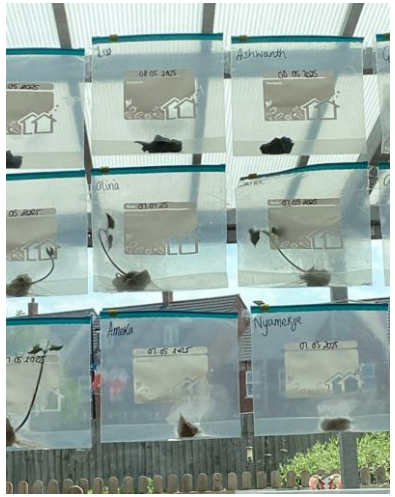
Weekly Learning Update

23rd May 2025

Nursery

This week, we have taken part in Science Week; we have been doing a range of science experiments to test and challenge our predictions and knowledge. The children have enjoyed taking part in these and have shown great passion for experiencing new things!

Along with the rest of the school, we also had a visit from some police officers who came to share their scheme of 'clever never goes' and promote the children's understanding around danger and discover ways they can keep themselves safe if needed.



Clever never goes!

Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

It has been a fabulous final week of our first summer half term. Whilst it has only been four weeks, a lot has been achieved and fitted in!

On Tuesday, we enjoyed celebrating and learning about Science, during Science week. The Reception children attended an animal workshop, where they learnt facts and had the opportunity to look and touch a range of animals including snakes, skunks and tarantulas! The children showed real growth and even with some big feelings, everyone engaged well. Even the teachers showed growth and handled the pets!

English:

We continued to create our whole class story maps, retelling the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle. We have also been writing sentences linked to the days of the week, the quantity that was eaten and that the caterpillar was still hungry!

Phonics:

We have continued focusing on Phase 4 phonics. The blending focus has been 'sk' and 'xt'.

Maths:

We have extended our learning to focus on the concept of sharing. This is developing on the skills taught last week of halving. Sharing is splitting and separating quantities between 2 or more. There have been lots of opportunities to explore sharing using practical representation.

Continuous Provision:

The children have enjoyed accessing a range of areas including measurement and exploring height in the Investigation Area, embedding sharing skills with a teddy bears' picnic in the Small World Area and enjoying making a recipe and then creating their very own fruit kebabs, which they enjoyed eating!

Parks Class were so excited to complete their Celebration Collective Worship on Friday. Thank you everyone for your support; it was great to see so many parents and carers attend.

Dates coming up:

King Class Celebration Collective Worship will be on **Friday 13th June.**

We hope everyone has a wonderful and restful half term. We look forward to seeing you all on Monday 2nd June.

Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

Year 1 have had the best week, full of joy, fun and amazing learning experiences!

On Tuesday, we visited Mud and Moos Farm to learn more about the animals there as part of Science Week. We saw sheep, cows, donkeys and a shetland pony! We found out about how they're looked after, what they like to eat, as well as some fun facts. We also got to take a closer look at a tractor. It was a brilliant day!

On Wednesday, we had lots of fun on our Beach Day to experience a typical British seaside day as part of our seaside topic. The children enjoyed making and flying kites, splashing in the paddling pool, building sandcastles, decorating pebbles, writing postcards and eating chip-shop chips and ice lollies! Thank you so much for your contributions to the day – the smiles on the children's faces said it all!

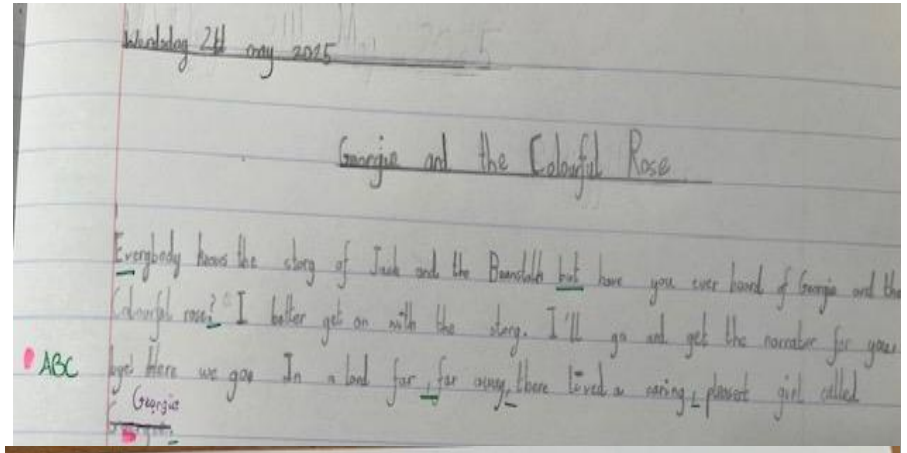
As well as this, the children have also written some brilliant diary entries in English, created collage portraits in Art, shared special ceremonies in RE and learnt about ordinal numbers in Maths. A busy but amazing week!

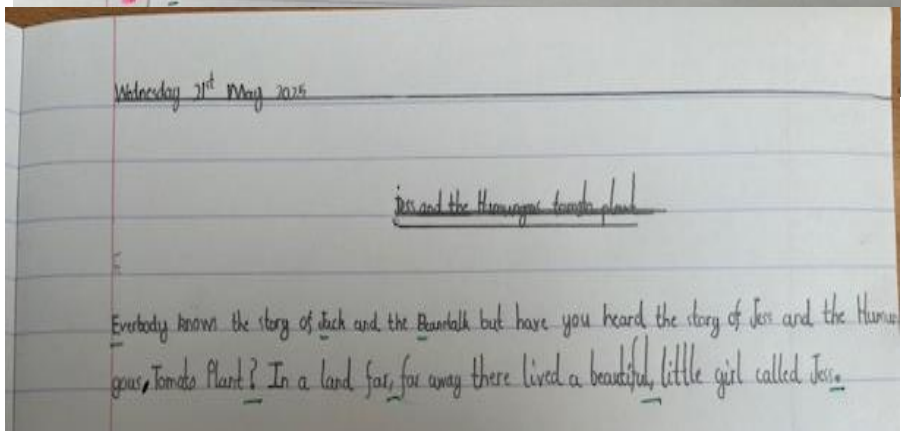
Well done to all of the children for a wonderful half term. We hope you have a great week off and we look forward to seeing you back on Monday 2nd June.

Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

We have had another fantastic week!

English:
In English, we started writing our own versions of 'Jim and the Beanstalk.' We thought about the purpose of a story and what we could include to ensure that we entertain the reader.





Maths:
In Maths, we have been learning to order lengths and heights and solve worded problems using the four operations.

Science Week:
On Monday, we went on a trip to the farm. We had the opportunity to see lots of different animals and learnt lots of facts about them.

Fun Facts:
Did you know that cows have stomachs that are divided into 4 parts?
Did you know that donkeys and horses would have been used to pull farmyard machinery in the past?
Did you know that there is a difference between dairy and beef cows?
Did you know that Zwartble sheep are brown and black?

Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

In English, we have been finalising our speeches and have been working together to edit our writing. We have also used Greta Thunberg's speech as inspiration for us to present and share our speeches to each other in class. We spoke about the use of tone, intonation and how pauses can be used for effect.

In Maths, we have started our unit on Money. We have started to understand the concept of money and have looked at adding and subtracting money. We have also been solving problems where we have needed to find change.

In RE, we have looked at covenants in Christian ceremonies and what it is like to follow God. We discussed the promises that people make during their marriage and how this also impacts their relationship with each other and God.

In History, we have looked at the impact of the railways on Britain, and in particular, we looked at the importance for having railways built in Rugby.

On Tuesday, we had an exciting visit from AnimalsUK, who spoke to us about different animals and how they live and adapt to their habitats. The children also had an opportunity to greet and hold the animals, which was such an enriching experience!

Year 4 (Turing Class and Tagore Class)

It has been a fantastic half term, and Year 4 have worked super hard across all subjects!

In English, the class enjoyed crafting their setting descriptions based on the breath-taking pack ice in Antarctica. Their creativity really shone through, as they painted vivid pictures with their words.

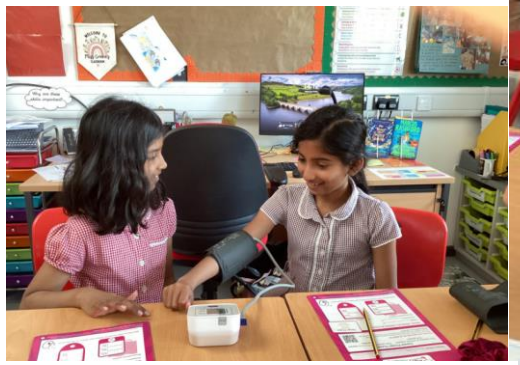
In Maths, we tackled adding and subtracting decimals, alongside completing word problems that tested our problem-solving skills. The children demonstrated impressive resilience as they faced these challenges.

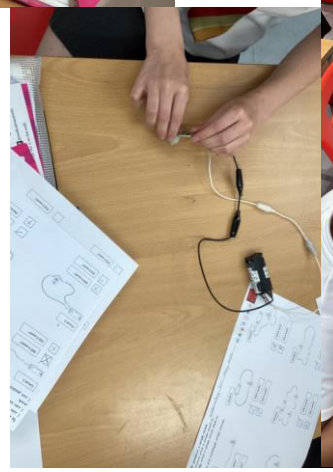
Turning to Science, we delved into the fascinating world of electrical circuits. The students conducted investigations to predict the functionality of various circuits based on their existing knowledge. They also had a blast participating in the amazing Science Week activities, which sparked a lot of curiosity and excitement!

In RE, we reflected on the world we live in and envisioned what our ideal world would look like. We explored different scriptures to uncover the profound messages Jesus was trying to convey, which led to some insightful discussions.

Finally, in PSHE, we learnt about different drugs, such as caffeine, and considered the reasons why someone might choose to consume them. The conversations were enlightening and encouraged the children to think critically about the topic.

Overall, it has been a productive and enjoyable half term!





Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Gandhi Class)

We have had a very busy but very exciting final week of the half term in Year 5.

In English, each child stepped into the role of Beowulf and wrote their own speech to persuade King Hrothgar and his people to accept him as their hero in their fight against the evil fiend, Grendel. Children were challenged to include a range of persuasive techniques as well as formal language to ensure our message was delivered in the most respectful way possible.

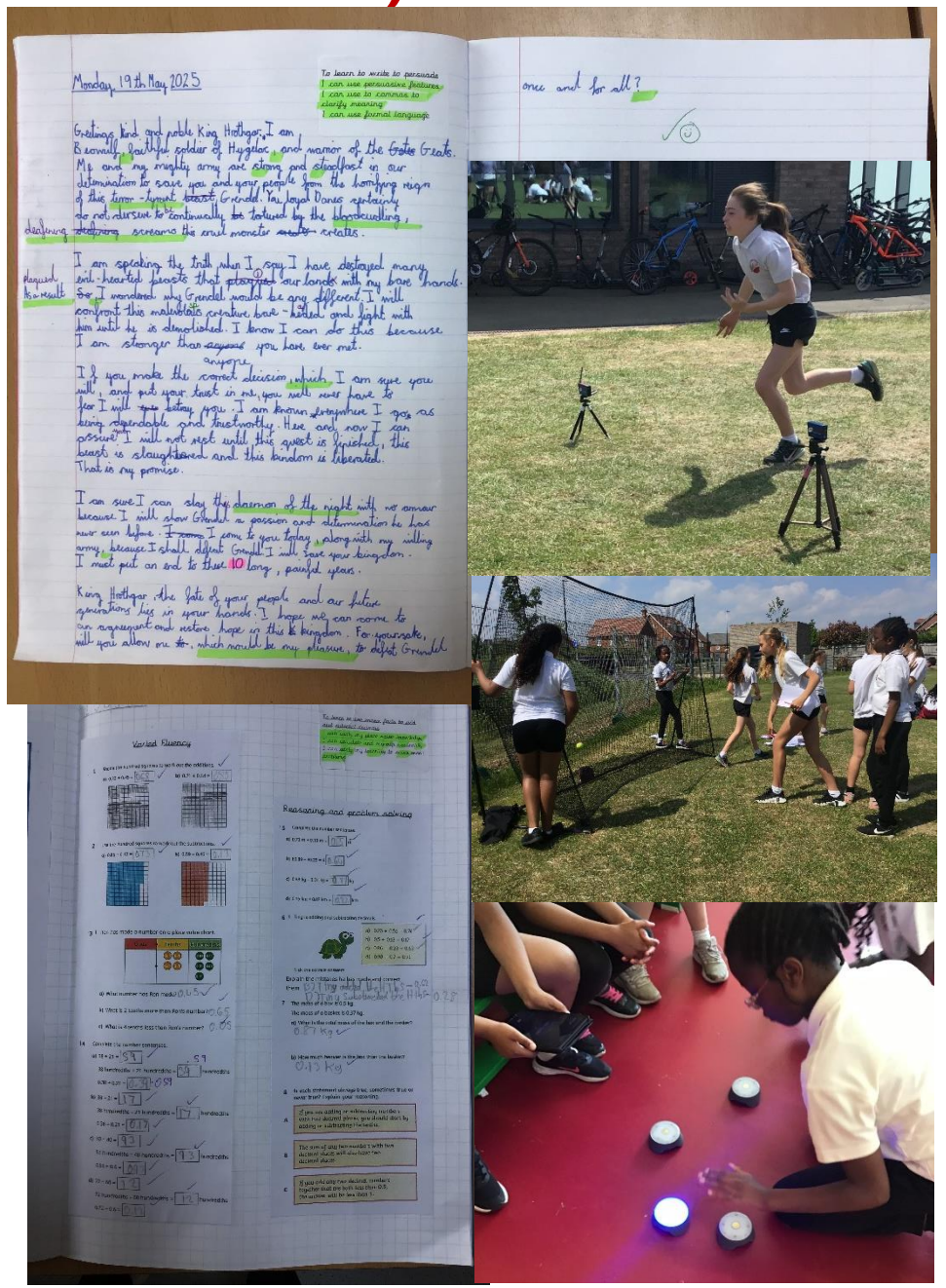
In Maths, we have begun our next unit on decimals, where we have started to add and subtract fractions within and across 1. We have used our known facts to apply this to decimals.

In History, we have researched what life was like in Anglo-Saxon times. We collected information using secondary sources around topics such as religion, people, housing and laws. We discovered many interesting facts; perhaps your child might like to share some of these with you at home.

In PSHE this week, we have explored why sleep is important for a healthy lifestyle. We found out that it is recommended that children get 10-11 hours sleep at night and that turning screens off an hour before bedtime would help to relax the mind.

For Science this week, both classes thoroughly enjoyed getting stuck into two workshops on medical matters and sport. From learning how to take blood to attempting to beat Usain Bolt's sprint speed, the children enjoyed finding out how their bodies fared in many of these tests.

Finally, all children found out their parts for our upcoming production of Wind in the Willows. The Year 5 team would like to say a massive well done to everyone who auditioned – we are so excited to see all of you shine on the stage!



Year 6 (Pogson Class and Ahmad Class)

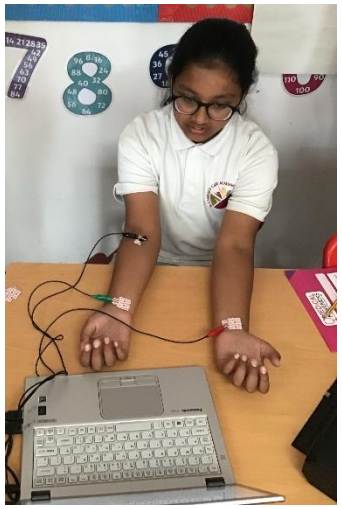
In English, Year 6 have been busy writing customer reviews where they discussed positive and negative points about a holiday they 'purchased'. Year 6 understood the purpose and the audience well – knowing how best to tailor their writing by using descriptive and informal language.

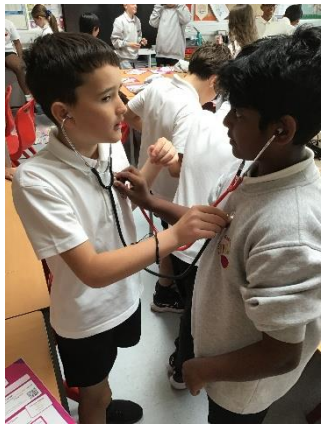
Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed their Science Week workshops with Medical Mavericks. We have some budding doctors, nurses, physiotherapists and sports scientists in Ahmad and Pogson!

In Science, Year 6 looked at fossils from different time periods to learn more about the past. They described how they are particularly useful for scientists to be able to describe how animals and plants have evolved over time.

In RE, Year 6 began studying the question: Do religions change or stay the same? They looked at census data from 2011 and 2021 to compare how religions have changed over time. They then compared data in Rugby to data in the rest of England to draw ideas from so that they can begin to answer the question.

Year 6 have started their swimming lessons this week and we are very proud of how they have conducted themselves during their lessons, displaying our school values outside of school.





Science Week

This week, we have celebrated Science Week, with a theme of Science Beyond the Classroom. The workshops and trips were designed to inspire curiosity, foster creativity, and provide the children with the chance to see how the lessons they learn in the classroom connect to the world around them. There has been a real buzz about Science throughout St Gabriel's this week, and it was clear by the children's faces just how much they enjoyed it. We really did bring our Science learning beyond the classroom!

Collective Worship

During collective worship this week, we have been reflecting on the recording in the bible of when the disciple Thomas doubted the resurrection of Jesus, until Jesus appeared to him. We reflected on how all people can show moments of doubt in themselves, and others, but faith and belief can support in overcoming these.

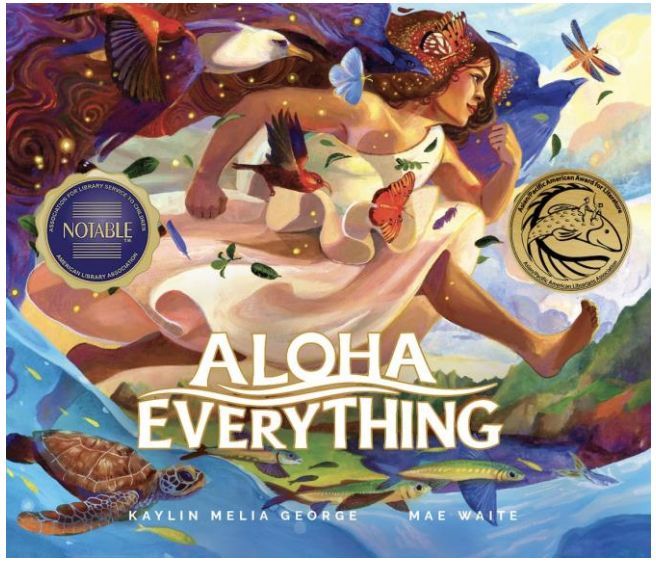
This week, Parks class led our Celebration Worship for the very first time. They taught the school all they had learned about the life-cycle of a chicken sharing some interesting facts. We also celebrated children who received a Head Teacher's award for demonstrating our values.

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

Recommended Read

Aloha Everything by *Kaylin Melia George*

In this exciting adventure, you'll encounter mighty canoes crashing over ocean waves, regal hawks soaring high above the clouds, and brilliant lizards jumping nimbly through forest trees! Most importantly, you'll meet a courageous young girl named Ano who learns, grows, and comes to love her island home with all her heart.



Online Safety

Finding ways to reinforce key messages to your child about staying safe online can be tricky. ChildNet have put together six easy-to-follow videos on key online safety messages for parents and carers to watch with their child. Each video has

- simple, clear online safety advice specifically tailored for children aged 6-9 years old,
- 10-15 minutes of fun activities, games and discussion points,
- narration from an experienced member of the Childnet education team,
- optional follow-up activities to extend children's learning.

Please follow the link and scroll down to access the videos
https://www.childnet.com/resources/video-lessons/

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.55%
This week's attendance	97.21%
Latest Local Authority ranking	15th out of 196 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.

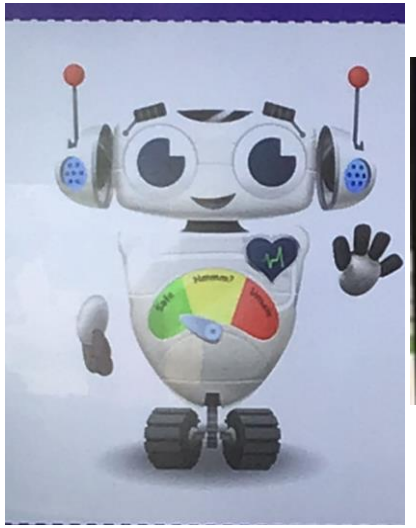
Please contact the school for support and advice if you are concerned about your child's attendance.

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?

Family Support

This week, each class took part in a Clever Never Goes session, led by Warwickshire Police. It would be great if you could talk about the key messages at home too. More information is available here.



OUT WITH STRANGER DANGER IN WITH CLEVER NEVER GOES

TEACH THE CLEVER OPTION AT HOME

CLEVER NEVER GOES is the new, child-friendly lesson that teaches children how to stay safe from abduction when they are outside (e.g. walking to or from school), or online.

It's been created to help parents/guardians talk to their children about staying safe in a simple way.

Instead of creating a fear of people it teaches them to recognise the danger in a situation, regardless of who's involved.

THE RULE:

If anyone asks you to go - even someone that you know - if it hasn't been agreed, remember: CLEVER NEVER GOES

The **CLEVER NEVER GOES** rule means children shouldn't go anywhere with anyone - even if they know them - if it hasn't been agreed in advance by a parent or guardian.

And please remember, children learn through repetition so make sure you remind them regularly of **CLEVER NEVER GOES** when they're going outside or online.

For more information, ideas and resources to have that clever conversation go to: clevernevergoes.org

WHY CHANGE?

Since it was introduced in the 1970's, the 'stranger danger' message has been fundamentally flawed.

Most strangers will help rather than harm a child, and many people that do pose a risk to children are not strangers.

Furthermore, it demands that all strangers should be treated with suspicion, which breeds fear in our communities. This has led to children spending less time outdoors, fuelling a rise in obesity and mental health problems.

Add to this, children are spending more time online, increasing their risk of being groomed. Now is the time for a new approach that creates safer, happier and healthier children.

Backed by more than 1,000 schools across the UK, **CLEVER NEVER GOES** is more practical than stranger danger and gives children the skills and confidence to safely explore their outdoor and online worlds without fear. And gives parents the reassurance to let them.

clever never goes

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER | Serving Hampshire Isle of Wight Portsmouth Southampton

This leaflet has been brought to you by the charity Action Against Abduction (registered no. 1081904) with the support of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire.

Family Support

This week, we hosted a workshop with the Mental Health in Schools Team, which centred around supporting your children at home with their mental health and wellbeing.

If you are interested in particular workshops being held at school, please get in touch with us.

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