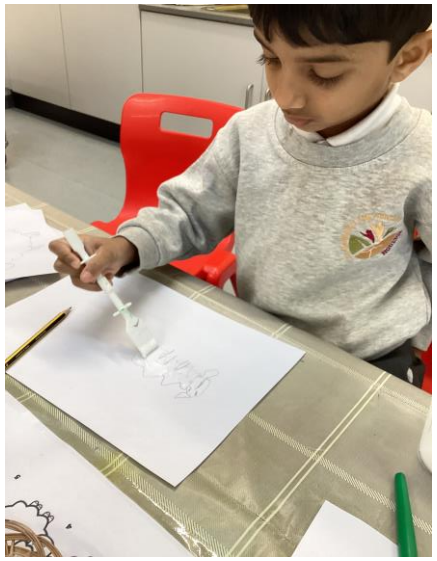
Weekly Learning Update

24th January 2025

Nursery

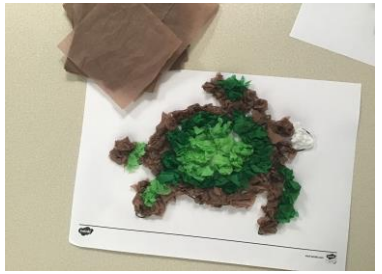


This week, we have been practising our counting skills - counting out loud.

We have also been constructing and deconstructing using food resources whilst making our plum pie. We were inspired by our reading of the book Each Peach Pear Plum.

We also had great fun learning how to make Little Bo Peep.

Reception (King Class and Parks Class)



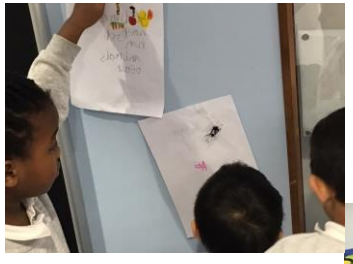
What another wonderful week it has been in Reception!

We had the opportunity to take part in St Gabriel's Festival of Hope. As a cohort, it was decided that we would focus on the importance of recycling and reusing items due to the increased amount of rubbish reaching the world's seas and oceans and creating issues for the animals within that habitat. Children learnt about courageous advocacy and their ability to impact positive change through the use of words or actions. Children spent time learning a catchy song to support cleaning up the seas and oceans and reducing the initial amounts of rubbish reaching the waterways.

Children created artworks of turtles, using collaging materials to represent their own turtles and clean recycling items to represent items that could cause harm, to create whole class turtles.

Phonics:

We have continued to explore Phase 3 phonemes and have reached the end of the phase. We will start our Phase 3 recap and assessing for phoneme recognition from next week.

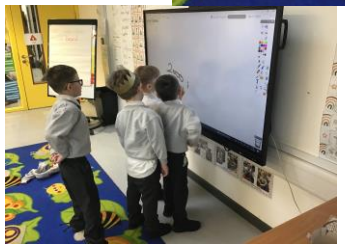


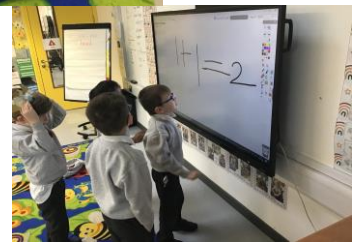
English:

We continue to retell and rewrite each sentence to develop retelling the story of the 'Where The Wild Things Are' and focusing on successful sentence structure, writing a sentence each day.

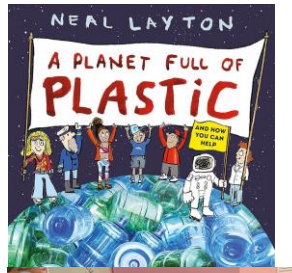
Maths:

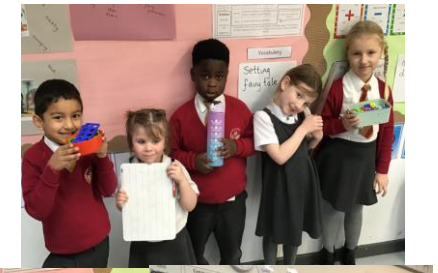
We have moved on from addition over the last two weeks, to exploring the concept of subtraction. With the help of Subtraction Snake, the children have enjoyed exploring the operation of taking away and will continue with this next week.

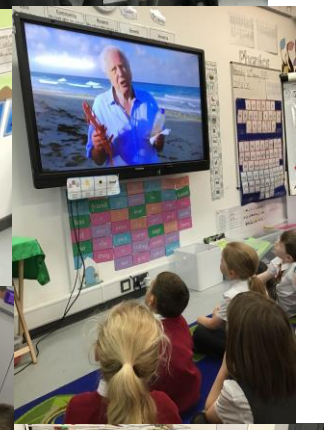


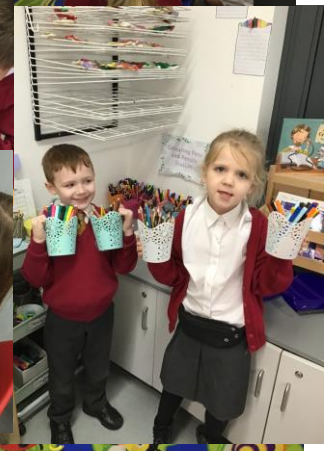


Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)









It has been another brilliant week in Year 1! A real highlight was taking part in the Festival of Hope by focusing on the growing problem of plastic pollution. The children became courageous advocates for the cause, thinking about the positives and negatives of plastic and ways that we can help. We started by thinking of all the different uses for plastic and how often we are using plastic every single day. We then read the book 'A Planet Full of Plastic' by Neal Layton, which helped us to learn more about plastic pollution. Together, we have decided to create a display using repurposed plastic to share an important message with our St. Gabriel's community so that we can get as many people involved and on board as possible. Look out for a message coming home soon with details of how you can help!

In Phonics this week, we have focused on the digraphs 'ir', 'ue', 'aw' and 'wh'. The children have read and written words with these phonemes and it has been wonderful to see their confidence growing week on week. Thank you so much for all of your support at home, helping the children to practise these phonemes.

In English, the children have written their own fairy tales. They have all worked hard to sequence sentences, using story language and the correct punctuation. It has been so lovely to read all of their wonderful ideas and to see the growth in their writing.

In Maths, we have been reading, writing and comparing numbers to 20. The children have used number lines to count forwards and backwards to 20, as well as finding missing numbers. We have discussed the word 'estimate' and the children have begun to estimate where numbers would go on a number line.

In Geography, we used locational and directional language to describe a route.

In Art, we learnt about the artist Giles Davies. We created posters to share everything that we had learnt about him.

Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

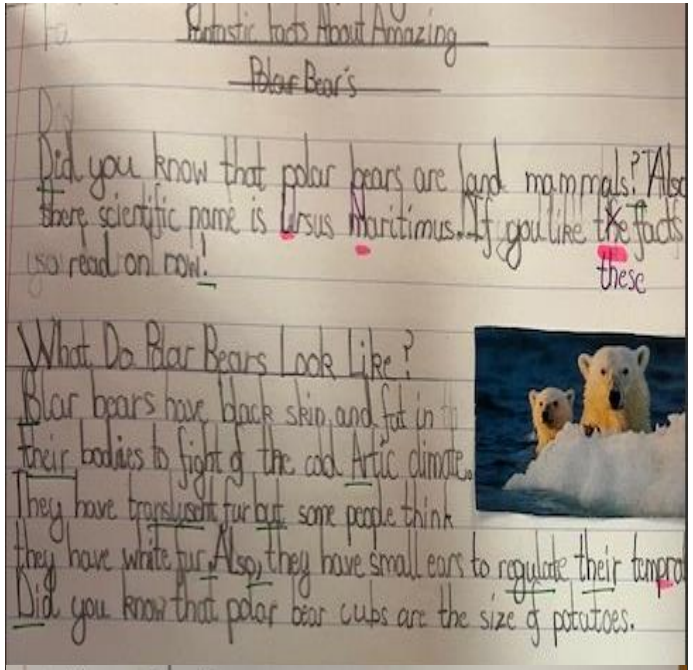
Phonics:
In Phonics, we have learnt that:

-The grapheme o makes the phoneme oa in words like no, both and go.

-The graphemes u, oul and o make the phoneme u in words like son, could and put.

-The graphemes ui and ou make the phoneme oo in words like soup and juice.

English:
In English, we have started writing our own information reports about polar bears. Here are some super examples of what we have done so far.


Fantastic facts About Amazing Polar Bears

Did you know that polar bears are land mammals? Also there scientific name is Ursus Maritimus. If you like the facts these also read on now!

What Do Polar Bears Look Like?

Polar bears have black skin and fat in their bodies to fight of the cold Artic climate. They have transluscent fur but some people think they have white fur. Also they have small ears to regulate their tempra

Did you know that polar bear cubs are the size of potatoes.

Wednesday 22nd January 2025

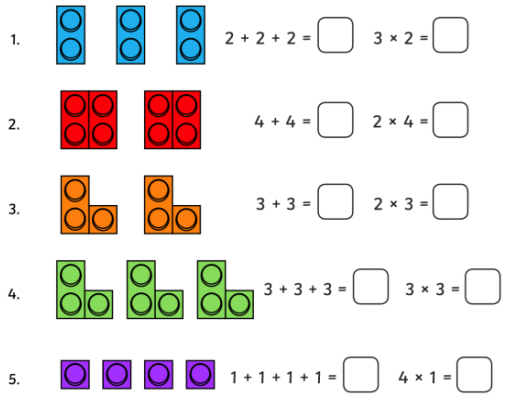
Everything You Need To Know About Polar Bears

Did you know polar bears are land mamals? If you want to learn more about polar bears such as what they look like, what they eat, where they live or some fun facts this report is yours to read. read on now!

What Do Polar Bears Look Like?

Polar bears have sharp claws because it helps them to kill their prey. Also the have small ears to help them to hear their prey. Did you know people think polar bears have white skin but they attchally have black skin instead of white skin. They are the largest bears on the planet.

Maths:
In Maths, we have been using different representations such as repeated addition, bar models and groups and dots to solve multiplication calculations.



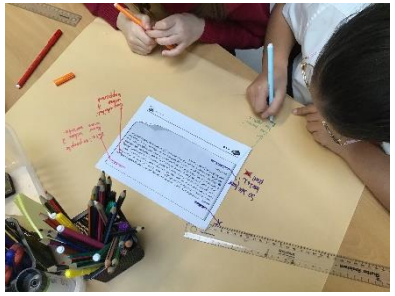
History:
In History, we began sequencing the events of the sinking of the Titanic and created a story map and actions to help us to remember the order.

RE:
In RE we celebrated our Festival of Hope and created our own campaign against racism.

Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

To celebrate our 'Festival of Hope', as a year group we have identified what is important to us and how we can show courageous advocacy. We spoke about Malala Yousafzai, who one of our classes is named after, and how she stands up for Education and is an Education Activist, particularly for young girls and women. We took this as inspiration and wanted to look at a cause which also fosters the love and importance of Education amongst others and decided to explore the charity Books2Africa further.

In English, we have explored the purpose of a diary entry as next week, we will be writing our own diary entries as if we are Tranio, the main character, escaping Mount Vesuvius' eruption. We discussed the features that are included in diary entries and explained their role and purpose in this specific text type. We have also organised and planned our own ideas, expressing what we want to include in our entries next week.



In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of multiples of 3 and 4 and have looked at both multiplication and division. We have been busy spotting patterns, particularly within the 4 times table, to help use solve more complex calculations. For example, if we know 7 x 4 = 28, we know 14 x 4 = 56 because 14 is double 7 so the answer will be doubled too.

In Geography, we have explored earthquakes and looked at what they are and why they occur. We discovered it was due to the edge of tectonic plates rubbing together and earthquakes more commonly occur along the 'Ring of Fire'.

Following on from last week's learning about volcanoes, a pupil went home and created their own erupting volcano which they loved to share with their class!

In Science, we conducted an investigation where we were exploring the question ‘how does the roughness of a surface affect the amount of friction?’. We discovered that the bumpier the surface, the more friction is present and therefore an object will move slower and will need a greater push or pull force to move.

Year 4 (Turing Class and Tagore Class)

In Year 4 this week, we have been celebrating our Festival of Hope. We have shown courageous advocacy by focusing on excessive waste and pollution, specifically focusing on fast fashion. We started off learning what it meant to be a courageous advocate and linked this to the issue that we were passionate about changing. We learnt about the negative impact of fast fashion and for that reason we hosted our very own clothes swap in school (many thanks to all the grown-ups for helping facilitate this!) But that wasn't enough for us... we wanted to spread this message to the local community; so, we made our own posters to inform the residents of Houlton. We were very proud of all of Year 4 as they demonstrated all of our school values throughout the Festival of Hope.

In English, we learnt all the features of an information text to prepare us for some writing next week. We have also created a spider diagram with all our ideas for our own civilisation as we will use this to form the body of our writing next week.

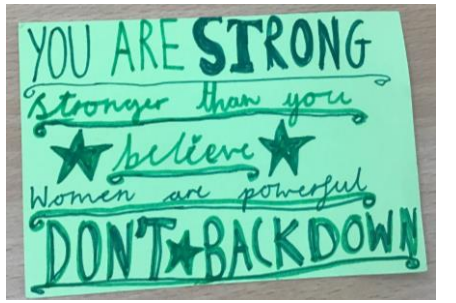
In Maths, we practised using related facts to help us to solve more complex number sentences. We also learnt informal methods before starting to learn the formal written method for multiplication.

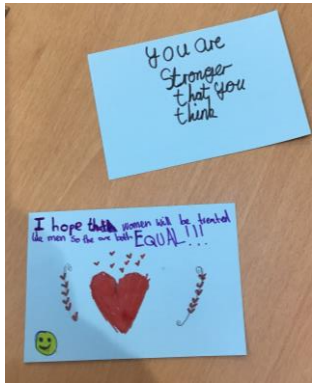
In History, we learnt about and debated the different ruling systems linked to the Roman Empire. We discussed the advantages and limitations of each one. We even used a song to help explain the different systems.

In Science, we learnt how to use classification keys. We put this into practice within our independent work.

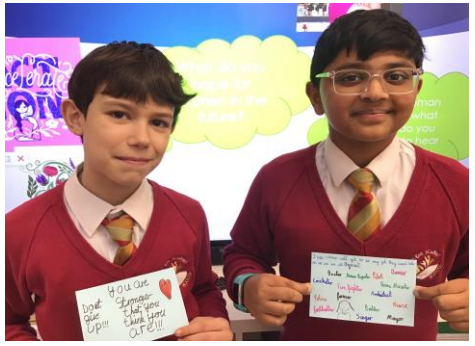
Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Gandhi Class)

In Year 5 this week, we have been celebrating our Festival of Hope. We have shown courageous advocacy by focusing on gender inequalities, which have existed throughout history and even in some aspects of society today. In our classes, we have made Accelerate Action Cards, which contain our hopes for the future of gender equality and empowering messages, which we hope to share with the community to make a change.

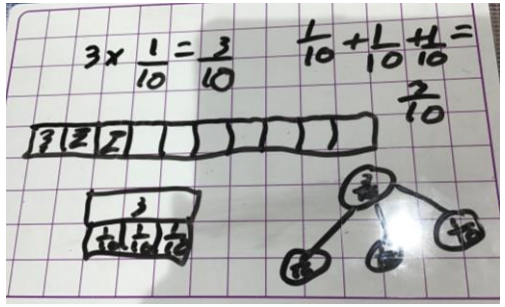


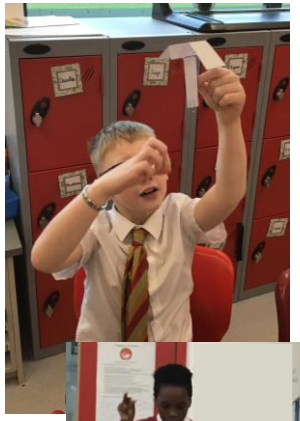


In English, we have been writing letters from the perspective of Millicent Fawcett, who was the leader of the suffragist movement, to Herbert Henry Asquith, the Prime Minister from 1908. We have been writing to persuade the Prime Minister to give women the vote. Within our English lessons, we have carefully crafted our letter by considering the different vocabulary which shows the tone and emotion of the writer. We have also utilised different grammatical devices, such as modal verbs and adverbs of possibility to aid our persuasion.



In Maths, we have finished our learning about multiplication and division and have moved on to multiplying fractions. We started by multiplying a unit fraction by an integer, then to multiplying a non-unit fraction by an integer, and finally multiplying a mixed number by an integer. We have represented this using repeated addition and bar models to support our understanding.





In Science, we conducted an experiment to learn more about air resistance. We made paper spinners to represent a parachute, and measured how long it took the spinner to land. Each time, we changed the width of the wings, reducing it by 0.5cm each time to make it a fair test. We also made sure that the wing length was the only variable we changed too. We found that the longer the wings were, the longer it took to fall because there was more air resistance acting upon the spinner than gravity.

Year 6 (Pogson Class and Ahmad Class)

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

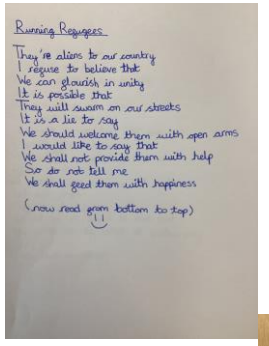
Our annual celebration of Festival of Hope has come around and, this week, we have focused our efforts on finding ways to use our power and courageous advocacy to help combat and challenge the negative perception of refugees and asylum seekers. First, we explored the specific experiences of refugees, as the children took part in a simulation activity. After this, we considered where the negative representation of refugees stems from and how we can help change this. The children very eagerly shared their desire to rewrite and share their refugee poems, inspired by Brian Bilston, around the local community. We have also taken time to think about other forms of Craftivism that we could use. The children have therefore created their own collages, to help support the success of their poetry. We look forward to finding places to post these in the local community!

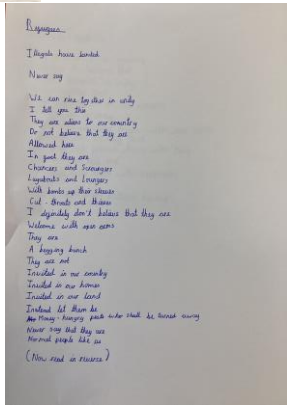
In English, we have spent this week combining all of our descriptive writing techniques to plan and write our own narratives, based on the story, 'A Story Like the Wind'. The children have had to think carefully about how to utilise rich emotive language and speech in order to create a captivating story, which paints a moving picture of the refugee experience.

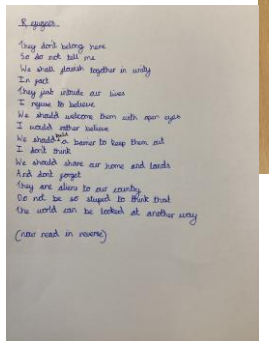
In Maths, we have been getting stuck into the wonderful world of Algebra! This week we have found out more about one- and two-step functions, how to write our own algebraic expressions and successfully use substitution to solve different equations. It has been great to see how the children have grown in confidence with what, at first, seemed like a really challenging topic!

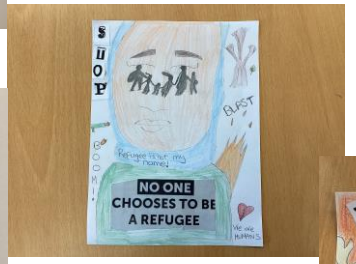
In Science, we have been researching and investigating more about the nature of micro-organisms. Our lesson began with naming three main types of micro-organism, what they look like and identifying how they can be both helpful and harmful. We then went on to set up our very own investigation to explore how a specific type of micro-organism grows and changes over time. Over the next week, we look forward to finding out more about the perfect conditions needed in order for mould to grow on pieces of bread!

Finally, in Design and Technology, the children have spent their time experimenting with clay as a medium for making their Islamic inspired bowls. The children had to think carefully about how they plan to piece their bowl together, based on their designs made in the previous week. They also had to apply lots of resilience, creativity and perseverance, especially when their original plan did not work!









Collective Worship

During collective worship this week, we have been reflecting on the value of Hope and have also spent time with Rev. Steve Gold reflecting on what justice means and how people can positively challenge injustice in the world. The school will be learning more about this in future collective worship sessions and learning about how the actions and teachings of Jesus provide examples of achieving change.

Braille Class led this week's Celebration collective worship, sharing lots of amazing things they have been learning including the events which led to the sinking of Titanic; their understanding of polar bears shared through their informative writing and how to multiply numbers using a range of models.

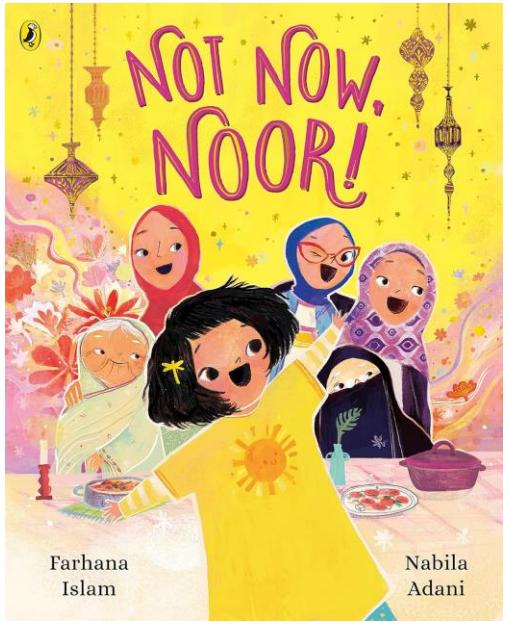
Collective worship at St Gabriel's always aims to be **inspirational** for all, **invitational** to all and **inclusive** of all.

Other News

Last week, over 40 children from KS2 performed as part of the world's largest children's choir at the Young Voice concert in Birmingham. Over 5000 children performed a range of musical hits to a crowd of thousands. The children had an amazing experience and were a credit to our wonderful school. On behalf of the children, we would like to thank Miss Shinner and Mrs Fuller for leading the choir. A special thank you also goes to Mrs Maloyd for managing the booking; Mrs Hunt for organising the coach and Miss Aust for supporting on the night. We also wish to thank parents and carers for your support too.

Recommended Read

'Not Now, Noor!' By *Farhana Islam*



Noor is a curious little girl; her head is always full of questions. One question on her mind is why her Ammu and the other women in her family wear a hijab.

Full of curiosity, Noor sets out to find her answer, but her family are all busy and have no time to answer this important question. Just as Noor is ready to give up on her quest, her Ammu arrives home and knows just the thing to say.

Online Safety

TikTok boasts approximately 220 million users, providing a near-endless reel of short clips intended to entertain, educate and more. However, along with its enormous userbase comes a significant number of possible risks: Ofcom have dubbed it the most likely app on which users would potentially suffer harm.

With the platform reaching astronomical levels of success among the younger generation, it's vitally important for parents and educators to understand the risks it poses. This free guide lets you know about the most prominent potential dangers associated with TikTok and offers expert advice on how to safeguard youngsters who are navigating the site.

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.3%
This week's attendance	96.2%
Latest Local Authority ranking	17th 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%

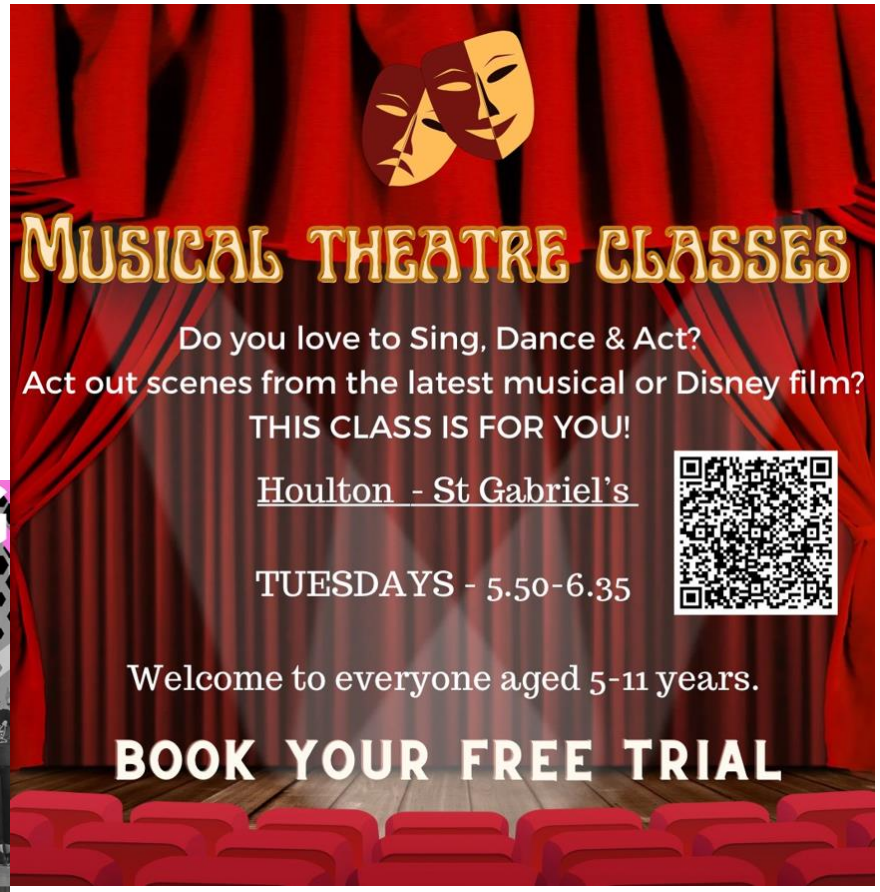
National research shows, on average, children who meet expected standards in reading, writing and mathematics have higher attendance than those who did not.

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?

Local Events



Family Support

Children and family centres

Children and family centres offer a range of activities and support, either virtually or face-to-face. More information and centre activity timetables can be found on the children and family centre pages.

Rise themed sessions

Rise offer themed sessions on areas of early mental health and wellbeing concerns parents and carers may have about their children.

Standing in the Gap

Standing in the Gap is a child mental health charity supporting families with pre-school and primary aged children. They have developed a range of resources and workshops designed to support emotional wellbeing in children on topics including anxiety, anger, grief, starting primary school and preparing for secondary school.

Warwickshire Adult and Community learning

Warwickshire Adult and Community Learning's Family Learning team deliver the 'Understanding your Child' parenting programme. This programme gives parents and carers a chance to explore their child's thoughts, feelings, and behaviours, in a supportive, non-judgemental group. If you would like further information, you can contact familylearningACL@warwickshire.gov.uk.

Recovery and Wellbeing Academy

The Recovery and Wellbeing Academy offers a wide range of courses and workshops designed to empower your mental health and wellbeing provided by several partner organisations working together. Courses are delivered face to face and online via Zoom. All academy courses and workshops are completely free of charge and open to anyone over the age of 18 living in Coventry and Warwickshire who wants to better manage or understand their mental health and wellbeing.

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

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