Weekly Learning Update

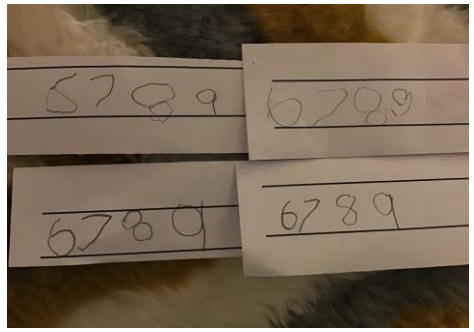
25th October 2024

Nursery

This week, we have been exploring the characters in our key text 'Harry and the Dinosaurs go to School'. In the Small World Area, we made stories using animals and wooden figures, representing the characters in the story. We have done lots of character illustrations and even had a think about the bones humans have after looking at dinosaurs bones the previous week.

We have explored a messy dinosaur land, Harry doing some Maths and created our very own harvest pumpkin house; together we carved the pumpkin and explored the textures and smells of the pumpkin. The children have shown amazing growth with name writing and we have shared our enjoyments from the term. We wish you all an amazing half term!

Reception (King Class and Parks Class)



English:

We have continued to focus on captions and generating sentence ideas linked to a range of images. The children have extended their understanding of sentence structure with the introduction of the use of a capital letter to start a sentence and a full stop to end.

Phonics:

Following assessing the children's Phase 2 knowledge, we have begun recapping the phase again. We are so proud of how well the children have retained their Phase 2 phonemes and are developing their confidence with their blending.

Maths:

We have been focusing on accurate numeral formation this week. The children have spent time familiarising themselves with the number formation sayings and practising representing the numerals accurately. Can they show you their number formation at home?

Around the classroom, the children have enjoyed accessing some autumnal leaf threading as well as creating their firework images as we begin to prepare for the St Gabriel's Festival of Light and Peace next half term.

We wish all children and families a happy and restful half-term and we look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 5th November.

Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

It's been another brilliant week in Year 1, to end what has been a wonderful half term. The children have shown so much growth in the last eight weeks and we are so proud of them for showing such determination and resilience as they have settled into Year 1.

In English this week, the children have been getting into the character of Katie from our book 'Katie in London'. They wrote postcards about Katie's adventures in London with a real focus on capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. We were blown away by the amazing adjectives that were used to describe the landmarks too.

In Maths, we have been focusing on number bonds to 10. The children have used ten frames, part-whole models and cubes to explore all the different ways to make numbers to 10 and then they worked systematically to write these as number sentences.

In RE this week, we continued to focus on puja. The children got to experience what it would be like to be inside a mandir through the use of their five senses. They got to see a statue of Ganesha, smell incense, hear the bell ringing, taste fruit and bring their hands together in prayer. It has been wonderful to see and hear the children sharing their own experiences too.

In Geography, we completed our learning on the United Kingdom. The children created a poster of information about Northern Ireland and even had a go at learning an Irish dance! We have been so impressed with their ability to recall the countries and capital cities of the UK over the last half term.

We want to say a huge well done to all of the children for an amazing first half term and we wish you all a lovely break. We will see you back on Tuesday 5th November.

Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

What a fantastic week we have had!

Phonics:

In Phonics, we have learnt that:

-The grapheme c makes the phoneme s in words like city and rice.

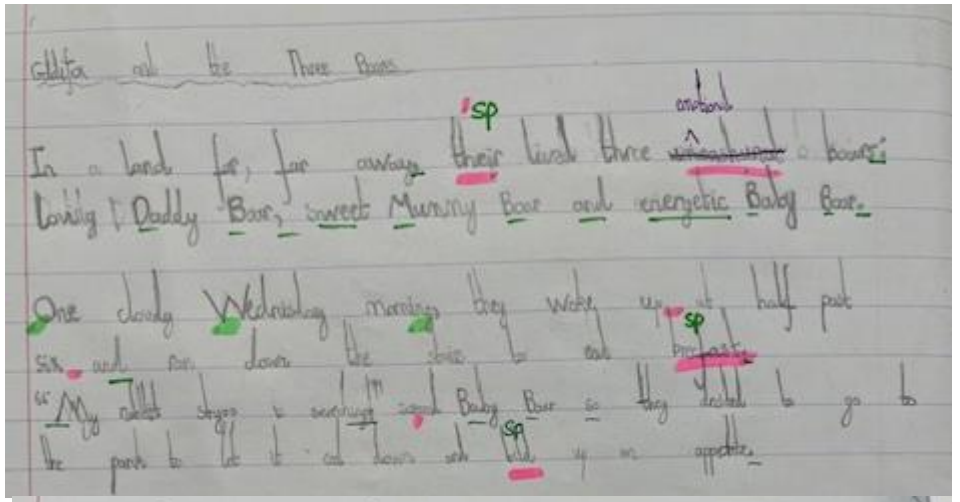
-The grapheme dge makes the phoneme j in words like badge, hedge and sledge.

-The graphemes qu, x and ch make the phoneme c in words like exciting, queue and school.

-The grapheme tch makes the phoneme ch in words like stitch, pitch and kitchen.

English:

In English, we have continue writing our own versions of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears.' Here are some excellent examples.



Goldilocks and the Three Bears

A long, long time ago there lived three Bears; horrible Daddy Bear, kind Mummy Bear and cute, handsome Baby Bear. They lived in a magical spooky forest. Their cottage was at the edge of the forest. In the city there were lots of flowers as pink as a flamingo.

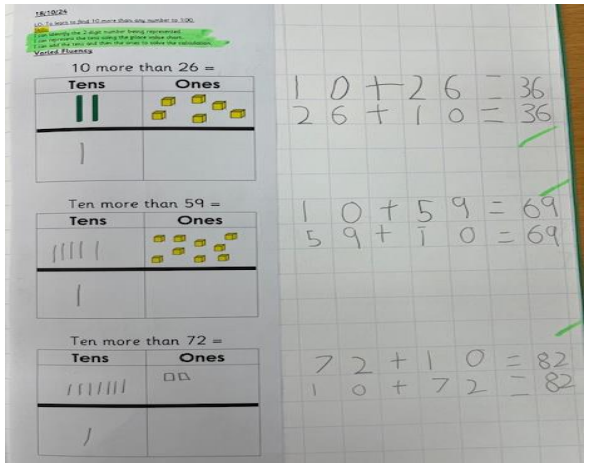
One snowy Friday morning, at 6:30 o'clock, they woke up and slid down their long wavy rope for breakfast.

"My fruit and vegetable salad is not sweet enough!" wailed Baby Bear.

So they decided to go to the park to let the fruit and vegetable salad to get a bit sweeter and to build up appetite.

Maths:

In Maths, we have been adding 2-digit numbers and ones in different ways and have also been finding 10 more than a number.



RE

In RE we learnt that to some people Jesus is recognised as a miracle worker; we studied the parables **'Jesus feeding the 5,000, Jesus calming the storm** and **Jesus healing the paralytic man**.'

Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

In English, we have been writing our information report on our own extinct animals. The children have challenged themselves to use various conjunctions and sentence openers as well as a range of sentence types in their writing. The children have been using organisational devices such as subheadings and paragraphs to present their work in a way that is clear for the reader to read.

In Maths, we have been developing our fluency, problem solving and reasoning with subtraction when crossing 10s and 100s. The children have been using some pictorial methods such as place value grids and numbers to support their working out as well as moving towards completing some of these questions mentally.

In Science, we have explored soil and looked at the different components that make soil. We also investigated different types of soil to see which soil is the best for plants to grow.

In RE, we have looked at how the passing of time is significant for different worldviews and explored how these are marked. We looked some weekly rituals such as Shabbat in Judaism and going to church in Christianity as one of the ways passing of time is marked. The children also explored some non-religious and their own personal worldviews for how the passing of time is marked in people's lives.

In Art, we have also been busy creating 'bones' ready to make some jewellery for our Stone Age Day on **Tuesday 5th November**!

We just want to share how proud we all are of the children in Year 3 and all the learning they have accomplished this half term! Well done, everyone!

Year 4 (Turing Class and Tagore Class)

Firstly, Miss Dall and Miss Nleya would like to say a huge well done to all of Year 4 for a successful first half term! We have already learnt so much and cannot wait to see what the new half term brings.

Last Friday, Year 4 went to Cadbury World in Birmingham and wow what a trip it was! We learnt about the history of Cadbury and how chocolate bars are made. We experienced the 4D cinema and even had a go at writing our names in chocolate. It was such a great day and Year 4 showed all our school values throughout the day.

In English, we have finished our stories based on the class text 'Grendel'. We have put a lot of time and effort into our stories to make them entertaining for the reader.

In Maths, we have focused on subtraction. We have completed practical Maths lessons where we have used counters to perform an exchange to calculate with tricky 4-digit numbers. We then completed mixed fluency style questions to embed this learning.

In Geography, we developed our learning on renewable and non-renewable energy sources. We learnt about the advantages and disadvantages of the different types and had a class debate to discuss which was better.

Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Gandhi Class)

Year 5 have had a fantastic last week of term!

In English, we have been writing an information text about the Cyclops from Greek mythology. The children were challenged to include possessive apostrophes and fronted adverbials to create cohesion between ideas. We have been really proud of the writing the children have created!

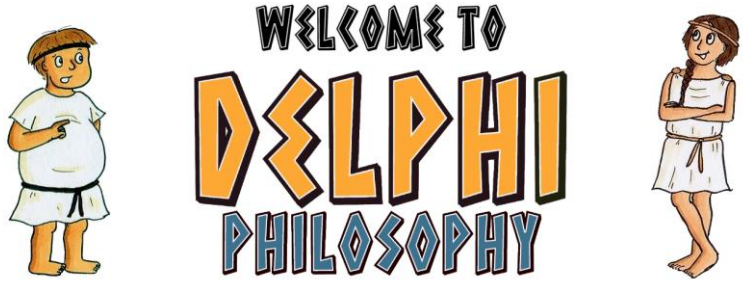
In Maths, we have completed our first unit on multiplication and division. On Monday, we explored how to find cubed numbers and then later in the week we practised multiplying and dividing by multiples of 10, 100 and 1000.

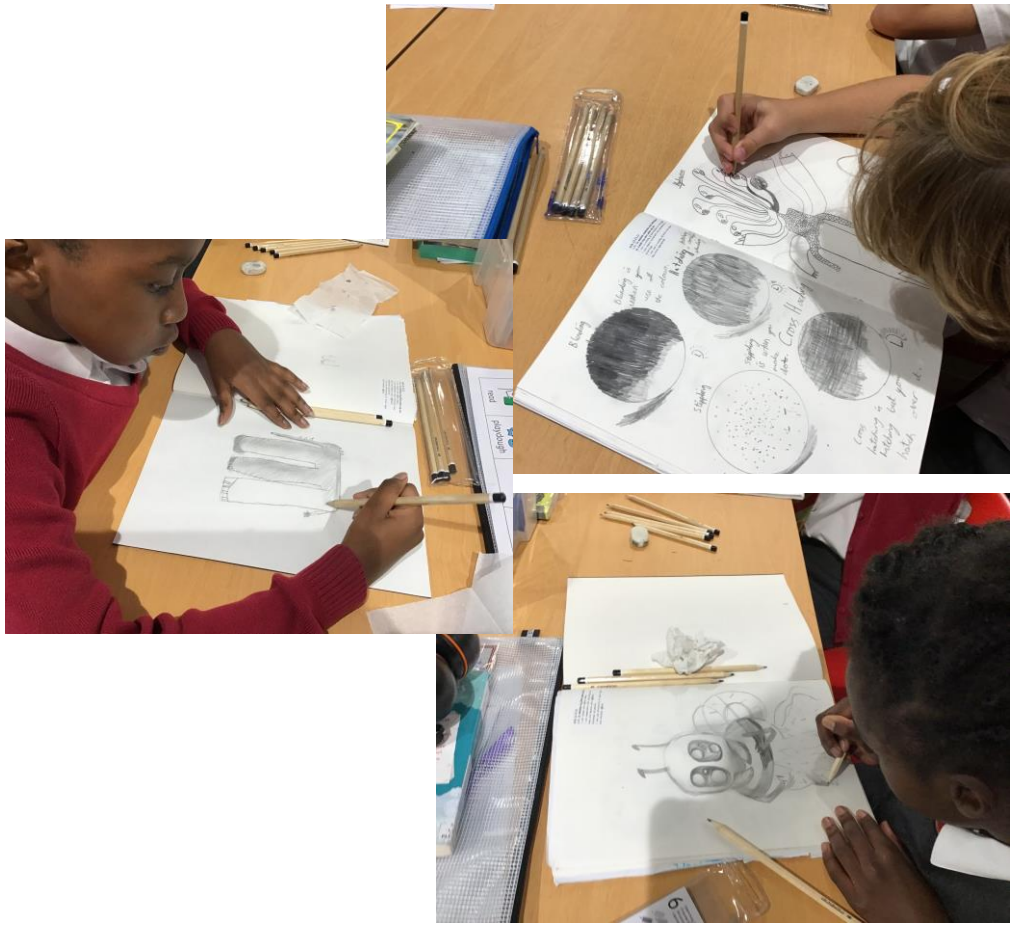
In History, we answered the question 'What was life like in Athens?' through researching various aspects of Ancient Greek life on the Delphi website. We then compared life in Ancient Greece to life today.

In Science, we applied all of our learning from our unit 'Properties of Materials' through designing a pair of shoes to keep our feet warm in Winter.

In RE, have continued exploring the question 'What does it mean to live well?'. This week, we explored it through the worldview lens of Islam.

Finally, in Art, the classes completed their final mythological creature drawing that we have worked hard to design and create over the last few weeks. We applied our shading skills from previous lessons to create depth in our images.





Year 6 (Pogson Class and Ahmad Class)

We cannot believe the end of the first half term has come so quickly! This week has flown by as the Year 6 children have worked hard to finish off lots of big units and tasks.

In Maths, we have completed our unit on Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division as we learnt about how to apply BODMAS or BIDMAS to a range of mathematical equations. We also explored how to use known facts to solve trickier problems.

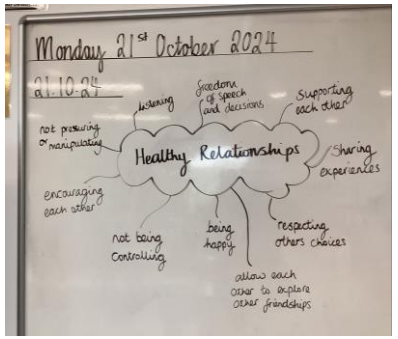
In English, we have been applying our History learning to write an informative guide on how to spot, capture and trial a witch in the Elizabethan Era. The children have done an excellent job at continuing to use adverbial phrases, expanded noun phrases, parenthesis and subordinate clauses to create engaging pieces of work.

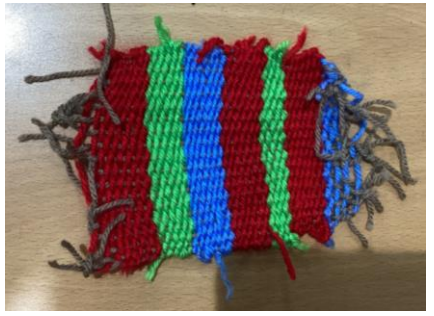
In Art, the children have worked hard to finish off their Tudor inspired weaving projects. It has been amazing to see the impressive designs they have planned and achieved in such a short amount of time.

In PSHE, we have shifted onto a new topic focusing around the concept of Safe Relationships. This week, we explored what a healthy and unhealthy relationship is and the impact peer pressure can have on the people in a relationship or friendship. We looked at several scenarios, within an online context, to identify where peer pressure or controlling behaviour might be evident and how someone could either avoid the situation or solve it once it has happened. You might want to support this at home by asking your child about what they have discussed in class.

Finally, in RE, we have been applying our skills of Human and Social Sciences by exploring the key question: 'Can you be a scientist and still believe about a Creator?' The children took part in a series of polling activities and then looked at a range of primary sources from the Christian, Islamic and Humanist worldviews to explore this question. At the end of the lesson, we discussed the question again and considered how it could be investigated better through the use of careful questioning and interviewing – in order to get a more in-depth and reflective response.

We wish you all a wonderful and restful half term break and look forward to seeing you again in November!





Other News

We received this lovely email this week thanking the school for the donations collected during our Harvest Service. Thank you so much for all your donations.

Hi,

On behalf of Rugby Foodbank, I want to sincerely thank you for your generous donations during our Harvest appeal. Your support will greatly help us provide essential food and supplies to individuals and families in need across our community.

Thanks to contributions from your School, we are able to continue our vital work in supporting those who need it most. Please find attached a certificate of thanks in appreciation of your generosity.

Your continued support is truly valued, and together we are making a real difference.

Regards,

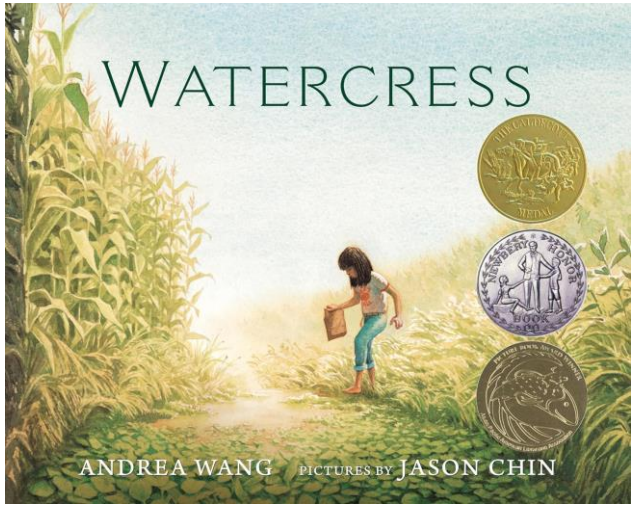
Rugby Foodbank

Recommended Read

Watercress *by Andrea Wang*

Driving through Ohio in an old Pontiac, a young girl's parents stop suddenly when they spot watercress growing wild in a ditch by the side of the road. Grabbing an old paper bag and some rusty scissors, the whole family wades into the muck to collect as much of the muddy, snail covered watercress as they can.

At first, she's embarrassed. Why can't her family get food from the grocery store? But when her mother shares a story of her family's time in China, the girl learns to appreciate the fresh food they foraged. Together, they make a new memory of watercress.



Online Safety

National Online Safety's mission is to make the internet a safer place for children. They aim to do this by equipping school staff, parents and children with the knowledge they need to understand online dangers and how best to react should an incident arise. This link provides up to date information about a wide variety of social media apps and platforms your child might be using.

National Online Safety®

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.9%
This week's attendance	96.5%
Latest Local Authority ranking	41 out of 188 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?

PTFA

PTFA NEWSLETTER

Friends of St Gabriel's C of E Academy

w/e 25th October 2024 | PTA@stgabrielscofeacademy.org

We have released the booking QR code for the Years 4-6 Neon Disco after half term. £2 per person

There will be a tuck shop on the night.

Tickets and tokens can be purchased using the QR code below

If you are able to help on the night please get in touch with us.

There are **just 9 spaces left** on our wreath making workshop so book your space to avoid disappointment.

£30 per person

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

Thank you to those already signed up!

St Gabriel's CofE Academy

You have helped raise

£128.49

36 days left

EVENTS

Full details and how to book to follow

- **Thursday 7th November:** Yrs 4-6 Disco
- **Friday 15th November:** Bingo night **NEW DATE**
- **Thursday 28th November:** Wreath Making Night
- **Friday 29th November:** Hot Chocolate sale
- **Friday 13th - Sunday 15th December:** Santas Grotto at the Barn

Family Support

Here is some information for parents/carers about reporting safeguarding concerns.

If you have concerns that a child is suffering any form of abuse, neglect or cruelty, contact the **Warwickshire Children and Families Front Door (Front Door)** 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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