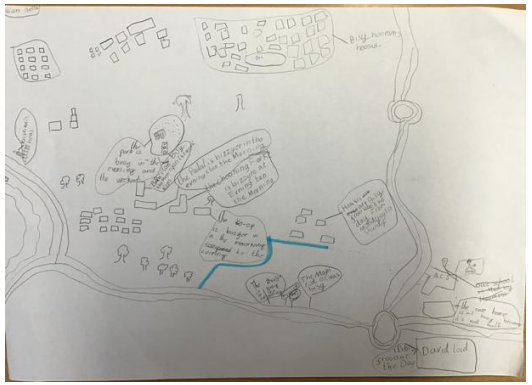








Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)



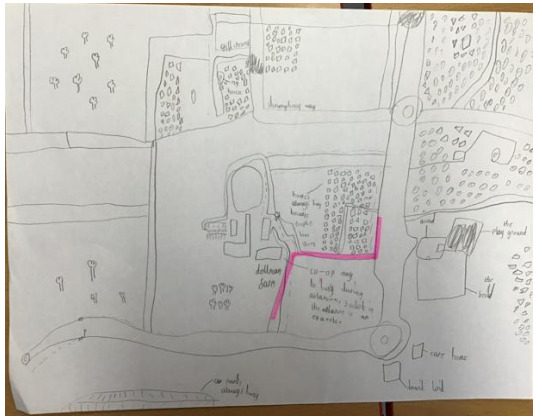
This week has been another fantastic week of learning in Year 3. The children have worked incredibly hard across all subjects and should be very proud of the progress they are making.

In English, we have been writing our own fable narratives, drawing upon the writer's knowledge we have developed over the past few weeks. The children have worked hard to include features such as inverted commas, conjunctions, prepositions and adverbs in their writing. We have been blown away by the amazing growth they have shown, with every child putting great care and effort into their work. Their vocabulary choices have been particularly impressive, as they have drawn inspiration from our class text Fox, making their writing engaging, exciting and enjoyable for the reader.



In Maths, we have been focusing on applying the formal written methods of addition and subtraction in a range of different contexts. We have also been using the inverse operation to check our calculations and ensure our answers are accurate.

In Science, we learned about why different animals and people have different diets. Using the iPads, we carried out research into the different quantities of nutrients humans need and explored how these help us to stay healthy.



In PSHE, we explored how thoughts and emotions can form patterns and discussed ways to identify when these patterns are helpful or unhelpful. We learned about how the brain can help to recognise less helpful thought patterns and make positive changes.

In Geography, we have been preparing for our upcoming fieldwork by developing enquiry questions and carefully planning our route. The children have shown great enthusiasm and we are excited to put our plans into action next week!

Year 4 (Tagore Class and Turing Class)



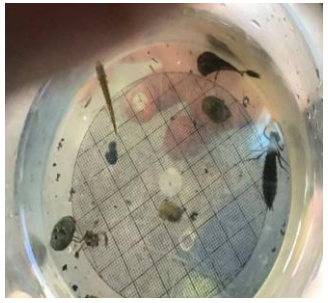


Our English learning this week has been all about gathering ideas and using the skills we have been developing to formulate our own plans so that we can write our own outsider narrative. We have thought carefully on how to convey feelings with excellent description and we are really looking forward to getting started on that next week!



In Maths, we have deepened our knowledge of the 3, 6 and 9 times tables and how their related facts can help us to learn the facts within others. We also learned about the concept of 7 being split into 5 and 2 and how that can be applied across to our strong knowledge of the 5 and 2 times tables working together for the trickier 7 times table.

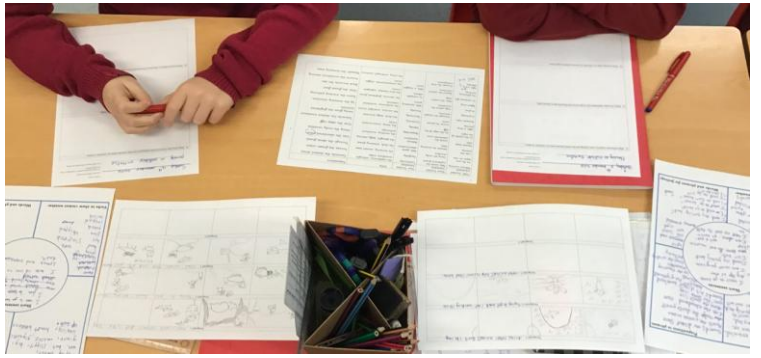
Our Science learning this week has been about creating the parameters for an observing over time investigation. We are keen to explore which chocolate will melt the fastest so we had to think critically about the different variables at play and how we will measure their influence on the materials.





We learned all about the hazards connected to crossing roads and using railways as well as how we can assess them and act safely. We spent time learning about safe crossing points, the green cross code and the key ways to stay safe while using a train station.

We were fortunate enough to be able to visit Coombe Abbey this week as part of our learning in Geography as a River study. We were able to discover the type of wild life present within our waterways, how rivers shape the land around them and the different types of work that goes on to make use of our rivers for our society.

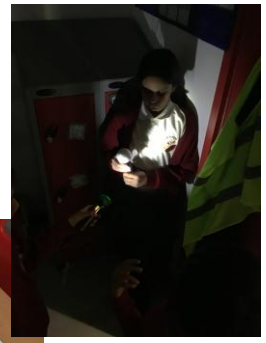


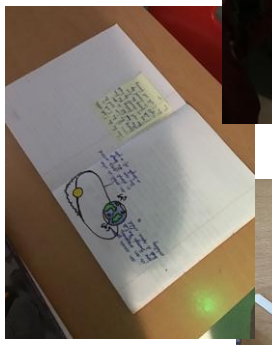
This week, our learning for RE took us through how God is perceived in Judaism and how this can impact people within the Jewish organised worldview. We discussed how their beliefs can be seen in their actions and how this might vary individually.

Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Raúf Class)

It has been another fantastic week of learning in Year 5!

In English, we have finally had the opportunity to plan and write our very own setting narratives, inspired by one of the images from our class text, *FArTHER*. The children had to think carefully about their choice of descriptive devices, considering how they could use language to create a particular mood and atmosphere for the reader. They also focused on making their writing as cohesive as possible, using a range of techniques to connect their ideas and sustain the reader's interest throughout.



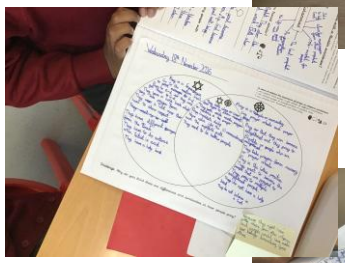


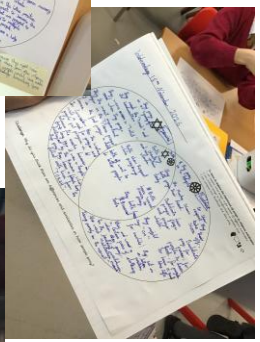
In Maths, we have continued our learning about fractions, focusing on how to compare and order those with both similar and different denominators. The children explored patterns and relationships between fractions, developing strategies and applying different rules to help them determine which fractions were greater or smaller.



In Geography, we have been exploring the human and physical geography of Greece, considering the different features that might influence tourism and encourage people to visit the country. The children investigated how physical features, such as mountains, coastlines and beaches, alongside human features, including historical landmarks, towns and tourist attractions, can contribute to Greece's popularity as a holiday destination.

In Science, we have been investigating the concept of day and night and exploring why this phenomenon occurs on Earth. The children examined the relationship between the Earth and the Sun and discovered how the Earth's rotation on its axis causes different parts of the planet to experience daylight and darkness. To help us understand this more clearly, the children used torches and model Earths to demonstrate how the rotation creates day and night. They then applied their understanding to explore how the time of day differs between countries around the world, answering some challenging questions about why it can be daytime in one country while another is experiencing night-time.





In RE, we have continued our exploration of prayer, this time focusing on the Jewish worldview. The children learned about the Shema prayer and explored the significance of the Western Wall to Jewish people. They then brought together their learning from the past few weeks by comparing Jewish and Buddhist approaches to prayer. The children did a wonderful job of identifying similarities and differences between the two traditions, as well as considering the importance of prayer and the transformational impact it can have on individuals and communities.



Finally, in DT, we have been exploring different techniques for joining materials together as we prepare to construct our very own bird hides. The children investigated a range of different joints, including T-joints, and considered the strength, stability and reliability of each method. They had to think carefully about which joining techniques would be most suitable for creating a strong and secure structure.

Year 6 (Pogson Class and Walker Class)

It's been another exciting week in Year 6, with a fantastic mix of creativity, problem-solving and hands-on learning!

In **English**, we have been preparing to write our own flashback narratives. Using drama activities, the children stepped into the shoes of different characters from *A Story Like the Wind* and explored their thoughts, feelings and experiences. They then chose a character to base their narrative on and created a detailed plan ready for writing next week. We focused on organising ideas clearly, selecting ambitious vocabulary and thinking carefully about the writer's knowledge needed to bring the story to life. The children's planning has been thoughtful and imaginative, and we can't wait to see their final pieces.

In **Maths**, we have been learning how to multiply and divide fractions by both integers and other fractions. We have been incredibly impressed with how quickly the children have grasped these challenging concepts. Throughout the week, they explored different methods and strategies, explaining their reasoning and applying their knowledge to increasingly complex problems. Their confidence and problem-solving skills continue to grow.

In **Science**, the children designed and made their own periscopes using cereal boxes, mirrors and other simple materials. As well as creating their models, they explored how a periscope works by using reflection to allow people to see over or around objects. The children enjoyed testing their designs and explaining the science behind them.

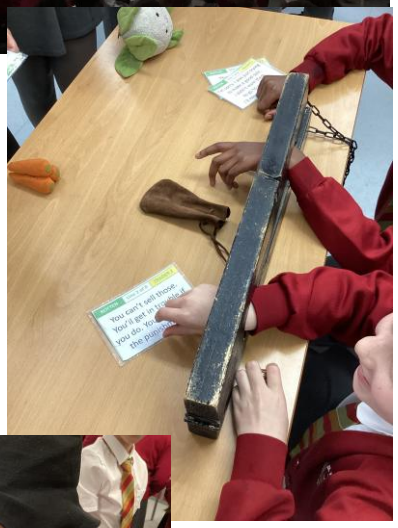
One of the highlights of the week was our **Crime and Punishment Workshop**. The children explored punishments from the Roman, Saxon and Tudor periods, with a particular focus on beliefs about witches and witchcraft. Through a range of drama activities, they acted out historical punishments such as branding, public humiliation and having rotten fruit thrown by crowds. They also took part in a fun, interactive "Traitors-style" witches game that helped bring the topic to life. The children were fully engaged throughout the day and showed fantastic enthusiasm, curiosity and historical understanding.

Well done, Year 6, for another brilliant week of learning and for throwing yourselves into every challenge with such enthusiasm!











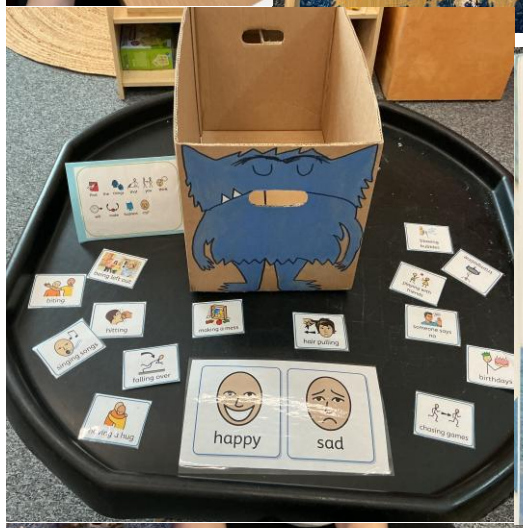
Signals Class

What a fantastic week we have had in Signals!
This week, our learning has focused on the emotion sadness through *The Colour Monster* story. The children explored a variety of blue sensory materials and created their own Sadness Toolkits, thinking carefully about things that can help when they are feeling sad. We were so impressed with how confidently the children selected and used visuals to communicate their ideas.
During our PSHE sessions, the children were given different scenarios and worked hard to decide how they could help the Colour Monster feel happy again. They showed excellent understanding by choosing appropriate visual supports and discussing possible solutions.
Within provision, the children explored further scenarios that might make someone feel sad. They then decided whether the scenario belonged to the "sad" emotion and posted it through the Colour Monster's mouth. This was a wonderful way to encourage emotional understanding and communication.
In the creative area, the children enjoyed collaging their own blank Colour Monster templates using a variety of different materials and textures. The finished monsters looked fantastic!
In Maths, we consolidated last week's learning on more and less. The children compared sensory bottles filled with different amounts of "tears" and used mathematical language to identify which bottle had more or less. This provided lots of opportunities to develop both mathematical vocabulary and communication skills.
Some of our children have also enjoyed learning to engage in counting through their special interests. They are beginning to develop an understanding of counting by using their fingers or by watching an adult's finger move as they count along. It has been wonderful to see the children becoming more engaged with early counting concepts and making such fantastic progress.
The children also took part in a sensory fine motor activity where they filled a giant tuff tray Colour Monster with blue items, including rice, feathers and pom-poms. Some children used scoops whilst others challenged themselves with tweezers, helping to strengthen their fine motor skills.
We are especially proud of how well the children are progressing with their workstation learning. A particular favourite this week has been organising colourful semantics pictures. This learning has now been extended to include "where" questions, and the children are becoming increasingly confident and independent when completing these activities.
What a wonderful week it has been! We are incredibly proud of all the children and the progress they continue to make each day.
Thank you for your continued support. We hope you all have a lovely and restful weekend.
The Signals Team









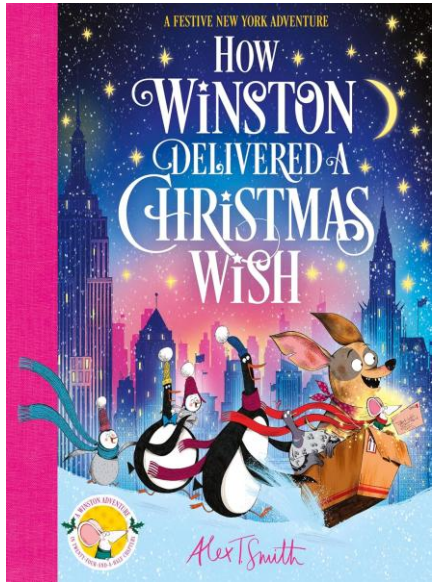






Recommended Read

How Winston Delivered a Christmas Wish by Alex T. Smith



This delightful Christmas mystery is cleverly told in 24 and a half chapters, making it the perfect story to read together in the lead up to Christmas, with a chapter each day. The story follows Winston the mouse as he plans for a quiet Christmas at home, only to discover a lost letter that sets him on a magical journey to snowy New York. Along the way, Winston reunites with old friends, makes new ones and faces unexpected challenges as he tries to solve the mystery.

Filled with beautiful illustrations, festive activities and fascinating Christmas traditions from around the world, this is the third adventure in the much-loved Winston series and is sure to become a Christmas favourite.

Online Safety

We know that helping children stay safe online can feel challenging in an ever-changing digital world. **Internet Matters** is a trusted UK organisation that provides free, practical advice and resources to help families understand online safety and support their children's digital wellbeing.

Parents can access guidance on:

- Setting up parental controls on devices, apps and gaming consoles.
- Understanding age ratings and privacy settings.
- Managing screen time and developing healthy online habits.
- Keeping children safe on social media, messaging apps and online games.
- Supporting children with issues such as cyberbullying, online scams and inappropriate content.
- Having positive conversations about online safety at home.



Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	97.1%
This week's attendance	95.9%
Friday's attendance	94.5%
Latest Local Authority ranking	29th out of 194 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 26th November – Wreath Making Workshop (6.00pm)

Friday 27th November – Attenborough Class Celebration Worship (10.15am-10.45am)

Thursday 26th November – Wreath Making Workshop (6.00pm)

Friday 27th November – Attenborough Class Celebration Worship (10.15am-10.45am)

Friday 27th November – Christmas Fair (3.30pm-5.00pm)

Monday 30th November- Beauty and the Beast Christmas Panto



Thursday 3rd December to Tuesday 8th December – Book Fair (3.30pm-4.00pm daily)

Thursday 10th December – Christmas Jumper Day

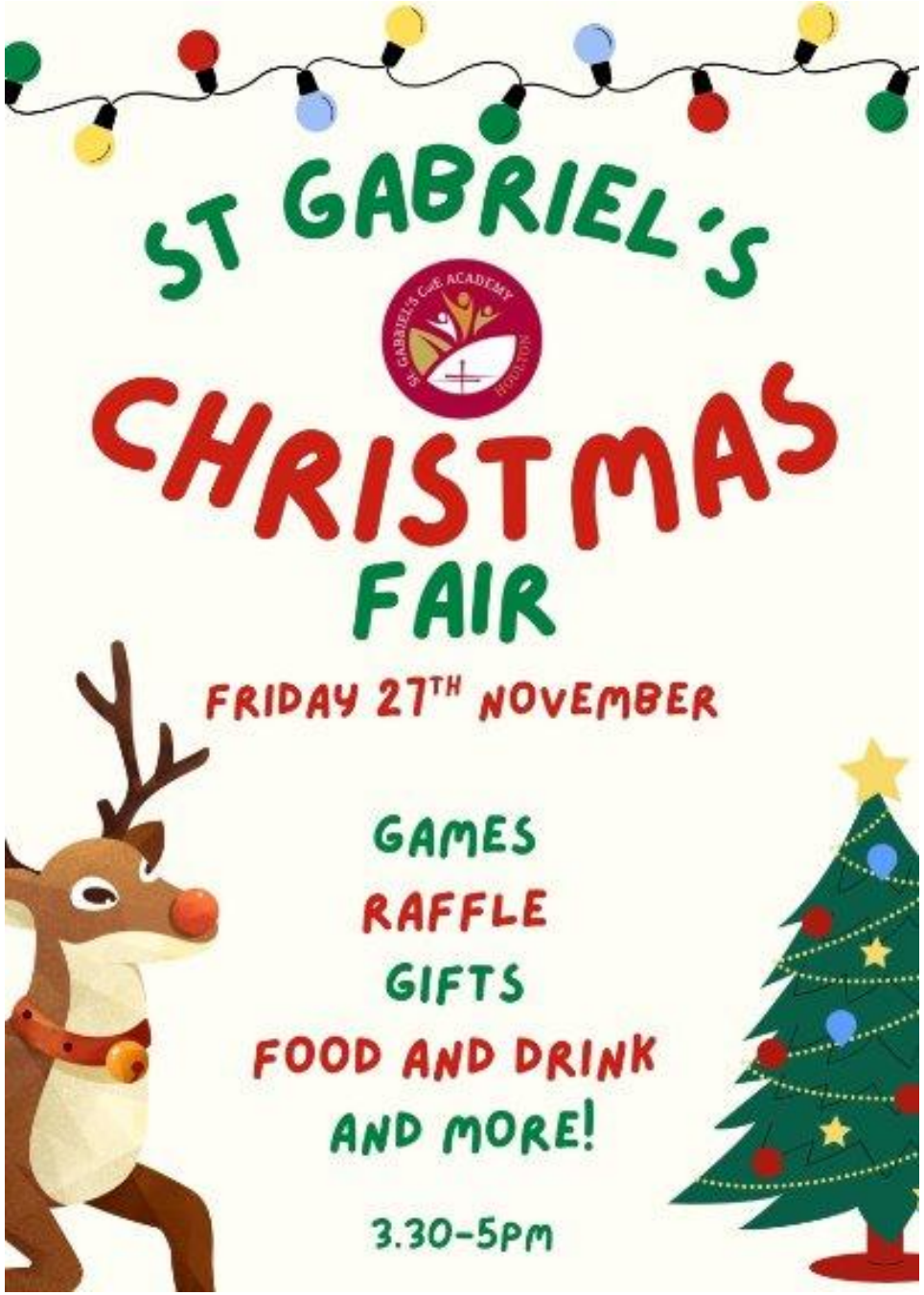
Friday 11th December – Christmas Bake Sale for Myton Hospice

Tuesday 15th December – EYFS Nativity (10.00am and 2.00pm)

Wednesday 16th December – Christmas Dinner Day

Thursday 17th December – KS1 Nativity (2.00pm and 5.30pm)

Friday 18th December – Children finish at 2pm. No Angels afterschool club.



Collective Worship

This week, the Worship Council led Collective Worship, discussing the miracle of Jesus in which He fed about five thousand men—plus women and children—using only five loaves of bread and two fish, with twelve baskets of leftovers remaining. They delivered an engaging worship to the rest of the school and we would like to thank them for their efforts this week.



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

Family Support

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

- Anti-Bullying Week
- Social care direct payments
- Child Friendly Warwickshire Christmas gift appeal

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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