Weekly Learning Update

21st March 2025

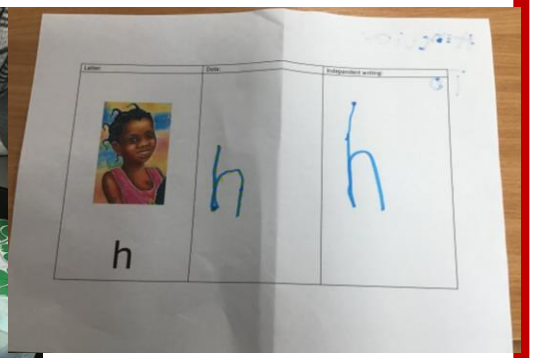
Nursery

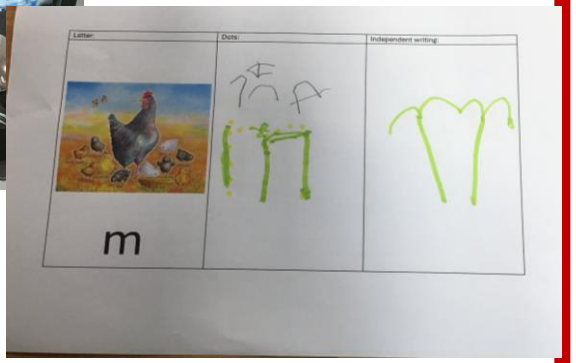
This week, we have been focusing on a wide range of learning. This has included a St Patrick's Day Science experiment, colour mixing using foam and trying to create our very own rainbows.

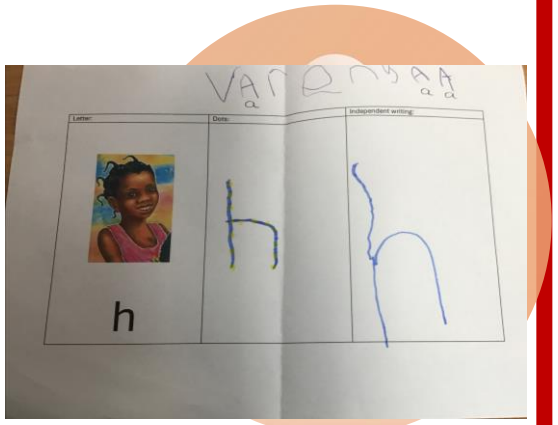
We have been using our cutting skills to create mosques; we even used some bricks, sticks and playdough to make our own models of mosques too.

The children have been focusing very hard on their letter formation this week and, as you can see, they have done a fantastic job!

We look forward to seeing all the mums at our Mother's day Stay and Play on Thursday.







Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

What an amazing week Reception have had!

Our first school trip was a super success, with children showing the school values whilst at Warwick Castle and being great role models to those around.

English:

We began our week by predicting our trip to Warwick Castle and the focus for the rest of the week has putting the events of the day in order and using time connectives to write a recount.

Phonics:

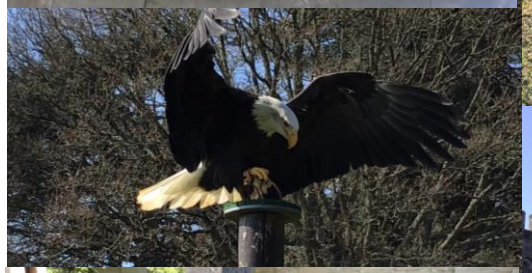
We have focused on assessment of phoneme recognition and blending confidence within Phase 3. There has also been a focus on grapheme formation, ensuring that they are being represented accurately.

Maths:

We have been working on retrieving information about number bonds to 5 as well as the skills linked to addition and subtraction using the circle method.

RE:

We explored the world view of Humanism this week, reflecting on the communal view of living life to the fullest. We then focused our discussions on the importance of teamwork and the children came up with some great suggestions about what teamwork could look like.



Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

It has been a super week in Year 1! The children have shown amazing growth and such determination and resilience when completing their assessments. We have been so proud of the progress they have made and they should be very proud of themselves.

We have also been blown away by the stories that the children have written this week, inspired by The Sea Saw by Tom Percival. They all have such wonderful imaginations and were so excited to write about their toys and the journey that they had been on. It was brilliant to see the children trying to use the conjunction 'and' and the prefix 'un' in their writing.

In Maths, the children have been learning how to recognise and add equal groups.

In Science, we have been investigating the properties of materials to find out which material is the best for the Three Little Pig's houses. We built houses of sticks, bricks and straw and used a hairdryer to blow them down to see which one was the strongest.

In Art this week, the children started to create their own artwork inspired by Andy Warhol. They chose their own medium and thought carefully about the shapes and colours that they wanted to use.

In RE, we discussed important messages that angels brought in the Bible and the Qur'an.

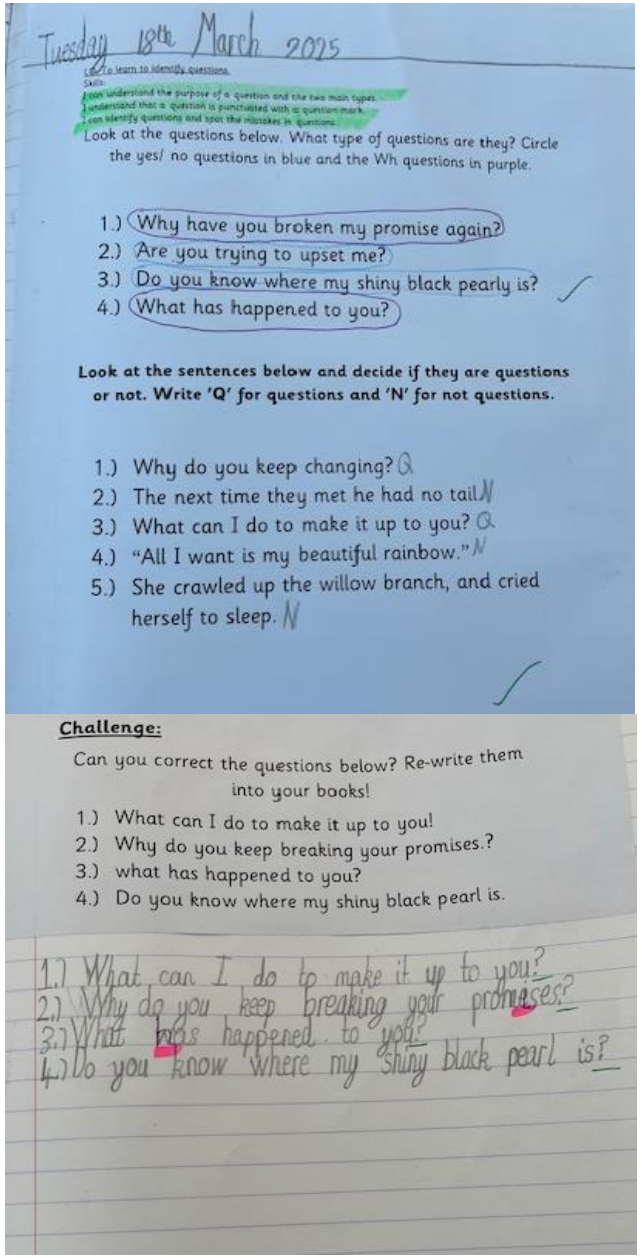
In History, we learned about the timeline of the teddy bear and how toys have changed over time.

We also had a visit from the Year 6 wellbeing ambassadors this week who led activities to support our mental health and wellbeing.

Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

This week we have been doing our assessments and we are super proud with the progress that all of the children have made.

English:
In English, we identified questions, linking to our 'Tadpole's Promise,' book. We identified the type of question, highlighted questions within the text and corrected punctuation in question sentences.



Tuesday 18th March 2025

We're learn to identify questions.

Skills:
I can understand the purpose of a question and the two main types.
I understand that a question is punctuated with a question mark.
I can identify questions and spot the mistakes in questions.

Look at the questions below. What type of questions are they? Circle the yes/ no questions in blue and the Wh questions in purple.

1.) Why have you broken my promise again?
2.) Are you trying to upset me?
3.) Do you know where my shiny black pearly is?
4.) What has happened to you?

Look at the sentences below and decide if they are questions or not. Write 'Q' for questions and 'N' for not questions.

1.) Why do you keep changing? Q
2.) The next time they met he had no tail N
3.) What can I do to make it up to you? Q
4.) "All I want is my beautiful rainbow." N
5.) She crawled up the willow branch, and cried herself to sleep. N

Challenge:

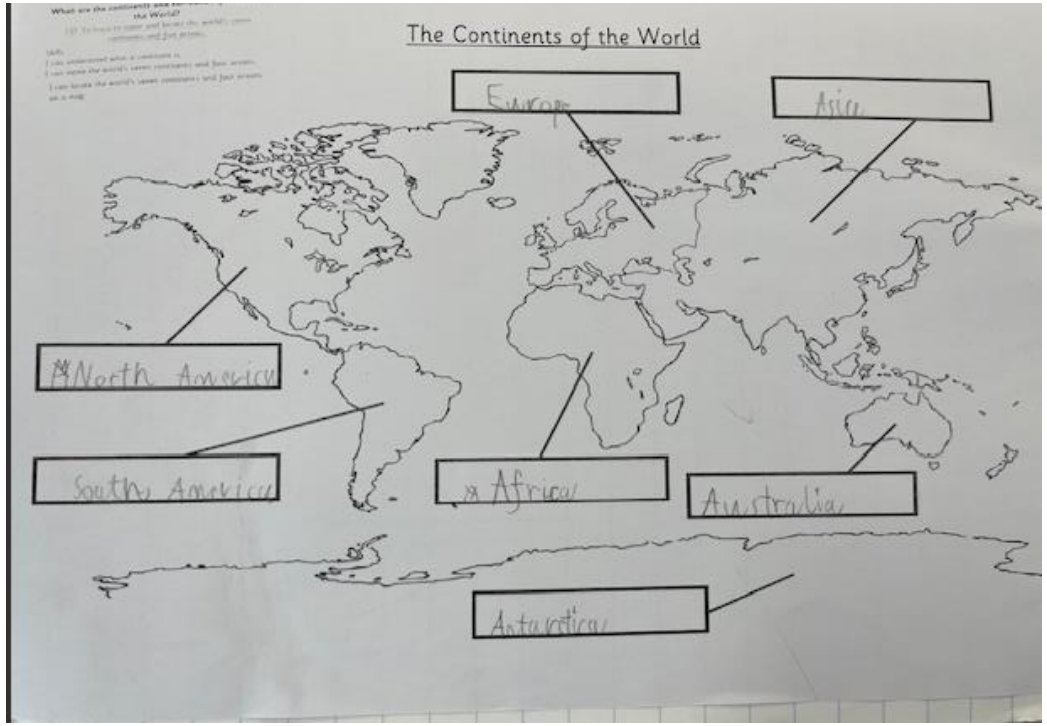
Can you correct the questions below? Re-write them into your books!

1.) What can I do to make it up to you!
2.) Why do you keep breaking your promises.?
3.) what has happened to you?
4.) Do you know where my shiny black pearl is.

1.) What can I do to make it up to you?
2.) Why do you keep breaking your promises?
3.) What has happened to you?
4.) Do you know where my shiny black pearl is?

Maths:
In Maths, we have continued learning about fractions and have learnt to find half of a quantity.

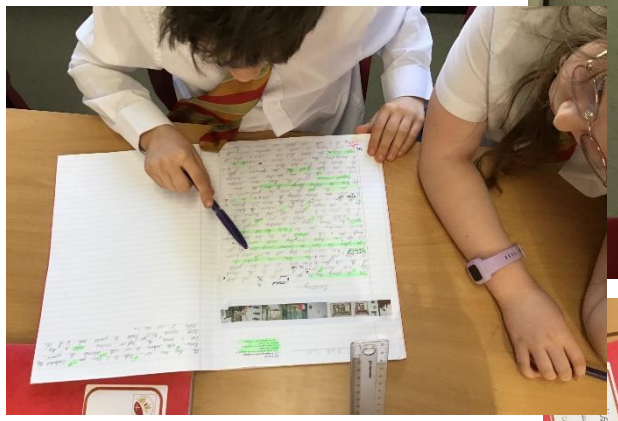
Geography:
In Geography, we have learnt to name and locate the seven continents of the world on a map. Here is a super example.



Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

It has been a fantastic week in Year 3! The children have been busy completing their Spring Term assessments and we are so proud of the growth all the children have shown. They have all done amazingly and they should all be super proud of themselves too!

Not only have we been busy completing our assessments, but we have also been editing and improving our narratives from last week. The children have been working in partners to help improve their accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar alongside developing their vocabulary choices to have a greater impact on the reader.



In History, we looked at the impact of Tudor monarchs' religious beliefs and how this determined the life of those during this period. We discussed in detail about Henry VIII and his reformation of the church due to his desire to divorce his first wife, Catherine of Aragon.

In Science, we have been investigating how mirrors reflect light to allow us to see. We discussed which surfaces can give us a clear reflection such as mirrors, glass and shiny metal and why only still water can reflect a clear image.

Year 4 (Turing Class and Tagore Class)

This week we have had an amazing week of showing all that we have learned in Year 4 thus far. It has been wonderful to see the children's progress in Reading, Writing and Maths during assessment week. They should all walk with pride!

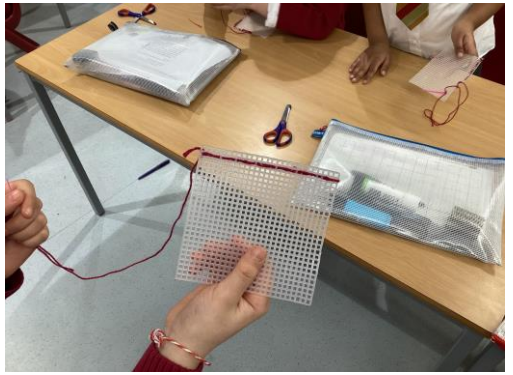
In Maths, we reached our final week of exploring fractions. This week we have been subtracting whole numbers and fractions from mixed numbers. This has been quite the challenge as it has required us to practise several of the skills that we have learned so far, such as converting mixed numbers to improper fractions, and then converting improper fractions back to mixed numbers.

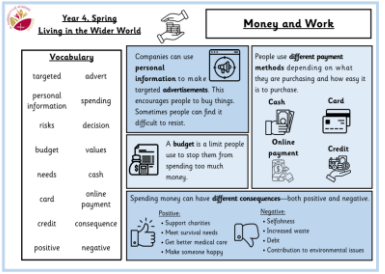
In PSHE, we have started our new unit about Money and Work, where we will learn about the positive and negative consequences of spending money. We will also be learning vital life skills about the importance of budgeting and different types of payments.

In D&T, we continued with our textiles unit. This week we explored joining materials, where we practised different types of sewing stitches. We found threading needles tricky at first, but we soon got the hang of it!

In RE, we learned about the Humanitarian worldview and how people can also choose their diets based on their values. We learned about the difference between veganism and vegetarianism.

In History, we displayed all of our knowledge so far. We read part of a letter written by Emperor Honorius as the Romans left Britain. We planned a response where we expressed our mixed emotions over the Romans leaving Britain. We then chose our favourite Roman inventions or ways of life that they introduced to Britain to thank them for.

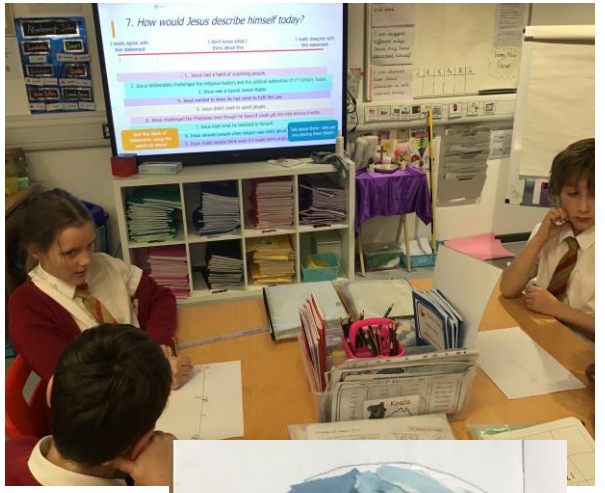




Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Gandhi Class)

This week has been a really productive week for Year 5 and it has been a pleasure to see the children's progress in their assessments for Reading and Maths. We are really proud of all their hard work!

In RE, we have been exploring the question: How would Jesus describe himself today? We discussed what we know about Jesus' actions and words, before debating whether or not he was a rebel as a result of his opposing views to the Jewish leaders at the time. We then considered the importance of this for people with Christian worldviews.

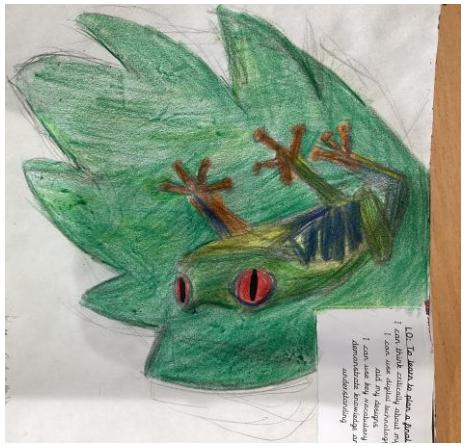


In Art, we have been using collage as a medium to represent space. We ripped old magazines and arranged the pieces together in a collage, overlapping different pieces to create the desired effect. We have been inspired by the images of space craft and the planets in our solar system.

Last Friday, we visited the National Space Centre! We had such a fantastic day, learning about the solar system and beyond. We got to visit the planetarium, where it felt like we were actually in space! The planetarium allowed us to see how the different planets orbit around the Sun. Did you know that one day on Venus is longer than a year? We have learnt so many exciting facts!

Year 6 (Pogson Class and Ahmad Class)

It has been another great week in Year 6! In English, we have been finalising our discovery narratives and taking the time to think carefully about how they can be further improved through the use of more effective vocabulary and punctuation. Once we had finished editing and proofreading, we then moved on to publishing our pieces in a final format. We are really proud with what the children have created!



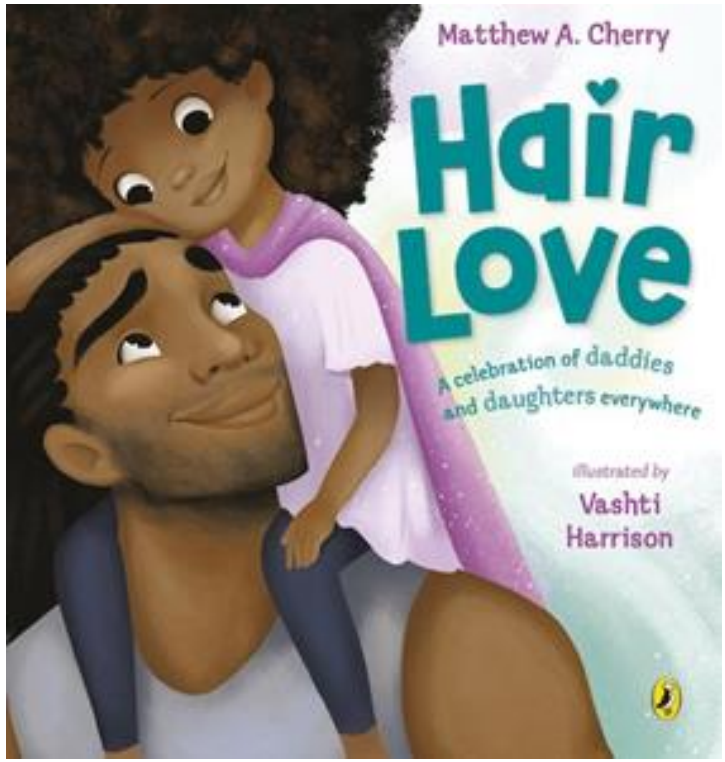
In Maths, we have continued our learning around shape as we have explored the different ways to find the area of parallelograms and the volume of cuboid and composite 3D shapes. We have now moved on to our new topic, 'Statistics', where we have taken the time to explore line graphs, particularly focussing on how to draw and interpret information from them.

In Science, we have further enhanced our understanding of Darwin's theory of Evolution through Natural Selection by taking part in the Natural Selection game. This fun activity involved the children selecting a random 'beak' and trying to pick up as many singular grains of rice within a minute! Those who had successfully selected enough grains were able to survive and their more favourable 'beak' was passed onto the next generation. This was a really great way for us to explore evolution as we observed how the population changed over time from being quite varied to having more of the favourable characteristics.

In Art, we have been planning our own rainforest artwork, inspired by the pieces of Rousseau work. We had to think carefully about shape, proportion and outlines to ensure that our future pieces will be as detailed as possible.

Collective Worship

During Worship Through Story, the children have been reading the book Hair Love with Mrs Roberts. The book has been chosen to teach children about the importance of loving oneself and having the integrity of self; to be proud of who they are.



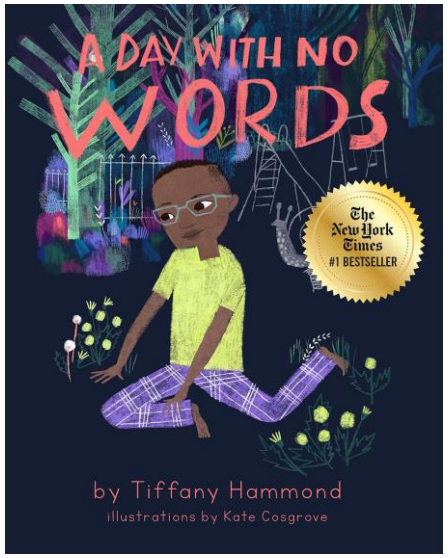
This week, Pogson class led Friday's Celebration collective worship teaching us all about the Sikh festival Vaisakhi.

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

Recommended Read

'A Day With No Words' *by Tiffany Hammond*

This book delves into the life of a young boy with an autism diagnosis and uses non-verbal communication. It follows a day in his life and how he communicates with his mother using his tablet device.



Online Safety

Live streaming is a huge part of children's entertainment, with influencers shaping young minds. But are you aware of the risks?

From misinformation to financial harm, staying informed is key.

Download the full guide here for free:

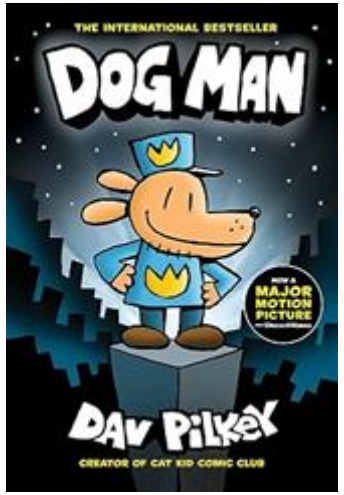
https://nationalcollege.com/guides/live-streaming

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.4%
This week's attendance	97.5%
Latest Local Authority ranking	16th out of 188 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

Lent Attendance Challenge

One child from each year group has won a book of their choosing to take home this week. Any child who is in all week is entered into the prize draw to win a free book!



PTFA- sponsored book read

This year's sponsored read raised over £2000 for the school library!

Thank you for your generosity and encouraging children to read. In total the children read for almost 10,000 minutes, which is remarkable!

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

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