Weekly Learning Update

22nd May 2026

Nursery

It has been a fantastic final week in Nursery!

Maths:

We have been focusing on numeral recognition and then matching number to quantity. The children have played a range of games to support their number awareness and then matching number to quantity.

Continuous Provision:

The children have enjoyed planting cress seeds this week and observing the change that has taken place since Monday. We planted them, using cotton wool, which has meant we have been able to see all of the parts of the plant as it develops.

We have had several opportunities to develop confidence with letter formation, both inside and outside, and the children have enjoyed developing confidence with purposeful mark making through producing pictures of different fruits and vegetables.

The children have also enjoyed exploring life cycles in one of our role play areas that has a safari theme and thinking about keeping healthy through eating a balanced diet within our very own pizzeria!

Thank you very much for the positive engagement with home learning this half term. The children are enjoying sharing their continued learning during our dedicate Tapestry Time and they are also earning Learning Star stickers for challenging themselves at home!

We hope you all have a wonderful half term and we look forward to welcoming everyone back the week commencing Monday 1st June.

Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

We have had another incredible week in Reception!

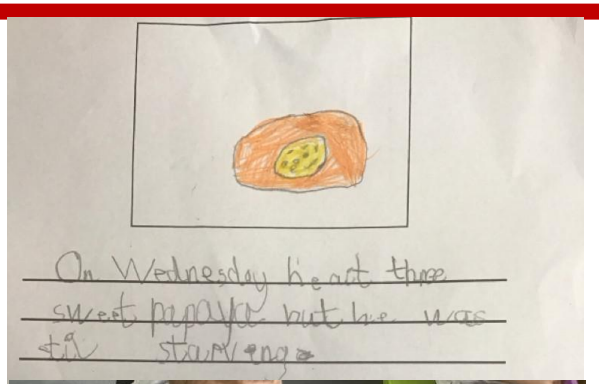
In Phonics, we have been focusing on blending and reading CCCVC words. The children have been practising their reading and spelling words beginning with spr, shr, scr and thr.

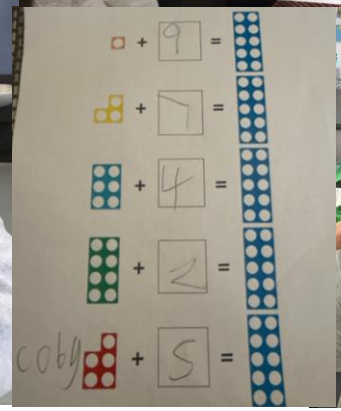
In English, we have started adapting the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar. The children helped to create a class story map and used actions to help them remember the different parts of our adapted story. They have also been adding adjectives to their sentences to make their writing more interesting.

In Maths, we have been learning to recall number bonds to 10. The children used a variety of practical resources, including cubes, counters and Numicon, to help them explore and confidently identify different ways of making 10.

In Expressive Arts, the children have really enjoyed learning a new song and creating actions to go with it. Using movements alongside the words has helped them remember the song more confidently while making the learning fun and engaging.

In the provision, the children have loved using paint and sponges to create butterflies. They have also loved using their fine motor skills to make caterpillars out of Lego.





Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

We have had a wonderful and action-packed week in Year 1, full of exciting learning and memorable experiences!

In English, the children completed their own diary entries. They thoroughly enjoyed recalling our recent beach trip to Hunstanton, thinking carefully about what they saw, heard and felt. The children worked hard to include key features of a diary entry, such as writing in the first person and sequencing events clearly. We were especially impressed with their use of descriptive language to bring their experiences to life - well done, Year 1!

In Maths, we explored position and direction. The children practised using vocabulary such as left, right, forwards, backwards, above and below. They took part in practical activities to support their learning and demonstrated a strong understanding of these concepts. It was fantastic to see them using the correct mathematical vocabulary with confidence.

In RE, we learnt about the festival of Pentecost. This is the day when Christians believe the Holy Spirit came to visit disciples of Jesus. The children created a special story wheel and showed thoughtfulness and understanding when recalling the story to their partner.

It has been a fun-filled week across the curriculum! We were delighted to welcome Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service, who delivered an exciting and informative session about fire safety. The children learned important tips for preventing fires at home and practised the vital safety technique: Stop, Drop and Roll.

We also had a special opportunity linked to the construction of the new primary provision at Houlton School. Following a visit from the building contractors, Stepnells, 12 children from Year 1 were invited to visit the site and help bury a time capsule. This capsule is due to be opened in 2036, when many of the children may be attending Houlton School - how exciting! It sparked lots of conversation about how life might change in the future.

Additionally, the children took part in a cricket festival at school. They showed great perseverance and enthusiasm while developing their strength and hand-eye coordination through a variety of activities. It was a fantastic experience and great fun was had by all!

Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

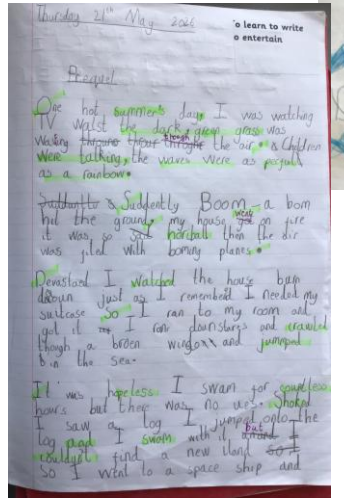
We have had a wonderfully busy final week of the half term.

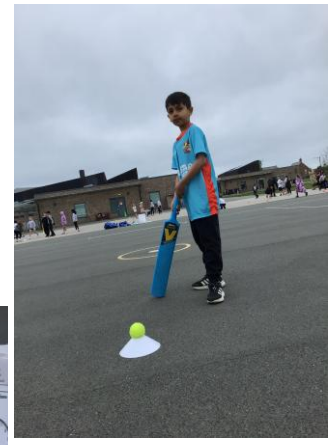
In PSHE, we have been learning all about healthy teeth. The children explored why it is important to look after our teeth and how we can keep them clean and strong. We talked about brushing routines, sugary foods, plaque and what happens if we don't take care of our teeth. The children then created informative posters to encourage others to maintain healthy teeth, thinking carefully about clear messages, bold images and helpful advice.

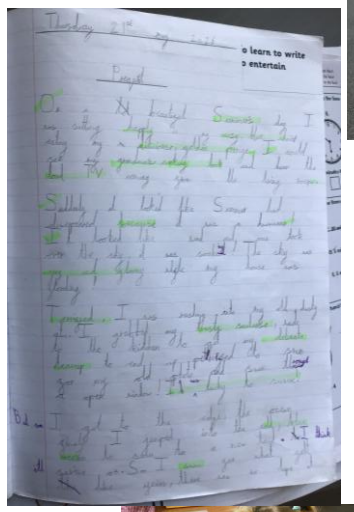
In Maths, we continued our learning on telling the time, focusing on time *past* the hour and time *to* the hour. We discussed how the first half of the analogue clock is read as past the hour and the second half as to the hour. This can be complicated because the minute hand and hour hand move in different ways, which can feel confusing at first. The children have worked incredibly hard to understand this and regular practice at home will really help secure their confidence.

In English, the children have completed their own prequels to *The Suitcase* by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros. Over the past few weeks, they have generated ideas, planned their storylines, explored powerful vocabulary, performed their poems linked to the text and then drafted and edited their writing. They have shown such creativity, resilience and pride throughout the whole process and their final prequels are wonderful. They should feel extremely proud of their hard work.

This Thursday, we also enjoyed a fantastic cricket morning where the children learned a range of skills needed to play cricket, including throwing, catching, batting and teamwork. It was a fun, energetic morning and a lovely way to end the week.







Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

It's been a great week to end a great half term in Year 3!

In English, the children wrote fantastic recounts based on the story My Beautiful Voice. They worked incredibly hard to include a range of adverbs, prepositions and conjunctions to make their writing more detailed and engaging. The children also impressed us with their amazing descriptions of the events and the girl's thoughts and feelings, helping the reader to understand her emotions throughout the story. We were so proud of the effort, creativity and progress shown in their writing.

In Maths, we have continued our learning about mass. The children compared different masses using mathematical vocabulary, practised adding and subtracting masses and explored equivalent masses. They also developed their understanding of converting between grams and kilograms, using practical examples and reasoning to explain their answers. It has been wonderful to see their confidence growing with this topic.

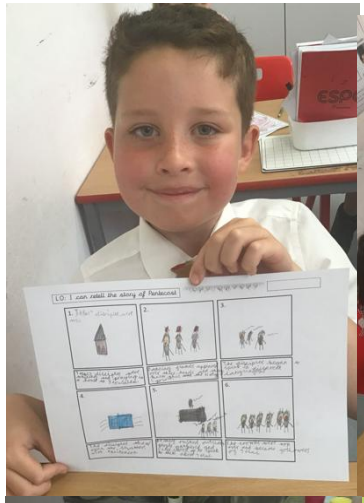
In RE, we celebrated Pentecost. The children retold the story thoughtfully and discussed why Pentecost is such an important celebration for Christians. They then created Pentecost windmills and enjoyed sharing their ideas and understanding with one another.

In Science, the children interpreted and communicated the results from their cress investigation. They used scientific language to explain what had happened to their cress seeds and discussed which conditions helped the plants to grow best. The children also evaluated the investigation carefully, thinking about what worked well and how the investigation could be improved next time. We were very impressed with their scientific thinking and use of evidence to support their ideas.

On Wednesday, we were very lucky to enjoy an inspiring author visit from Fiona Dixon. The children loved hearing about how stories are created and where authors get their ideas from. They took part enthusiastically, asked thoughtful questions and came away full of excitement and inspiration for writing their own stories in the future.

Anning also did an amazing in their Celebration Worship this week. The children spoke clearly and confidently and it was lovely to see them so proudly sharing all of the wonderful learning that has taken place this half term. Thank you for coming - we hope you enjoyed it!

Have a lovely half term and we will see you on Monday 1st June.



Year 4 (Tagore Class and Turing Class)

The last week of term has been incredible!

We started the week off strong with our residential trip to Beaumanor Hall. Year 4 were amazing and truly demonstrated all of our school values throughout the experience. We were incredibly proud of how the children conducted themselves – they were excellent ambassadors for the school.

Everyone took part in a range of exciting activities, including archery and den building. During archery, we needed to show resilience, taking our time to aim carefully and improve our accuracy. In den building, the children worked brilliantly as a team to create strong and stable structures.

We also took part in rock climbing, where many children conquered their fears and pushed themselves to achieve what they thought was impossible. Once again, fantastic teamwork was essential, as everyone showed care and responsibility when supporting those climbing.

Of course, one of the biggest highlights was staying overnight with friends, as well as the much-anticipated visit to the Beaumanor gift shop! The children had an amazing time and created memories that will last a lifetime.

For the remainder of the week, we returned to the classroom and worked hard to complete our English stories. The children used powerful language and dialogue successfully to create suspenseful narratives, and it has been fantastic to see their writing skills develop.

In Maths, we have been learning to compare and estimate amounts of money, developing our confidence with real-life problems.

In RE, we have been learning about Pentecost, focusing particularly on the role of the Holy Spirit. We revisited the symbols of Pentecost and explored how these link to the Holy Spirit. The children then applied their knowledge creatively by writing their own acrostic poems.

Year 4 have worked incredibly hard this half term, and we are so proud of all they have achieved. We hope you have a lovely and restful break!

Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Rauf Class)

We cannot believe how quickly the term has flown by! We have been incredibly impressed with all of the hard work, enthusiasm and progress the children have shown over the last six weeks.

In English this week, the children completed their narrative writing based on 'Beowulf', set 50 years after defeating Grendel. They worked extremely hard to combine their descriptive writing skills with their understanding of direct speech to create an engaging scene where Beowulf is persuaded to fight once again. It has been wonderful to see the children apply the skills they have developed over the term to produce imaginative and detailed pieces of writing.

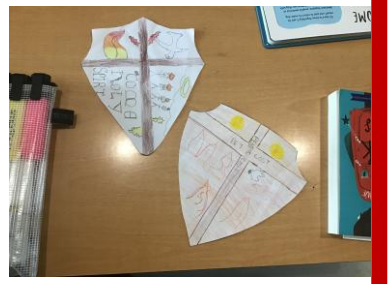
In Maths, we have moved on to our new topic of Decimals. The children initially focused on using a range of existing strategies to add and subtract decimals, both below and above one. They explored patterns and number facts they already knew, including finding complements to certain numbers, to support their understanding. We look forward to developing these skills further next term.

In Science, we have continued building on our learning about reproduction in plants by shifting our focus to asexual reproduction. The children used secondary sources to research three different types of asexual reproduction, including tubers, bulbs, and runners. After sorting plants into the correct groups, they compared the similarities and differences between these methods of reproduction.

In PSHE, we began a new topic focused on Physical Health and Mental Wellbeing. This week's learning centred around the importance of sleep and the impact it can have on our bodies, particularly for growing children. The children discussed healthy sleep habits and created top tips to support someone who may struggle to fall asleep each night.

In RE, our lesson focused on the day of Pentecost, which takes place this Sunday. The children recalled the story of Pentecost and explored its importance to Christians as a significant event where the Holy Spirit was sent to empower Jesus' followers to continue spreading God's message. They also learned about symbols associated with the Holy Spirit and Pentecost before designing their own banners to represent these themes.

Finally, in Art, the children had the opportunity to use the printing tiles they began creating last week. Using rollers and acrylic paint, they carefully printed their illuminated letter designs onto paper. The children thoroughly enjoyed seeing their ideas come to life and should be proud of their creativity and perseverance throughout the project.

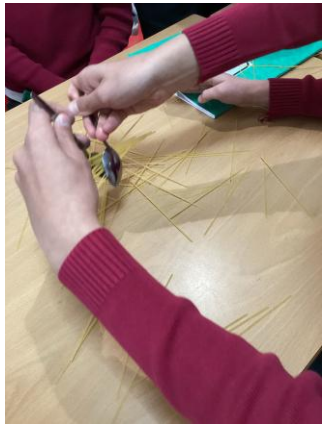


Year 6 (Pogson Class and Walker Class)

It has been another busy week in Year 6 and a fantastic end to this half term.

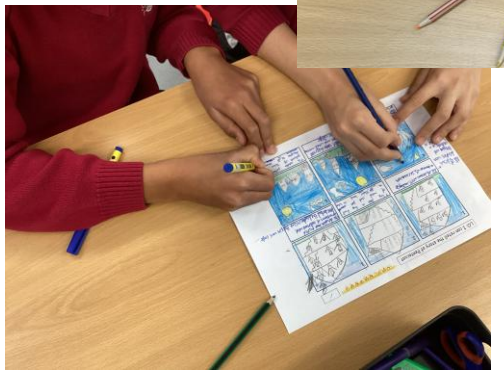
In English, the children have been writing a narrative, based on an extract from *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone.* The children generated a range of vocabulary to create a rich description of the characters and setting and explored ways to use speech and reporting clauses to convey the character. They then spent and afternoon writing their narrative and used some further time to peer edit and support each other to make their writing better.

In Science, the children investigated natural selection and Charles Darwin's theories surrounding survival of the fittest. The children used a range of different materials as the beaks of a bird, to see how many piece of spaghetti they could pick up. This showed how certain characteristics would be classed as advantageous and would allow a species to survive.



On Tuesday, the children celebrated Pentecost Day and learned about the story of Pentecost. They created a story board to show the key events and wrote prayers. These were made on paper which looked like a dove and a flame, which are the two symbols of Pentecost.

On Thursday, Year 6 had their trip to Go Ape at Sherwood Pines. It was such a wonderful celebration for the end of their SATs assessments and was great fun! The children showed resilience and teamwork as they made their way through the nets adventure amongst the towering trees.



Today was also the start of swimming lessons, in preparation for the upcoming residential to Swanage!

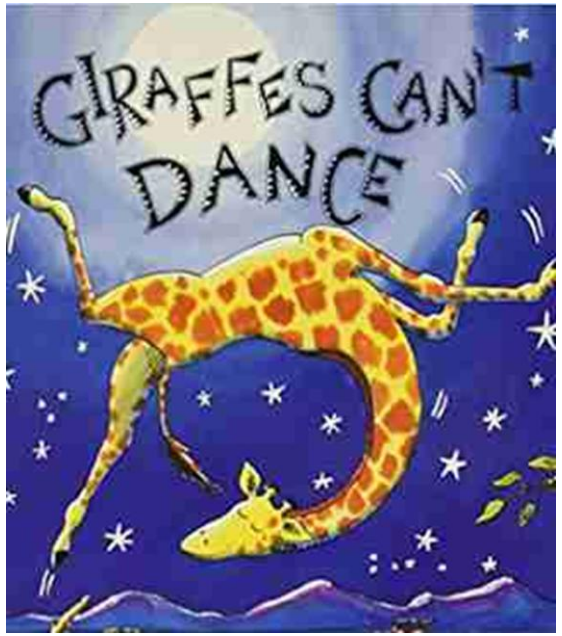
We hope that you all have a wonderful half term break and look forward to seeing you in the final half term of the year!

Collective Worship

This week, Miss Bailey's Singing Club performed to the school during Collective Worship, singing a song they have learnt over the past few weeks: Count on Me. Well done!

During Worship through Story, we read Giraffes Can't Dance, focusing on Respect and Love. When the animals laughed at Gerald, they showed no respect. Their words hurt him and pushed him away. The cricket, however, showed love through encouragement. Our message from Collective Worship was: *Respect lifts people up. Love helps them flourish.*

This week's Celebration Collective Worship was led by Anning Class. They shared their learning from the last few weeks. Well done, Anning Class!



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

St Gabriel's Summer Fair

We are hosting our Summer Fair on Friday 19th June! We are kindly asking for support from our community to help raise funds for further enrichment opportunities and school projects.

Are you able to donate a prize for our raffle or know someone who could? Perhaps a product, voucher or service?

We also have stalls available for local businesses to sell their products.

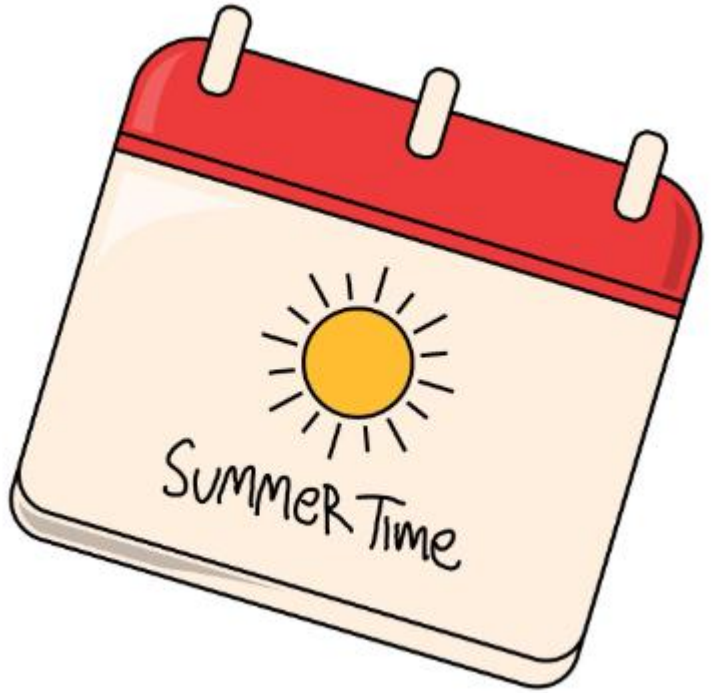
Thank you in advance for supporting our fundraising efforts, which will contribute towards further enrichment opportunities and school projects for the children.

For more information, or to offer your support, please contact office@stgabrielscofeacademy.org

Key Dates

Wednesday 3rd June – Air Ambulance Non-Uniform Day
The Air Ambulance charity will talk to the children during collective worship. Children will be able to wear a yellow t-shirt or yellow accessory with their school uniform. We are asking for a suggested donation of £1 which can be paid via Arbor.
Friday 5th June – Windsor Class Celebration Worship
Friday 12th June – Non-Uniform Day (Bring a Bottle)
The children are welcome to come to school in non-uniform and bring a bottle to collect donations for our St Gabriel's Summer Fair tombola and raffle.

Friday 12th June – King Class Celebration Worship
Friday 19th June – Bell Class Celebration Worship
Friday 19th June – Summer Fair
Thursday 25th June – Teddy Bear's Picnic Reading Event (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
Friday 10th July – Nursery Graduation
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



Author Visit

This week, we were very excited to welcome children's author Fiona Dixon to school for a very special author visit for Key Stage 2. Fiona shared her debut children's book, Crow: Thief of Magic, with the children and spoke about her journey to becoming an author, giving an exciting insight into the world of writing and publishing.

The children loved hearing about the inspiration behind her story and enjoyed discovering some of the "behind the scenes" details of the writing process.

During the session, Fiona also encouraged the children to become writers themselves by sharing helpful tips on how to get started with their own stories and develop creative ideas. It was a wonderful event that left the children feeling inspired and enthusiastic about reading and creative writing.

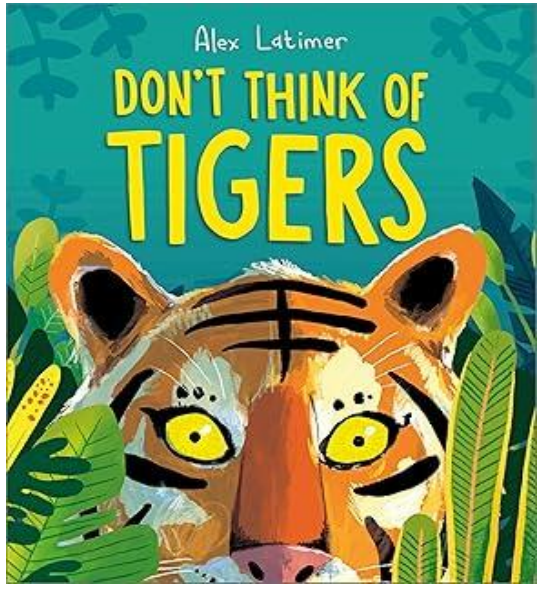
We were also very grateful to Hunt's Bookshop for joining us to sell copies of the book for the children to have signed, making the occasion even more memorable.

Recommended Read

This book is magical. Whatever you think of, the narrator will draw it on the next page. There's just one problem: they're really bad at drawing tigers. Hilariously bad. So please, don't think of tigers!

But of course, soon all you'll be able to think of is tigers... so the narrator will draw them, more and more ridiculous as they go. A tiger in a mermaid outfit, one carrying a coffee and a briefcase, some just plain awful. But with practice, will they get better?

This is a fun book to read together, perfect for children who love to draw and for those who don't (but might soon!).



Online Safety

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media, and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed. In the below guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as bullying, inappropriate content and unknown members.

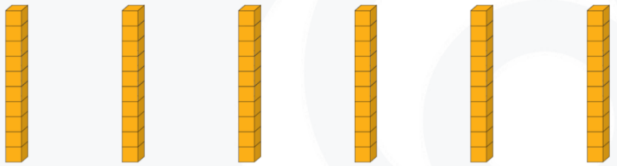
https://nationalcollege.com/guides/group-chats

Maths Problem of the Week

KS1

Mo is making 100 using base 10

Here is the base 10 he has now.



a) How many more does Mo need to make 100?

Kim has found a bond to 100

Both numbers are greater than 20

Both numbers have an odd number of 10s.

Both numbers have 0 ones.

b) What could Kim's bond to 100 be?

KS2

Some mixed numbers have been placed in ascending order.

$1\frac{1}{10}$, $1\frac{9}{10}$, $2\frac{3}{10}$, ☐, $2\frac{9}{10}$, ○, $5\frac{3}{10}$

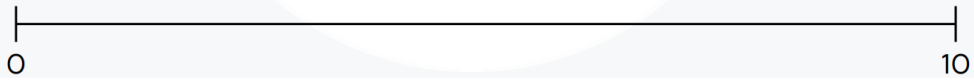
a) What could the value of ☐ be?

b) What could the value of ○ be?

c) Jack says, "The value of the circle could be $3\frac{1}{2}$"
Is Jack correct?

d) △ is greater than ☐ but less than ○

Estimate the position of △ on the number line.
Explain your reasoning.

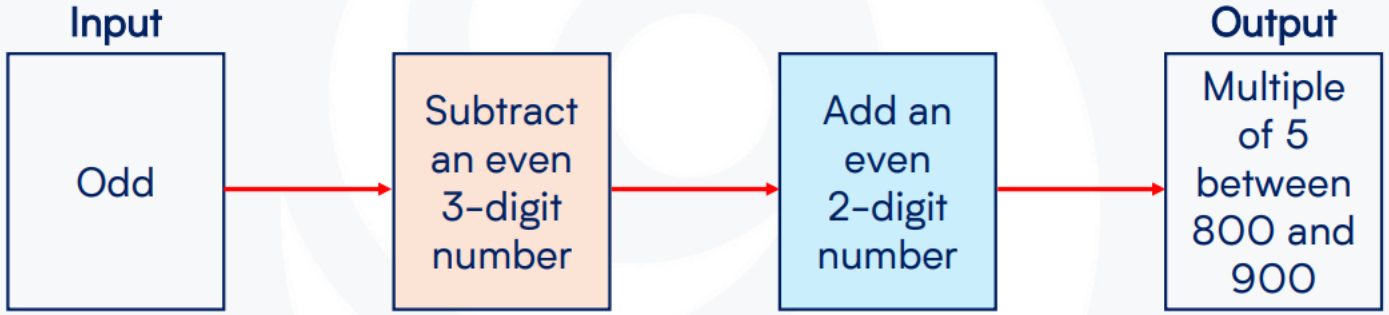


Challenge

Complete the function machine.

How many possibilities can you find?

What patterns do you spot?



Answers

KS1

a) 40 or 4 more tens

b) 30 + 70 = 100 or 50 + 50 = 100

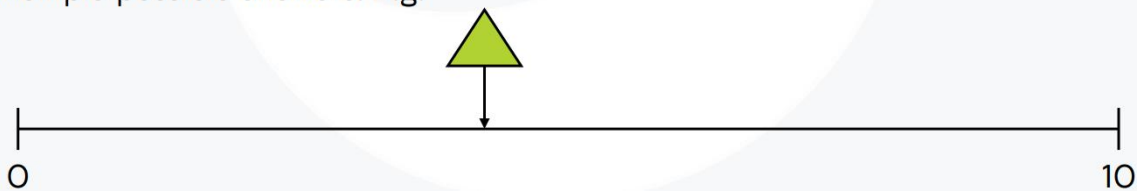
KS2

a) $2\frac{4}{10}$, $2\frac{8}{10}$, or any number in between.

b) 3, $5\frac{2}{10}$ or any number in between.

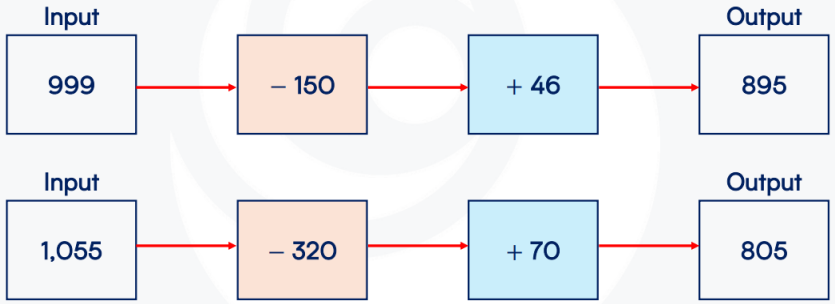
c) Yes, $3\frac{1}{2}$ is between the two fractions given.

d) Multiple possible answers. E.g.



Challenge

Multiple possible answers. E.g.



The output will always be odd.

Family Support

Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust (CWPT) has partnered with Shout to offer free, 24/7 mental health crisis text support – available round-the-clock for anyone who is struggling to cope.

From 1st April 2026, people living in Coventry and Warwickshire can text **CWHOPE** to **85258** to start a confidential conversation with a mental health professional at any time of day or night.

Conversations take place entirely by text, making it a discreet and accessible option for those who may find speaking on the phone difficult.

Remember, if you or someone you know needs urgent mental health support, you should still call 111, available 24/7 for people of all ages.

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.

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

✉office@stgabrielscofeacademy.org ☎01788 222405