Weekly Learning Update

24th April 2026

Nursery

It has been a brilliant second week of the half term in Nursery, the children have enjoyed the sunnier weather and opportunities for visual learning within the learning areas.

Our focus this week has been on reading and recognising number. Throughout the week, there have been a range of activities to support number recognition within 5 and exploring numbers out of numerical order.

Our learning focus this half term links to life cycles. Within the class environment, a range of activities have been provided to support learning the life cycle of a range of different things. Children have enjoyed mark making opportunities to explore features of plants. Children have matched placing pom pom 'chicks' to numbered nests. Within one of the role play areas, children have been learning about plants within the St Gabriel's garden centre.

A big thank you to the Reception team as well for allowing Nursery to have some time with the chicks throughout the week. The children really enjoyed spending time with them, learning about how the chicks are developing and having the opportunity to stroke and hold them as well.

Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

We've had another fantastic week in class!

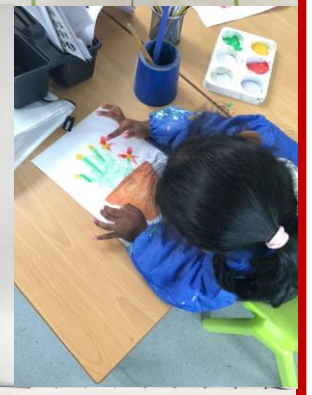
This week, we have been learning to write to inform. The children have really enjoyed writing their own diary entries, documenting the changes happening to our eggs. They have been practising holding a full sentence in their heads before writing and are continuing to work hard on using finger spaces between words.

In Phonics, we have been focusing on blending phonemes, particularly at the ends of words. The children learnt to read and spell words ending in mp, nk, nd and st such as hump, pink, sand and fast.

In Maths, we have been exploring doubling numbers up to 10. The children have used a range of resources such as counters, cubes and Numicon, as well as drawing their own pictorial representations, to support their understanding.

In PSHE, the children have been learning about teamwork and how to work cooperatively with others. They have taken part in a range of group games and activities, developing their ability to share, take turns and support one another.

In Expressive Arts, the children have had lots of fun exploring different painting techniques. They used their hands and fingers to create bright and colourful flowers, enjoying the sensory experience and expressing their creativity.



Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

In English, we have continued our work on the story The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch. The children have been learning all about imperative verbs and have thoroughly enjoyed being a little bit bossy by giving instructions for their peers (and teachers) to follow! The highlight of our learning was following a set of instructions to make mustard sandwiches, just like Mr and Mrs Grinling. As you can see from the photos, there were some very mixed reviews!

In Maths, we have begun our new unit on multiplication and division by counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. The children explored number patterns when counting in these steps and practised filling in missing numbers by working out whether they needed to count forwards or backwards. We also solved problems by identifying which numbers we would not say when counting in 2s, 5s or 10s.

In Science, we looked closely at the parts of a plant and examined real flowers to help us identify these. The children impressed us with their excellent prior knowledge and we clearly have some keen gardeners! They were also very excited to see that the seeds and bulbs we planted last week are already beginning to grow, so we updated our plant diaries with our latest observations.

In RE, we learned about Jewish worldviews, focusing on the Jewish creation story. We also explored the importance of Shabbat, learning about the special rituals and traditions associated with it.

In Art, we have been learning about the artist Vincent van Gogh. We looked closely at his famous painting Sunflowers and discussed the colours, shapes and textures he used.

In Geography, we investigated the features of the seaside in more detail. The children labelled physical and human features on an image of a seaside resort and learned how to tell the difference between the two.

What a brilliant week of learning – well done!

Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

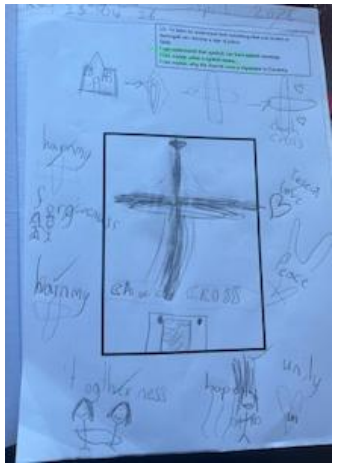
What a lovely Week 2 we have had! The sunshine finally arrived and the children were absolutely delighted to play on the field for the first time this year. It added so much excitement and joy to our week and it was wonderful to see them enjoying the fresh air together.

In Maths, we have continued our learning on fractions. This week, the children have been focusing on recognising one quarter in shapes and identifying whether 1/4 has been shaded correctly. We then extended this understanding to finding a quarter of an amount. The children practised sharing objects and quantities into four equal parts, thinking carefully about fairness and accuracy.

In English, our focus has been on grammar, particularly the conjunctions because, when, as, and if. We explored how these words help us extend our sentences and add more detail. The children identified sentences where the conjunctions had been used correctly, as well as those that didn't quite make sense. They then applied this knowledge to build their own extended sentences, thinking carefully about meaning and clarity.

In RE, we have been learning about the Charred Cross, a powerful symbol of hope and peace that emerged from the aftermath of the Blitz in Coventry. The children learned that although this was a very difficult time in history, the Charred Cross became a sign of forgiveness, rebuilding, and unity. We discussed why this symbol is still important today and how it continues to inspire people around the world.

In Science, we continued our work on Materials. The children selected an object from their tray, identified what material it was made from, and described three of its properties. This helped them think like scientists: observing closely, using precise vocabulary and explaining their ideas clearly.



Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

What a lovely week it's been!

In English, we have been focusing on using commas in a list through writing linked to marine life and conservation, inspired by our book The Silver Shadow. The children collected research and organised their ideas in note form, ready to write their information reports next week.

In Maths, we started our new unit on Length and Perimeter. The children have been working with metres, centimetres and millimetres, learning when to use each unit appropriately and measuring accurately.

In PSHE, we have been learning about fire safety. The children discussed how fires can be prevented at home and in everyday situations, identifying common hazards and ways to reduce risk. They also explored what to do in the event of a fire, including practising important safety steps such as stop, drop and roll. The children showed great maturity when spotting potential hazards around the home and explaining how to stay safe.

In History, we explored Rugby's history and the significance of Rugby School. We learned about key figures including Lawrence Sheriff, William Webb Ellis, Neville Chamberlain, Rupert Brooke and Thomas Arnold. The children considered how each of these figures contributed to Rugby's heritage and national significance, developing their understanding of historical influence and legacy.

In Science, the children carried out an investigation into shadows. They explored how shadows are formed and how their length can change depending on the position of the light source. Through practical work, they measured and compared different shadow lengths, beginning to make observations about patterns and changes.

Malala enjoyed sharing their learning about St. George's Day during our Celebration Worship and they all did a brilliant job speaking confidently, as well as acting and dancing! Thank you to all who were able to attend - we hope you enjoyed it! We are also really proud of the growth that Malala have shown in their swimming lessons over the last term. Today was their last lesson and the progress in their confidence and ability from January to now is remarkable. Well done!

Year 4 (Tagore Class and Turing Class)

This week has been another fantastic week in Year 4! The children have worked incredibly hard and shown a brilliant attitude to their learning.

In English, we have been learning all about information reports. The children explored the key features of this text type and discussed why writers use them to inform the reader. We also carried out research into animals used in the circus, gathering facts to help inform our own reports.

In Maths, we continued our work on decimals. The children learnt how to divide 1- and 2-digit numbers by 10 and explored how whole numbers become decimals. We also focused on hundredths and represented these on place value charts, helping to deepen understanding.

In Music, the children learnt about the pentatonic scale and improvised their own melodies using the five notes. They worked with partners to listen carefully, copy each other's melodies and then add them to background music.

In Geography, we learnt about Egypt's physical and human features. The children had great fun completing a scavenger hunt, locating and learning lots of new facts.

In Design and Technology, we used our mood boards and design criteria to complete our night-light designs. The children carefully considered the user and purpose of their product and showed great creativity.

Well done, Year 4, for another busy and successful week of learning!

Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Rauf Class)

It has been another wonderful week in Year 5 this week!

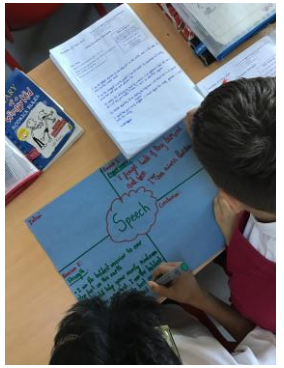
In English, the children have been working hard to develop their persuasive writing skills. They have focused on using techniques such as exaggeration and emotive language to convince their readers. We have also explored how formal language can be used effectively to suit different text types and strengthen their writing.

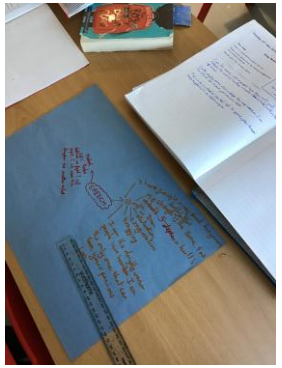
In Maths, we have been learning about angles. The children have practised finding missing angles on a straight line and within different shapes. We have also explored how to sort regular and irregular polygons, as well as naming and recognising the key features of 3D shapes.

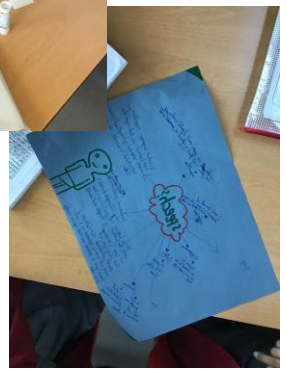
In Science, we have been exploring the life cycles of different living things. The children compared and contrasted the similarities and differences between four different types of animals, deepening their understanding of how living things grow and change.

In RE, we explored the parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders, a well-known story told by Jesus at the end of the Sermon on the Mount. The children considered the symbolism within the parable and discussed what it might mean for Christians today, including how they might put Jesus' teachings into practice.

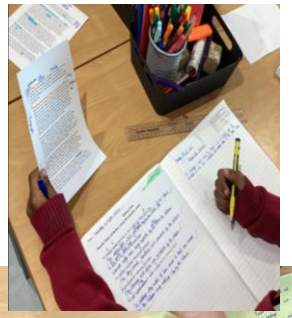
Finally, in Art, we have been studying the history of illuminated letters, looking at where they originated and how they have developed over time. The children created a double-page spread to showcase what they have learned, which will support them in designing their own illuminated letters in the future.

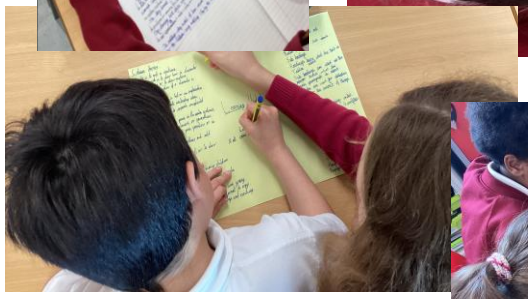


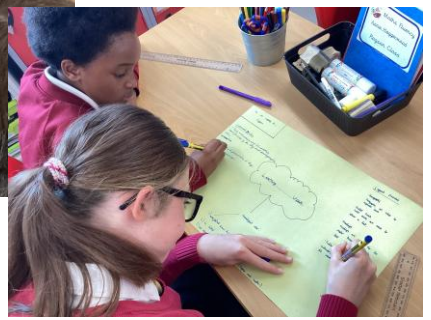




Year 6 (Pogson Class and Walker Class)







In English this week, we have been writing a page for the Learning Update about our visit from poet, Matt Goodfellow. We started the week by writing a first draft, considering how we could use cohesive devices and a range of punctuation to ensure that our piece of writing flows clearly from one idea to another in a way that makes sense and engages the reader. We generated a range of ideas following this and planned our write so that it was in chronological order. By the end of this week, we have written our final piece and edited it too!

In Maths, we finished learning about Shape by calculating the internal angles in a range of polygons. We did this by seeing how many triangles could be put together to make the polygon, and multiplied that by 180 because there are 180 degrees in a triangle. We then started our next unit on Position and Direction. We have been exploring the four quadrants and how this links to coordinates. We even managed to translate and reflect a range of shapes across the four coordinates as well!

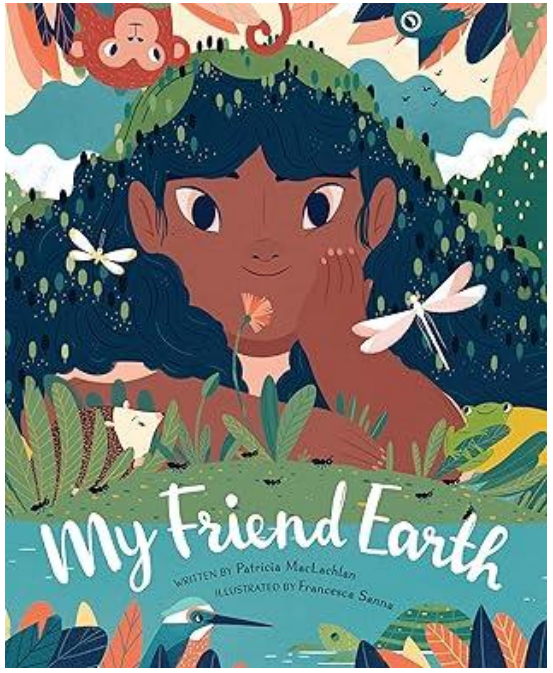
In Science, we started our new topic about Evolution and Inheritance. This week, we were studying a range of fossils, building on our learning about Fossils from Year 3! We learnt about the process of fossilisation, which takes thousands of years. Living things, including animals and plants, have been preserved over these thousands of years, which allow scientists to learn about how living things have adapted over time. Ice and tree sap have trapped many living things throughout history, including a 10,000-year-old mammoth, which was found in Siberia!

Collective Worship

This week in Worship Through Story, the children explored the book My Friend Earth by Patricia MacLachlan. Together, we reflected on the themes of community and love, thinking about how we are all connected to one another and to the world around us.

Through the story, the children considered Earth as a “friend” who gives and shares, reminding us that the world belongs to everyone and that we all have a role in caring for it.

The children were encouraged to think about how they can show care and love in their own lives, both towards people in our community and towards the world we share.



This week, Malala Class led Celebration Collective Worship on Friday. They shared with us lots of information about St George's Day! Well done, Malala Class.

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

Understanding and Supporting Anxiety Workshop

On Tuesday 28th April and Tuesday 5th May, between 1.30 and 2.30pm, we are hosting an online workshop: **Understanding and Supporting Children aged 3-11 years with Anxiety**. This is in partnership with the Mental Health in Schools Team.

Workshop Aims:
Session 1- To understand what anxiety is and how it presents. To understand the fight, flight & freeze response.
Session 2- To learn strategies to manage anxiety in children. To explore further support available.

If you would like to attend the workshops, please get in touch with the school office, who will send a link for a Teams meeting.

Upcoming Dates

Friday 1st May: Braille Class Celebration Worship

Friday 8th May: Attenborough Class Celebration Worship

Friday 15th May: Rauf Class Celebration Worship

Friday 22nd May: Anning Class Celebration Worship

Fundraising Efforts

We are delighted to share that the Year 1-3 Disco last week raised £740 for further enrichment and school projects at St. Gabriel's.

Thank you for continuing to support our community events.

Join Warwickshire Fostering during Foster Care Fortnight 2026

Stratford Pursuits Festival
9th & 10th May 10am-5pm

FREE Online information event
13th May at 7:00pm

Polesworth Fest
16th May 1pm-9pm

Ranger-led Foster Walk at Pooley Country Park
20th May 10.30-11.30

St Michaels Children and Family Centre Drop in
21st May 10am-1pm

Southam Family Fun Day
25th May 12pm- 4.30pm

Foster for Warwickshire

Join Warwickshire Fostering this Foster Care Fortnight

Foster Care Fortnight is a campaign celebrating the difference foster carers make to children and young people's lives and highlighting the need for more foster carers in Warwickshire.

During the fortnight, events are taking place, offering families the chance to meet local foster carers and learn more about fostering, and find out how they can support children in care. Everyone is welcome to attend, whether you are interested in fostering yourself or simply want to show your support and help spread the word.

More information and booking details for events, including a free ranger-led walk and children's trail at Pooley Country Park, can be found via the link below or by visiting Warwickshire Fostering's social media pages or website.

https:// fostering.warwickshire.gov.uk/events-1/welcome-foster-care-fortnight

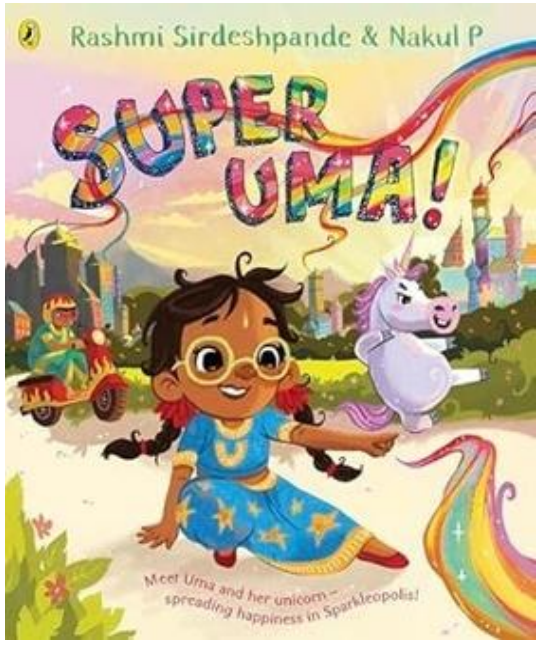
Recommended Read

Meet Uma - the amazing, adventurous, seriously awesome superhero!

Together with her Nani and Chip, her unicorn sidekick, she goes on rescue missions, standing up for what is right and generally spreading happiness in Sparkleopolis, the super-sparkly, colourful city where she lives.

Until one day, the colour and sparkle start seeping out of Sparkleopolis. This must be a job for Uma! As she sets out to solve the mystery, she learns that different environments don't always suit everyone.

Through the energetic tale, author Rashmi Sirdeshpande sensitively addresses the topic of sensory overload and accessibility, touching on the importance of making environments safe and happy for all.



Online Safety

BBC Newsround has a useful website full of videos, games and resources to support your child to feel empowered to make safe and positive choices when using the internet. Why not explore the website to find out more and check out their bank of educational content which complements many subjects and topics!

https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/av/35506690

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.3%
This week's attendance	97.2%
Latest Local Authority ranking	32nd out of 196 schools
Latest National ranking	Top 10-20% 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

Rugby Foodbank is a project founded by local churches and community groups, working together towards stopping hunger in the local area.

Rugby Foodbank
Together with Trussell

If you are in financial crisis and live in England or Wales, please call the free national helpline, Help through Hardship, on 0808 2082138 for free (open Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm, closed on public holidays) to talk confidentially with a trained Citizens Advice adviser. They can help address your crises and provide support to maximise your income, help you navigate the benefits system and identify any additional grants you could be entitled to. If needed, they'll issue you with a voucher so you can get an emergency food parcel from your local food bank.

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.

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