Weekly Learning Update

24th October 2025

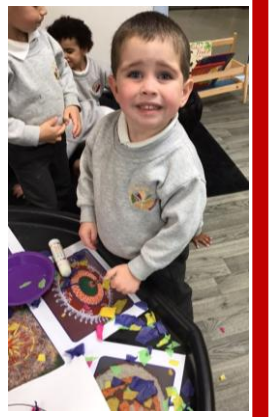
Nursery

We have had a fantastic final week of our first half term in Nursery! It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of the half term: the children have settled brilliantly into Nursery and so much has been achieved over the last eight weeks - very well done, Biles Class!

Our Maths focus this week has been thinking beyond counting by using words to represent numbers, as well as thinking about recognising numerals and using these to order numbers. The children have explored working in small groups and teams this week, to complete ordering numbers. They took turns well and shared the responsibility of organising the numerals. We also extended this to think about numbers as a quantity and began exploring comparing two groups of objects, counting how many were in each group and then comparing which group had more.

As well as this, we have spent time exploring instrumental sounds and the different sounds that a range of instruments can make. We played a range of games to support this, including children choosing how to move linking to the sounds they could hear.

The children have enjoyed exploring the different areas this week in Continuous Provision. Some of our learning has included mark making with paint and feathers, creating saltdough diva lamps and rangoli patterns to support learning about the celebration of Diwali. We have also been exploring constuction, using drills and screwdrivers to be able to dismantle toys and build them back up, as well as being master builders with Lego!



Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

We have had another super week in Reception!

In Phonics this week, we have continued revisiting our Phase 2 phonemes and have been concentrating on blending for reading and segmenting for spelling. The children have been doing a great job at sounding out the words three times before saying the word and using their phoneme fingers to sound out words before spelling.

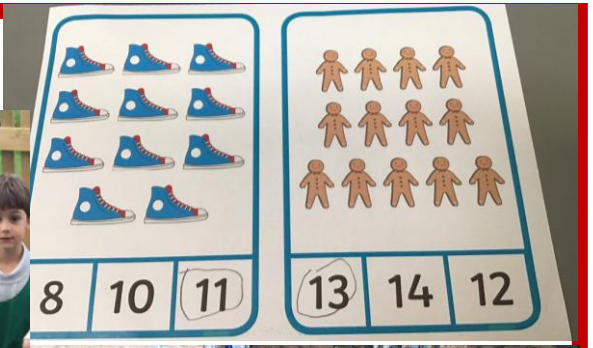
In English, we have continued writing the captions:

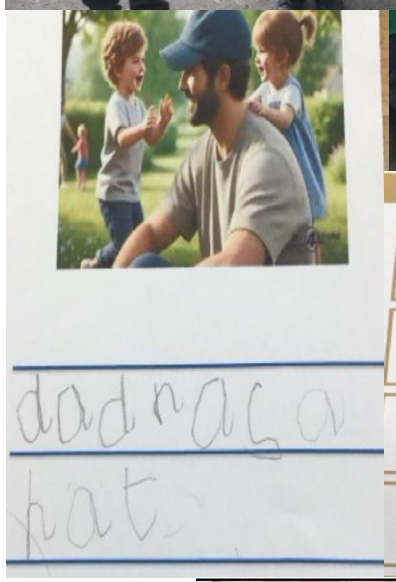
- The mum has a bag
- The dad has a hat
- The man is on the bike
- Sophie has a big can

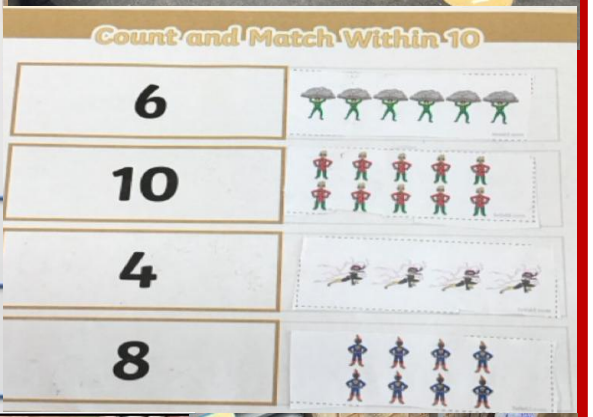
We are really looking forward to moving onto our next book 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' next half term and seeing the children's continued progress in their reading and writing.

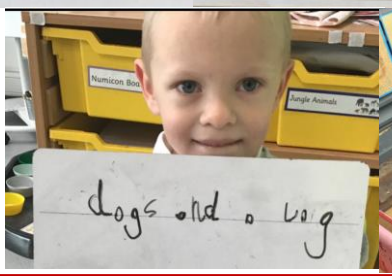
In P.E this week, we started our next unit of Dance. The children had lots of fun learning actions linked to the theme of the seaside. We were super impressed with their listening skills and musicality!

We wish you all a happy half term break!

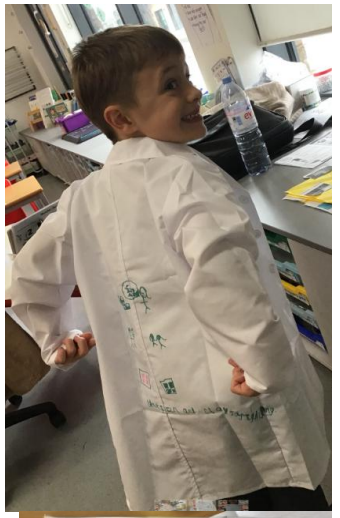


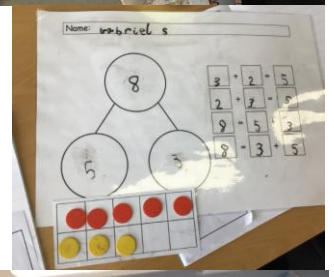


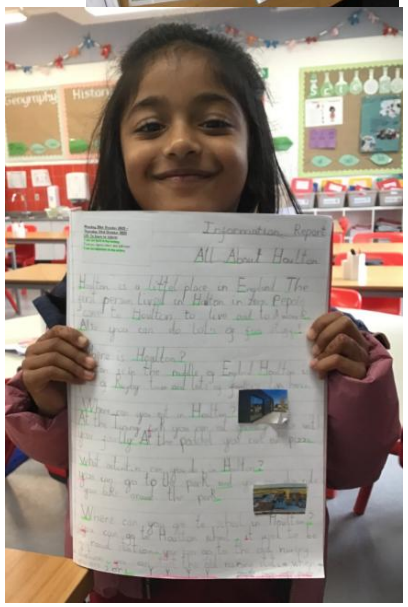




Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)







We've had a busy and exciting week in Year One and the children have been working really hard across all subjects!

In English, we've finished writing our information reports called *All About Houlton*. The children did a brilliant job including all the key features—headings, facts and even some lovely adjectives to make their writing more interesting. They were careful to make sure everything they wrote was factual!

In Science, we talked about the four seasons and used what we know to predict how trees might look in each one. We also chatted about the kind of weather we usually get. The children explained which seasons they prefer and gave reasons for this using different weather as an example.

We've been exploring part-part-whole models in Maths and using addition to show how two parts make a whole. We also learned the word 'commutative' which means you can swap the numbers around in an addition number sentence and still get the same answer. The children really enjoyed testing this out with different number sentences.

This week, in Geography, we looked at Scotland and Northern Ireland. We learned about some famous landmarks and key features of each country. The children were especially interested in the Titanic and its connection to Belfast!

In RE, we continued learning about Hinduism. We talked about what it's like to worship in a mandir and discussed the Hindu idea of karma. The children asked some thoughtful questions and showed a lot of respect for different worldviews.

In our PSHE lesson, we read *Ruby's Worry* and had a lovely discussion about what we can do if we feel worried—or if someone else does. The children came up with some really kind and helpful ideas.

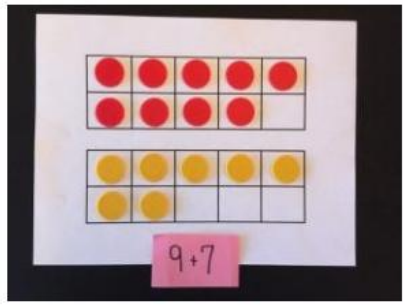
What a great end to a brilliant first half term in year one. Thank you for all your support and we wish you a wonderful half term break!

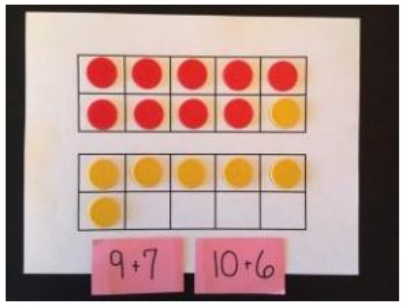
If you'd like to keep the learning going, you could:

- Ask your child to share a fact about Houlton or one of the countries we've studied.
- Go on a walk and talk about how trees change with the seasons.
- Try some simple addition number sentences and see if they can swap the numbers around!

Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

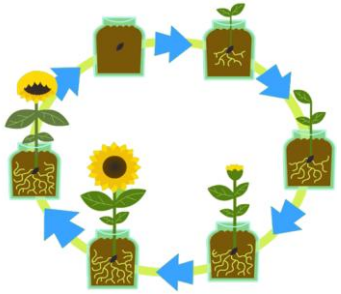
As we come to the end of a truly wonderful term, we wanted to take a moment to celebrate the incredible learning and growth we've seen in the children. They've embraced every challenge with curiosity, creativity and resilience and it's been a joy to watch their confidence blossom across all areas of the curriculum.





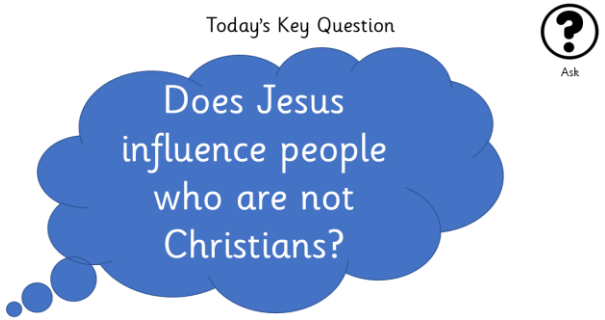
This week in Maths, we have been exploring different strategies to support our addition and subtraction skills. Once again, we've been applying our knowledge of number bonds to 10 to help us work more efficiently. One key strategy we've focused on is partitioning — breaking numbers into parts to make calculations easier. For example, when adding two numbers, we might partition one number to make the other a multiple of 10. This helps us use our number bonds to 10 to simplify the problem.

In Science, we've been exploring how plants grow and change. We learned that every plant starts as a seed, then begins to grow roots and shoots, becoming a seedling. As it grows into an adult plant, it can produce flowers or fruit, and eventually new seeds are made and spread—ready to start the cycle again. To show our understanding, we created colourful life cycle wheels that helped us explain each stage clearly.



In English, we've continued reading Grandad's Island. This week, we focused on writing setting descriptions to entertain. We planned our vocabulary carefully, thought about interesting nouns, added descriptive adjectives and then combined them to create expanded noun phrases. This helped us paint vivid pictures of the island in our writing and made our settings come alive for the reader.

In RE, we've reached the end of our unit on "Who is Jesus?" This week, we explored how Jesus is viewed in non-Christian worldviews. We discovered that in Islam, Jesus—known as Isa—is respected as a teacher and prophet. Even though beliefs differ, we recognised that Jesus is still seen as a model of goodness and righteousness in other faiths. We showed thoughtful understanding and respect while learning about these different perspectives.



Thank you for your continued support—it makes all the difference. We're so proud of everything the children have achieved and can't wait to see what next term brings!

Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

What an amazing week to end a wonderful first half term in Year 3! We are so proud of all the children have achieved over the last eight weeks and how well they have settled into Year 3.

In English this week, the children have blown us away with their amazing descriptions of the setting from The Café at the Edge of the Woods. They have all really challenged themselves to use exciting vocabulary and a range of techniques to entertain the reader.

In Maths, we have been subtracting ones across tens, involving an exchange. The children used Base 10 and their knowledge of number bonds to support them in their calculations.

In History, we ended our Stone Age topic by learning about changes from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. The children have really impressed us with their engagement and enthusiasm during this topic and we can't wait to bring our learning to life on our trip to Compton Verney after half term.

In Art, Malala class have been creating their own cave art by printing. They created their own tiles, inspired by cave art designs, then created repeated patterns using a variety of colours. They looked amazing!

In Science, we have been looking at soil formation. We carried out an investigation to classify different types of soil.

We hope you all have a lovely half term break and we will see you back on **Tuesday 4th November.** A reminder that this will be a PE day for Year 3, so please send them in their PE kit. We also have our exciting trip during the first week back – we can't wait!

Year 4 (Tagore Class and Turing Class)

It has been a brilliant last week of our first half term! We cannot believe how quickly the term has flown by. Everyone has settled into Year 4 brilliantly and we hope you all enjoy a well-deserved week off.

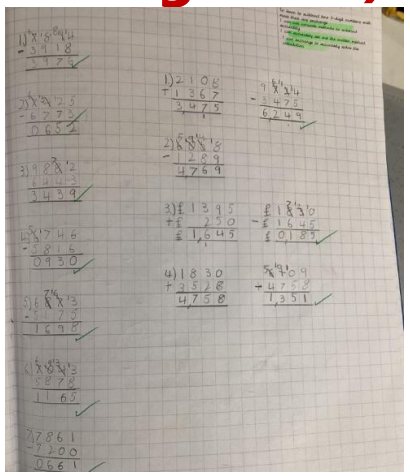
In English, we focused on creating our persuasive posters aimed at enticing people to visit the fair, which linked beautifully with our text. Year 4 produced eye-catching designs and employed a variety of persuasive devices, including rhetorical questions to capture attention. We also spent time editing and proofreading our posters to ensure they were grammatically correct.

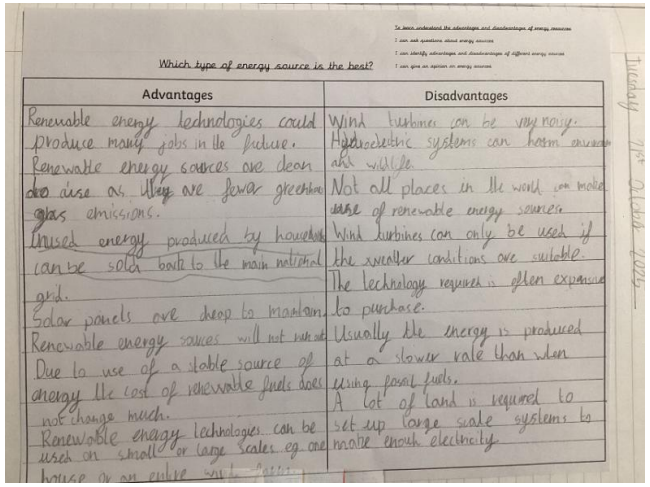
In Maths, we tackled subtraction using the column method, which proved to be an efficient technique. We integrated estimation to help us work out answers to some tricky questions, which really enhanced our problem-solving skills.

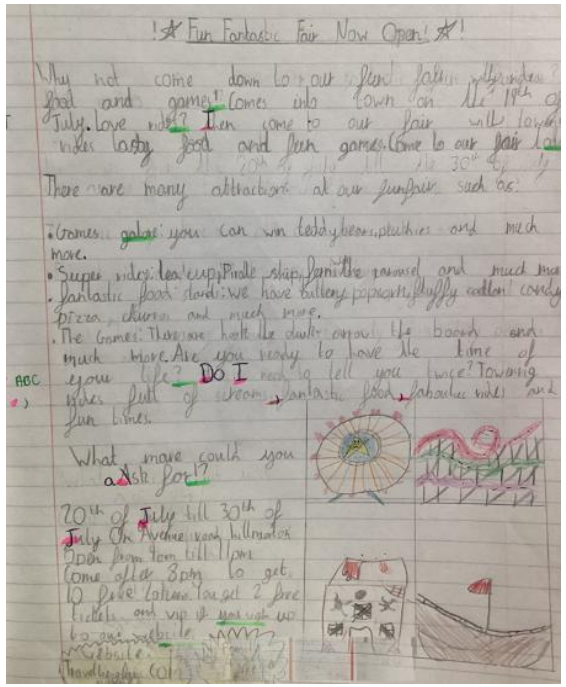
In Geography, we applied our knowledge regarding renewable and non-renewable energy sources to investigate the advantages and disadvantages of each type, fostering a deeper understanding of their impacts on our world.

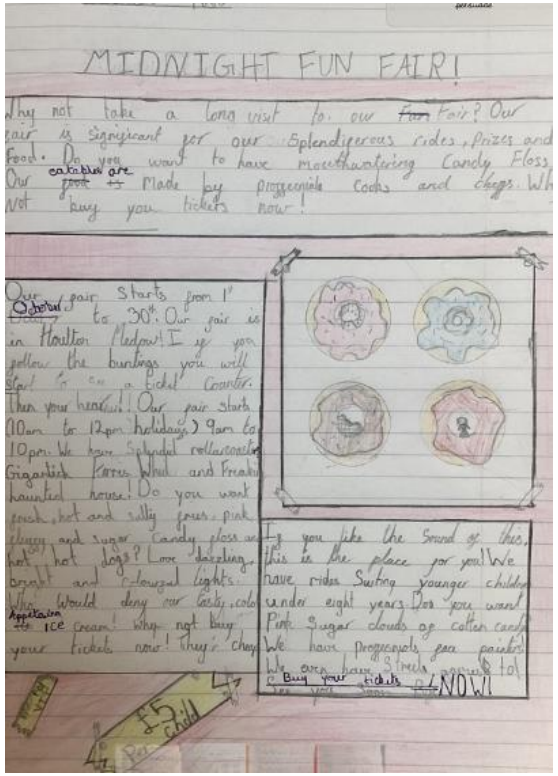
Lastly, in Science, we reviewed our learning through a fun quiz, after which we crafted our own independent quizzes to share with classmates.

It's been a fantastic week and we can't wait to see you all back, refreshed and ready for the next term!









Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Rauf Class)

In Maths, we've been building on our multiplication and division unit by exploring key number concepts such as multiples and common multiples, factors and common factors, prime numbers, composite numbers and square numbers.
Throughout these lessons, we've found that our times tables knowledge has been incredibly valuable. We discussed how being able to recall multiplication facts quickly and accurately allows us to concentrate more on the deeper mathematical thinking required in each topic.

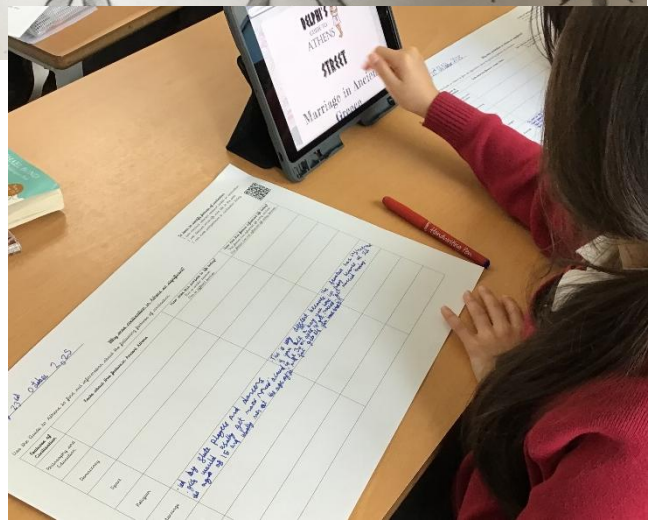
In English, we've thoroughly enjoyed writing our suspense stories! We brought together all the techniques we've explored throughout the unit, such as prepositional phrases and adverbial phrases, to build tension and atmosphere in our writing. A key focus was learning how to show, rather than tell, how our characters were feeling, using descriptive language and subtle clues to draw the reader in and create suspense. It was fantastic to see everyone applying their skills.

In Art, we completed our final sketches linked to Aesop. We added detail, texture, tone, shape and depth using difference hardness of pencils.

In History, we conducted research to find out what life was like in Ancient Athens. We then compared this to life today.

Also, in PSHE, we talked about conflicts that can occur within friendships and how we can resolve this.

We hope you all have a restful half term break and look forward seeing the children back in Autumn 2!



Year 6 (Pogson Class and Walker Class)

What a fantastic end to our first half term! We are so proud of how well the children have settled into Year 6 and how hard they have worked.

In English, we have written a prologue for *Macbeth*. We started the week by generating and planning ideas, before we started writing. To finish the week, we have edited our work to make it even better!

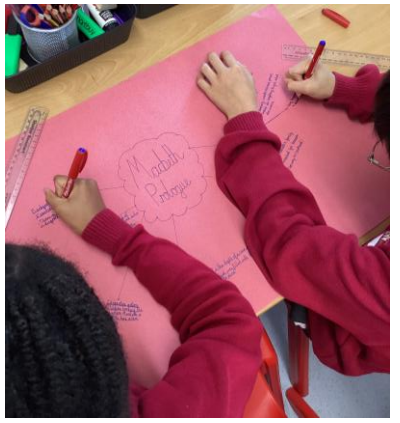
In Maths, we have been solving multi-step problems, which have been a challenge! We had to break the question down into smaller chunks before we could calculate the final answer. We have explored the order of operations, using BIDMAS to help us remember. We have ended our unit on the four operations by using known facts to estimate and calculate our answers.

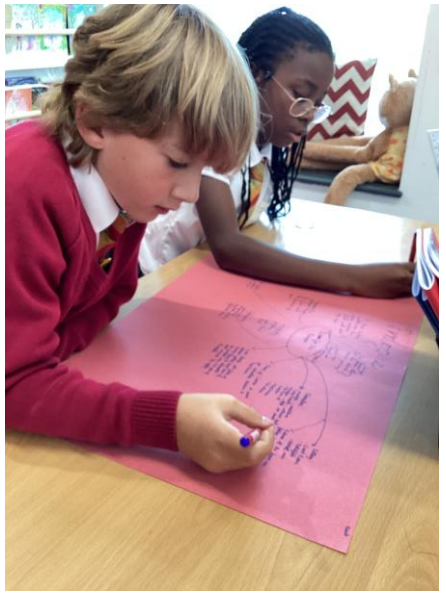
In Science, we have explored the impact of drugs, alcohol and smoking on different parts of the body. A person's lifestyle can impact someone's health and different organs within the body. We have researched the impact and represented our learning using a diagram of the body.

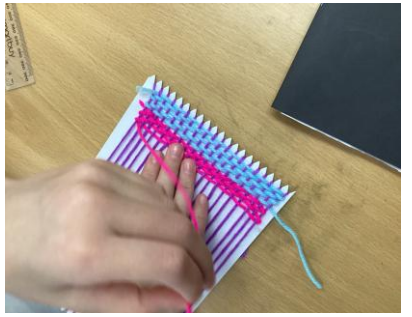
In History, we have finished our unit on *Crime and Punishment,* finishing with the Victorian Era. We have written a balanced argument, considering whether Victorian prisons acted as a deterrent for future crimes.

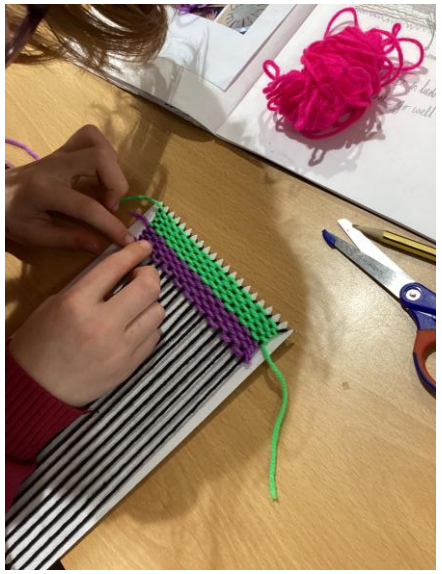
In Art, we have completed our final project and have produced a woven basket. We used wool to do this and followed the designs we created a few weeks ago to help us!

We hope that you all have a lovely half term break!









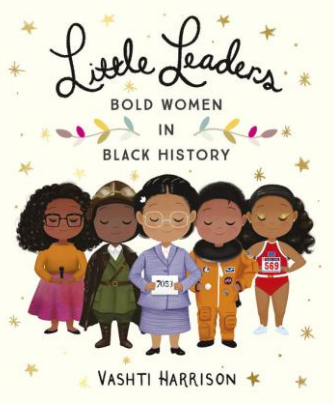
Collective Worship

NSPCC
Speak out. Stay safe.
programme

This week, the children took part in NSPCC's Speak Out, Stay Safe assembly. Speak out Stay safe is a safeguarding programme that aims to equip a generation of children with the knowledge they need to stay safe from abuse and neglect. To continue the conversations at home, please access further resources available to you by following the links.

Online Safety Hub For information on a range of different online safety topics including gaming, social media, sharing images, parental controls and more. **www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety**	**Childline – under 12's** Childline have an accessible website with advice, support, games and activities. Children can change the language, enlarge text and also listen to the content. **www.childline.org.uk/buddy (5-7)** **www.childline.org.uk/kids (7-11)**
Talk PANTS with your children Talk PANTS is a simple conversation to help keep children safe from sexual abuse. From P through to S, each letter of PANTS provides simple but important messages. Download the free resources at **www.nspcc.org.uk/pants**.	

During Worship Through Story, we read about Rosa Parks' life from the book *Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History.* The children learned how one brave decision—refusing to give up her seat—helped spark a movement for justice and equality.
We talked about how standing up (or sitting down!) for what's right can make a big difference, even when it feels hard.



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

Autumn Term 2: Key Dates

Monday 3rd November: INSET Day

Friday 7th November: Walker Celebration Worship

Monday 10th November: Odd Socks Day – Anti-bullying

Thursday 13th November: Festival of Peace and Community

Friday 14th November: Children in Need and Pogson Celebration Worship

Thursday 20th November: Year 5 & 6 Reading Event

Friday 21st November: Malala Celebration Worship

Thursday 27th November: Wreath Making Workshop

Friday 28th November: Tagore Celebration Worship

Thursday 4th December: Christmas Fair

Friday 5th December: Braille Celebration Worship

Wednesday 10th December: Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner Day

Friday 12th December: Attenborough Celebration Worship

Tuesday 16th December: Nursery and Reception Nativity

Wednesday 17th December: KS1 Nativity

More information will be shared closer to each event.

Uniform Shop

Thank you for supporting our uniform shop by donating or purchasing clothes.

£182 was raised at the event, which will contribute towards Year 6's celebrations this year!

Please continue to donate any clean, pre-loved uniform to the office for future uniform shops.

Community Events

We are accepting donations of pre-loved items, in good condition, to be sold on the day, including:

- Books (for all ages)
- Toys
- School uniform

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.

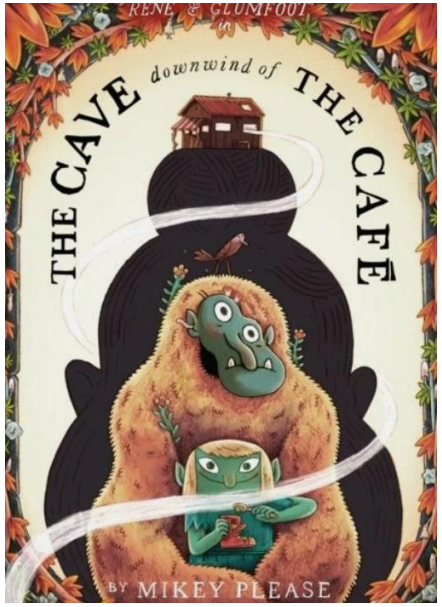
Thank you in advance for supporting our fundraising efforts, which will contribute towards enrichment opportunities for the children. For more information, or to offer your support, please contact office@stgabrielscofeacademy.org.

Recommended Read

Following on from the wonderful 'The Café at the Edge of the Woods' comes another brilliantly disgusting story about hungry bellies, bogey broth and human-eating ogres from the award-winning author Mikey Please.

Every night, Glumfoot dreams of delicious meals and every night he is served the same thing: his dad's bogey broth. He is overjoyed one day to discover the new café at the edge of the woods but when one very hungry ogre decides he'll eat the owner, it's down to Glumfoot to save the chef, and with it, his dreams of ever having a good meal.

Rejoin Rene and Glumfoot in this return to their gloriously gruesome culinary world where you're never quite sure what's on the menu, or who the customer will be....



Online Safety

Halloween is a fun time for children and their families but some online games and content may take a bit of a scary turn which could be inappropriate for primary aged children to view. Follow the link below to the Kinzoo website which shares helpful tips and suggestions for how to entertain children safely with technology during the Halloween season.

https://www.kinzoo.com/blog/beware-of-halloween-tricks-expert-advice-for-keeping-kids-safe-online

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.2%
This week's attendance	95.8%
Latest Local Authority ranking	56/196 schools
Latest National ranking	Top 20-30% 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's Family Information Service newsletter includes information about:

- Kooth webinar
- Community fun day in Bedworth
- Act on Energy session at Stratford Town Hall

and much more!

The Family Information Service (FIS) supports families across Warwickshire with information and signposting. You can get in touch with the team by emailing fis@warwickshire.gov.uk, calling 0800 408 1558 or finding support at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies.

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

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