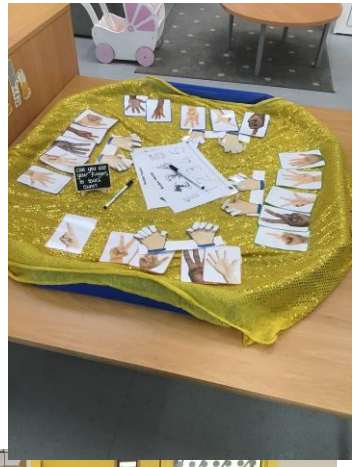
Weekly Learning Update

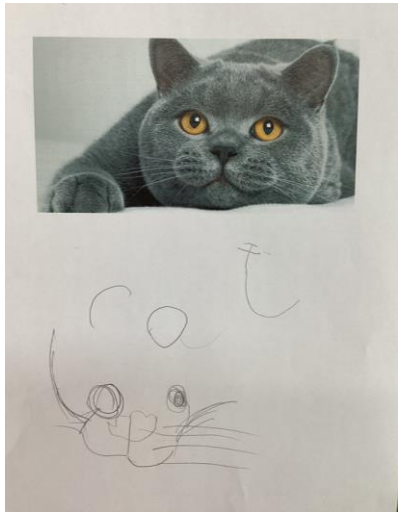
22nd November 2024

Nursery

This week, we have been focusing on animal movements and how we can identify animals by looking at their features, actions and patterns. Using photographs as reference, we have illustrated our own 'cat' pictures and even attempted to write the phonemes we could hear! As the snow took us by surprise, we had a lovely snow tray to explore and ponder the melting process.

We have discussed road safety and practised how we use zebra crossing and the importance of staying safe whilst out and about. On our Maths table, we have been using our touch counting skills to count our fingers independently and together in pairs - the children have progressed so well with this skill and are continuing to flourish with this.



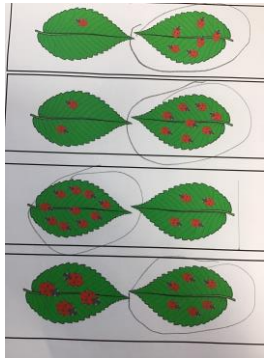


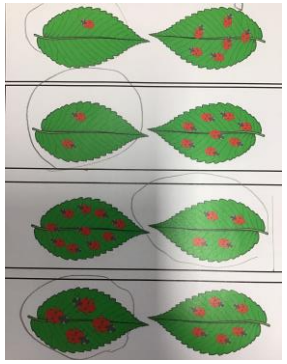
Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

What a wonderful and wild week it has been with the weather! Reception were so excited on Tuesday when they were able to learn outside in the snow! They had a great time exploring in the cold weather. With the cold season upon us, we ask that all gloves, hats and scarves are named please as keeping track of 60 of each item is quite tricky!

Maths

We have focused on comparison of quantities this week, with children using new Maths vocabulary of: more, most, fewer, fewest and equal. The children have enjoyed comparing groups within the classroom as well as looking at images and comparing quantities.





English

We have completed our whole class story maps and the children are really energised with their retellings of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. The children have been focusing on sentence structure and formation and it has been wonderful to see their progress. Please look on Tapestry to view their awesome writing.

Phonics

We continue to recap our Phase 2 phonemes, with a real focus on blending for reading and writing letters with accurate formation. The children are really enjoying accessing the phonics books within the classroom and were equally excited about their phonics and library books going home!

Please note, the children keep their books until Tuesday and will then be allocated new ones on Wednesday. New books are only allocated when current ones are returned.

Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

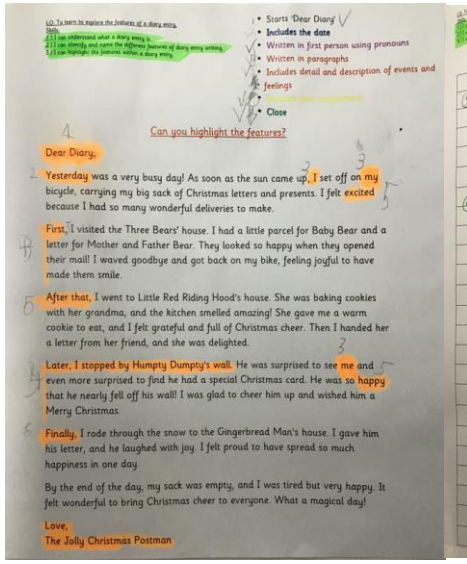
It's been another brilliant week in Year 1. We have been writing our own Peter Rabbit stories in English, naming and describing the properties of 3D shapes in Maths and learning about animals in Science.

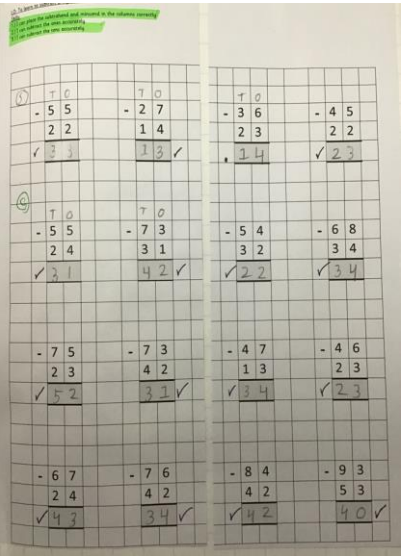
The highlight of our week was our trip to St. John's House in Warwick. During the day, we had the opportunity to experience a Victorian School day and the teacher was very strict! We used chalkboards to practise our handwriting, recited our 10 times tables and had to sit up straight at all times! We also had to pay the teacher and took part in a drill. We then learnt more about Victorian houses and compared life in a Victorian home to life now. The children had a go at role playing different members of the household and carried out jobs around the house.

The children were a credit to St. Gabriel's, showing our school values at all times and immersing themselves in the experience.

Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

In our English lessons this week, we have focussed on learning the features of a diary so that we are able to retell the Jolly Christmas Postman's journey through fairy tale land! We also learned about the past progressive and present progressive tenses to help us explain his journey.





Our subtraction skills have been stretched and challenged this week; we have looked at applying our understanding of the column method to two-digit subtract two-digit subtraction but built up to this through using base 10 to visualise how subtraction works too.

Wednesday saw both classes travel back through time to 1666. We attempted to make authentic biscuits with the recipe from that period (honey, flour and butter), we started the construction of houses from the period and we also explored the timeline of the Great Fire of London! The children dressed up too and they looked fantastic!

We have also been hard at work rehearsing our Christmas Performance songs along with their actions, displaying excellent drive and attitude to deliver a spectacular show.

Well done on another excellent week Year 2!

Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

It has been another fun filled week full of lots of amazing learning.

In English, we have been focusing on using expanding noun phrases (ENPs) to add detail to our writing. We then applied this to help describe our characters and setting of our own stories based on 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe'.

In Maths, we have continued to apply our knowledge of addition and subtraction and have been solving calculations and problems involving exchanging across 10 and 100.

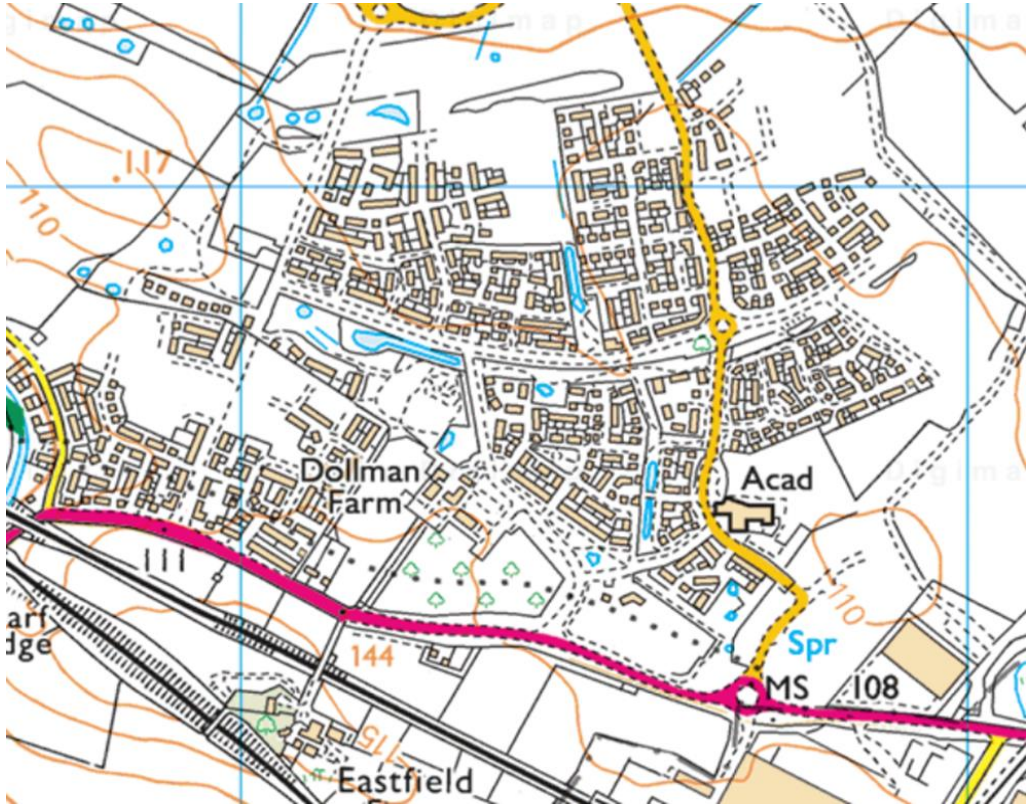
In Geography, we have been looking at OS Maps and have been identifying human and physical features on a map. We have also been using these maps to plan routes in a familiar location.

In Science, we have been looking at animal skeletons and have been grouping and classifying animals based on their skeleton. We first looked at vertebrates and invertebrates and then looked at grouping animals based on whether they have endoskeletons, exoskeletons or hydrostatic skeletons.

In RE, we have been looking at Pagan worldviews and how these link with nature and the seasons.

In PSHE, we have been continuing to explore and discuss bullying and how we can promote anti-bullying within our community as well as what good friendships look like.

Can you spot any of the geographical features we have learnt?



Year 4 (Turing Class and Tagore Class)

Year 4 have had yet another amazing week of learning!

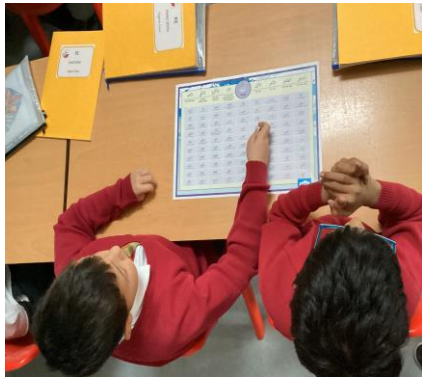
In English, we have spent the past two weeks planning language features to write an Eid firework celebration recount. We expanded noun phrases, alliteration, fronted adverbials and onomatopoeia. We then mapped our ideas in pictures and then performed our ideas to each other, where we gave each other feedback to further improve our work. On Thursday, we finally wrote our sensational narrative pieces and presented them to each other with pride.

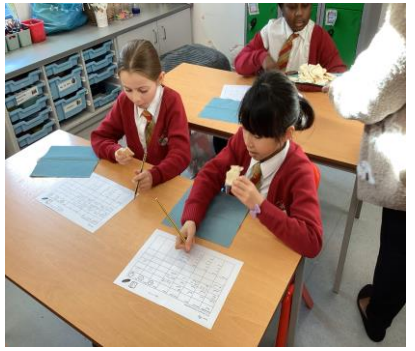
In Maths, we have started our Multiplication and Division learning. We have been looking at the 3-, 6- and 9-times tables. We have been identifying times tables facts, exploring fact families and used this knowledge to solve reasoning and problem-solving questions.

In D&T, we continued our food and nutrition learning. We created our own posters for good food hygiene. We learned about where food comes from and the seasonality of different food products. In what was commented to be 'the best lesson ever', we did a breaded snack taste test where we sampled different breads and commented on their taste, smell and texture.

In Geography, we were fortunate enough to have a visitor from Severn Trent, who taught us about water usage and wastage. We had the opportunity to solve a practical water task, where we had to ensure that we did not waste water.

In RE, we have been furthering our learning about Islam. This week, we explored the 99 names of Allah. We discovered that each of the 99 names relates to a particular attribute of Allah, making it easier for people of the Muslim faith to understand Him. We worked in pairs and focused on five names that we thought were most important to us and then made posters explaining our choices.





Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Gandhi Class)

Another brilliant week of learning in Year 5!

In English, we have been planning our ideas around creating a wanted poster and a character description of the escaped prisoner – Thanatos, the King of the Daemons from Who Let the Gods Out? We have then applied our learning on relative clauses to construct a character description to help the Zodiac Council to find the missing daemon.

In Maths, our focus this week has been adding fractions. We started with fractions that have the same denominator then applied our learning of equivalent fractions to add fractions with different denominators. We have also started to add mixed numbers.

In Science, we investigated how to separate different mixtures using three methods – sieving, filtration and evaporation. We learnt how different states of matter require different methods to separate them.

In History, we learnt about the establishment of Democracy in Ancient Athens. We explored how this compared to our political system today and evaluated its impact on the world. We quite quickly found out that Ancient Athenian Democracy was not as fair as it seemed!

In RE, we have continued exploring our question of 'what does it mean to live well?' Linking back to our learning from last week on Buddhist prayer, this week we learnt about how prayer plays a part in the lives of people with a Jewish worldview. We were then able to make comparisons to Buddhism.

Year 6 (Pogson Class and Ahmad Class)

It has been a great week in Year 6 this week.

In English, we have been finding out more about some of the more specific features of biographies, including semi-colons, colons and relative clauses. After this, the children were tasked with planning and writing their very own biography based on renowned football star and war hero, Walter Tull.

In Maths, we have continued with our learning about Fractions as we have been continuing to add and subtract both simple fractions and mixed numbers and have begun to apply skills of multiplying fractions. The children have done a great job at recognising patterns between the fractions and utilising a range of rules and strategies when faced with a variety of learning challenges.

In Science, we have spent this week investigating how light travels in straight lines, how a light ray can be altered through the use of a reflective surface and how to represent an investigation through the use of a scientific drawing. The children's task this week was to take part in a range of increasingly difficult challenges, which involved getting light to travel around corners and land in the hand of the students.

In PSHE, we have been continuing our learning around relationships as the children have explored the term 'consent' and what it means. First, we strengthened our understanding of what it means to give a person permission and then created our own comic strips to represent a scenario where an individual either does or does not give consent and what the possible outcomes of this might be. Next week, we look forward to learning more about personal boundaries and how this links to consent.

In Art, the children were given the task of exploring and experimenting with different materials to make their own 'stained glass' image. They had to work carefully with a range of coloured and transparent materials and different strategies of layering, to see what worked effectively.

In History, we have moved on from learning about the causes of WW1 and learnt about the experiences of soldiers and life in the trenches. We explored a range of primary and secondary sources to answer the key enquiry question of the lesson: What was the impact on soldiers' health and wellbeing from living in the trenches?

Collective Worship

This week, the children have been learning about road safety as part of National Road Safety week. Children learnt how to be a road safety hero by crossing roads safely with adult support including crossing marshals, keeping seatbelts on in the car and wearing helmets when travelling on a bike or scooter.

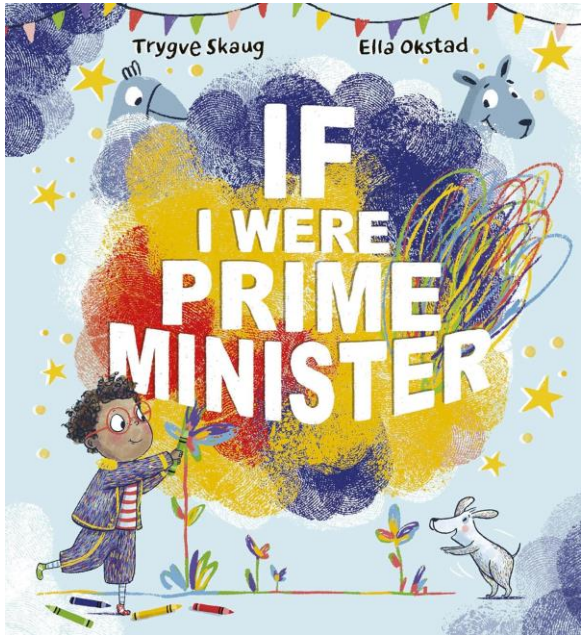
The school also had a visit from the education team from Severn Trent Water who taught the children about processes used to provide clean drinking water to our home.

This week Anning class led Celebration Assembly teaching the school all about Mary Anning and the fossilisation process. They ended their assembly with a beautiful rendition of What a Wonderful World. It was also wonderful to celebrate the individuals who were presented with Headteacher Awards.

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

Recommended Read

For **Parliament Week**, we are recommending '***If I Were Prime Minister***' by *Trygve Skaug.*



With disarming frankness, a young boy gives his perspective on several things the grown-ups running the country could do differently.

His recommendations are both playful and profound. How much happier would we be if all the adults went to nursery once a month to remind themselves how to play? How much safer would we be if Christmas lights were left up all year round to light everyone's way home?

Online Safety

'Internet Matters' is a comprehensive web resource with a wide array of tips and advice on how to navigate the online world with your child. There are a variety of free printable e-safety leaflets and resources that you can use at home.

You can find these by clicking this link.

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.9%
This week's attendance	96%
Latest Local Authority ranking	19th 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

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?

PTFA

PTFA NEWSLETTER

Friends of St Gabriel's C of E Academy

w/e 22nd November 2024 | PTA@stgabrielscofeacademy.org

There are **just 3 spaces left** on our wreath making workshop so book your space to avoid disappointment.

£30 per person

Book by scanning QR code below:

There is still time to choose us for your cash pot for school.

Thank you to those already signed up!

St Gabriel's CofE Academy

You have helped raise

£162.98

8 days left

Santa Claus is coming to town

We are pleased to announce that the PTFA and Rugby Heritage Lions will be welcoming Santa Claus and Mrs Claus to the Barn in Houlton between the 13th and 15th December.

There are various hour long time slots available.

£10 per child
£5 for babies and preschoolers

To book search Friends of St Gabriels PFTA on Facebook and you will find the booking link.

50% of the profits will go to the PTFA

EVENTS

Full details and how to book to follow

- **Thursday 28th November:** Wreath Making Night
- **Friday 29th November:** Hot Chocolate sale
- **Friday 13th - Sunday 15th December:** Santas Grotto at the Barn

Friends of St Gabriel's C of E Academy (Registered Charity No: 1204367)

Friends of St Gabriel's C of E Academy

Costume Donations

The PTFA are looking to start a preloved dress up shop in a bid to help with the cost of living crisis and also encourage a more eco friendly option for parents.

If you have any unwanted dressing up costumes at home that were used as part of the school dress up days such as Victorian Day, Caveman Day, Roman Day, World Book Day etc the PTFA would love them!

Please drop any donations into the school office.

Thank you for your support!

First Aid

We have made some minor changes to our communication of First Aid to parents/carers.

If your child has bumped their head, you will receive a phone call to make you aware. It is helpful for parents/carers to be aware of the NHS guidance around head injuries so that you are aware of any possible symptoms to look out for when your child gets home.

If your child receives any other First Aid, you will receive a text message to make you aware.

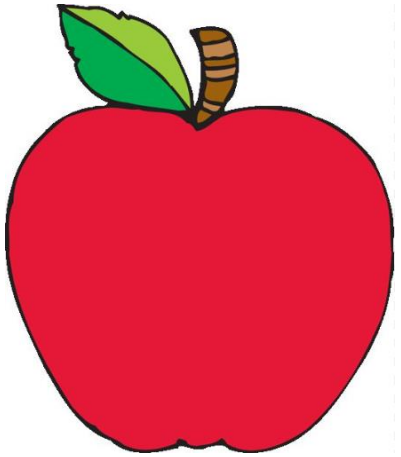
For any First Aid, we will make contact with you again if we have any concerns.

Snacks

Children in Early Years and Key Stage One have access to a fruit snack provided by the school.

All pupils are welcome to bring in fresh or dried whole fruits for a breaktime snack. Please note that we do not allow other snacks due to the need to manage allergens in school. Please ensure no form of nuts are sent to school either as a snack or as part of a packed lunch.

Thank you for your support.



Family Support

As the Christmas break gets closer, we wanted to share with you some Coventry based provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities aged 0 - 19.

There are a range of activities on offer: Stay and Play, Dance sessions with Alexis from Off Balance Dance, and a private Santa's Grotto Experience. All these activities are suitable for the whole family.

LADYBUG LODGE

CHRISTMAS PROVISION

Ladybug Lodge are incredibly excited to host a range of activities over the Christmas Break!
All activities must be booked separately, families are welcome to book as many dates as they wish!

All sessions hosted at: Tiverton School, Ashington Grove Whitley, CV3 4DE

SANTA'S GROTTO

Christmas Activity sessions for all ages with private Santa's Grotto Family Experience! Access to Sensory Room, Soft Play, Indoor Swing and a range of activities

Session 1	9:45am - 11:15am
Session 2	11:45am - 1:15pm
Session 3	1:45pm - 3:15pm
Session 4	3:45pm - 5:15pm

Saturday 21st December 2024

STAY AND PLAY

Sensory Stay and Play for the whole family
Access to Sensory Room, Soft Play, Indoor Swing, and a range of activities

Thursday 2nd January 2025
Friday 3rd January 2025

DANCE

Small group and 1:1 sessions hosted by Alexis from Off Balance Dance.
SEN Children only

Thursday 2nd January 2025
Friday 3rd January 2025

Advance booking via the website is essential via QR code link or web address below

www.ladybuglodge.co.uk/activities/holiday

SUITABLE FOR AGES 0 – 19

PLEASE NOTE: All sessions require an upfront donation which can be made payable via the website.

Charity Number: 1207790 info@ladybuglodge.co.uk 07301 680835 www.ladybuglodge.co.uk

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