Weekly Learning Update

26th September 2025

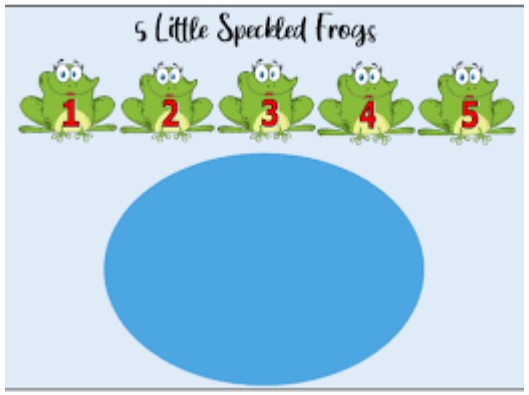
Nursery

It has been another busy week in Nursery!

In Maths, we have been focusing on the skill of counting and recognising the number pattern within 5. On Monday, the children were introduced to 'Counting Chicken' who loves to count but is unsure of the number system. We have spent the week exploring counting from 1-5 and extended this to identifying quantities within 5. The children have gained confidence with counting up to 5 and back down through a variety of songs and practical opportunities.

During Phonics, we have explored different skills this week. We have thought about tuning into specific sounds, listening and remembering sounds and talking about sounds. The children have played a range of games focused on listening to the noise different objects make and identifying the correct object. We have thought about our prior learning within the week and the children have practised their retrieval. They have retained the sounds of specific objects very well.

The children have really enjoyed accessing the range of learning within the setting this week. There have been lots of opportunity to work together and develop collaborative play, as well as mark making.



Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

We have had another fantastic week in Reception!

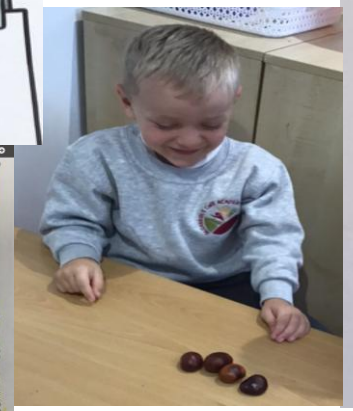
In Phonics this week, we have learnt the phonemes: o, c, k and ck. We learnt to orally blend words and write the grapheme for each phoneme.

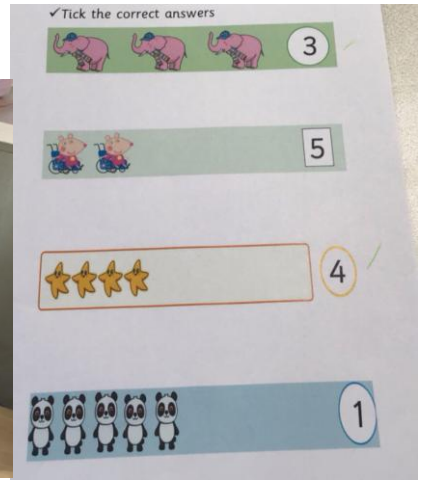
In English this week, we have been learning to write lists. We learnt what a list is, explored examples of lists and discussed the purpose of them. The children then had a go at applying their learning and creating several lists of their own, linked to 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea,' story.

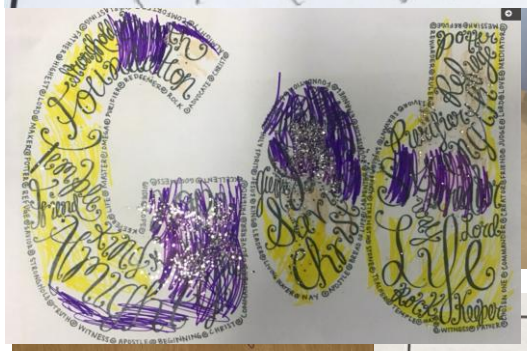
In Maths this week, the children have been learning that number names represent a quantity. They have been practising saying how many objects are in a set and showing this in different ways.

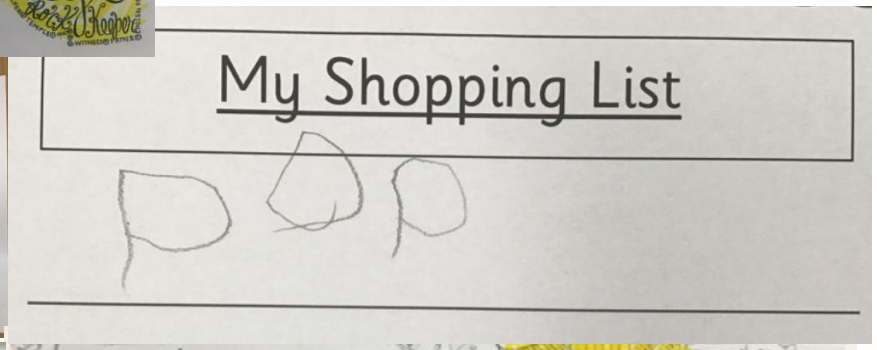
We've enjoyed listening to number stories and using actions like clapping and jumping to count our partner's movements. The children have also been practising touch counting to find out "how many" there are in a group and they were brilliant at spotting the silly counting mistakes that Miss Bailey and Miss Ponter made too!

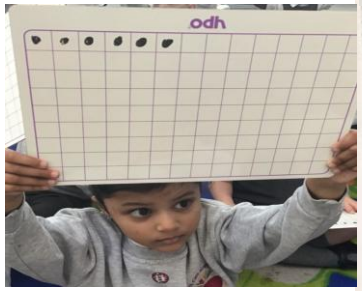
In R.E this week, we finished off our Creation Day activities and have started learning our school vision. We discussed how it links to the value of love and the children worked together to create their own actions to help them remember it.











Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

We've had another busy and exciting week in Year One!

In English, we've been continuing our work on *Coming to England* by Floella Benjamin. The children have been planning letters to Floella, telling her all about themselves, our school, their favourite foods and what the weather's like here in England. They've come up with some brilliant ideas and are really enjoying sharing their thoughts.

This week, in Science, we started learning about the five senses. We've talked about what each one does and how they help us every day — from smelling yummy food to hearing our friends talk. The children loved exploring and chatting about how we use our senses.

In our Geography lessons, we've been learning about the capital cities of the UK — London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast. We've also looked at some famous landmarks in each one. The children were really interested and enjoyed spotting them on maps!

We revisited the story of The Lost Son in RE and talked about how Christians show love for God. The children came up with some really thoughtful ideas and used lovely vocabulary to express themselves — we were super impressed!

In Design and Technology, we've been exploring mechanisms and how things move. The children have started designing pictures with moving parts, using what they've learned about levers and sliders. They're getting really creative!

We've been practising counting forwards and backwards within 10 during our Maths lessons. One of the highlights was a fun bingo game where we explored the words *more* and *less* — understanding that *more* means bigger and *less* means smaller. There were lots of smiles and great number work all round!

We would like to say a huge thank you for all of the hard work that has been put into home learning. We have been very impressed!

Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

As we enter the fourth week of term, it's been wonderful to see how well the children are settling into their new routines and engaging with their learning. Their enthusiasm, resilience and growing independence have really shone through!

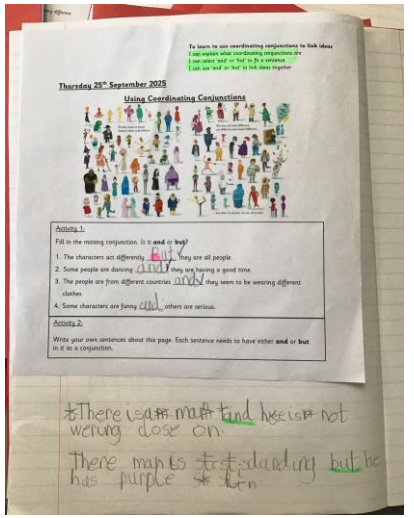
We've continued exploring place value in Maths, focusing on number lines. The children have worked hard to find numbers using tens and ones, count on and identify missing numbers on a number line. We've now begun estimating where numbers might sit on a line—an excellent way to build number sense.

In English, we've been learning about coordinating conjunctions. We've explored words like 'and' and 'but', learning when it is appropriate to use them to join ideas clearly. The children have written their own sentences using these conjunctions, making sure their clauses make sense and flow well.

Our Geography lessons have taken us on a journey to London! We've learned about its location, features and some of its most famous landmarks—including Buckingham Palace, Tower Bridge, Big Ben and the London Eye. The children completed their own maps to place these landmarks accurately, and some even challenged themselves to write postcards describing a visit to London.

This week in RE, we became detectives to investigate the life of Jesus and answer the question: Was Jesus a Christian? We examined clues from the Bible, including evidence of Jesus attending a synagogue. This led to thoughtful discussions about which religious worldviews gather in synagogues, and the children used their background knowledge to identify that Jewish people worship there. Their reasoning and respectful questioning were a joy to witness.

This week in Science, we've continued our learning about plants by planning an investigation to answer the question: What happens to a plant if you change the amount of light it receives? We'll be carrying out a pattern-seeking enquiry to observe how different plants respond to varying levels of light. To support our understanding, we visited the school garden to explore what healthy plants look like. We noticed that the plants thriving there were in well-lit areas, receiving plenty of sunlight.



Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

It's been another brilliant week for Year 3!

In English, we have been exploring the grammatical features of an information report, focusing on conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions. The children have worked hard to use these in their own sentences to add more detail and information to their ideas, before beginning to plan out what they are going to write in their own information report about the Stone Age.

In Maths, we have been using place value grids and counters to find 1, 10 and 100 more or less than numbers up to 1000, as well as placing numbers to 1000 on a number line.

In History, we have delved deeper into our Stone Age topic, finding out more about what daily life would have been like. The children created fact files about key topics such as homes, food, clothing and communication.

In Science, we have been planning an investigation about rocks. In order to find out which is the most permeable rock, the children thought about how they were going to set up their investigation, made predictions and thought of scientific questions that they would like to find out the answer to.

In RE, we spent some time thinking about how nature and the seasons are central to Christian worldviews. We discussed how nature has influenced the dates of Christian festivals, as well as thinking about the effect that nature might have on people's communication with God.

In Art, Malala class have been looking at examples and learning about the history of Cave Art. They completed observational drawings.

We also wanted to say how proud we were of the hard work that each and every child put into their first week of home learning and we wanted to say a huge thank you to you all for your support with this.

Year 4 (Tagore Class and Turing Class)

It has been a fantastic week in Year 4!

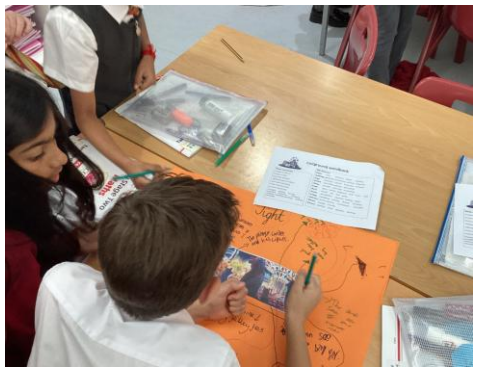
In English, we've delved into the fascinating world of expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials. The students worked collaboratively in groups to expand their vocabulary linked to the five senses, which was truly engaging. We've even planned our setting descriptions and can't wait to dive into our writing next week!

In Maths, we continued our unit on place value, where the class really put in a strong effort learning how to estimate on number lines up to 10,000. We also focused on comparing and ordering numbers within that same range, solidifying their understanding of the concept.

Our Science lessons were very fun as we explored human teeth! After learning about the different types, the children created their own models with marshmallows – such a sweet way to understand the uses of various teeth!

In Geography, we ventured outside for a walk around our local area to observe how land is utilised in Houlton. The data we collected will be invaluable for our upcoming Geography lesson.

Finally, in RE, we learned about the Holy Trinity, analysing different pieces of artwork and discussing how St Patrick used a shamrock to explain this concept. The children even crafted their own symbols to represent the Trinity.



Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Raúf Class)

It has been another amazing week with Year 5!

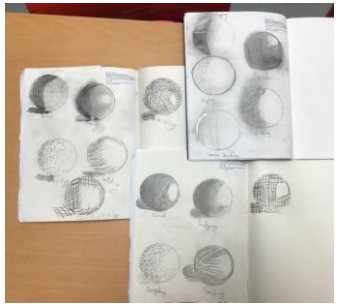
In Maths, we have continued our Place Value learning by comparing and ordering a range of numbers up to 1 000 000 and beginning to round numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000. We even learnt a catchy rhyme to help us with our rounding – you might want to ask your child if they can share it with you at home!

In English, we have been planning and writing our very own diary entries, inspired by the first chapter of Shaun Tan's picture book, 'The Arrival'. After discussing their writing purpose and audience, the children took the time to identify key grammatical, structural and vocabulary features within a model before planning their own piece of writing from the perspective of their chosen character. We are so excited to read their final products!

In Science, we have applied our knowledge of materials and properties by carrying out a fair test investigation to determine what material would be the best surface to use in a school kitchen. The children were tasked with selecting their own independent and dependent variables as they tested which materials were more durable, waterproof or easier to clean.

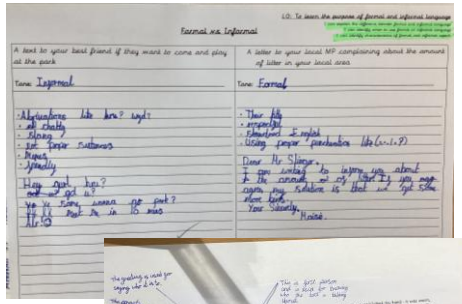
In Art, we have been exploring different drawing techniques that we can later apply when we create our own mythological pieces. The children tested different skills of shading, cross-hatching, hatching and blending and determined which technique might work best for them in their final creation.

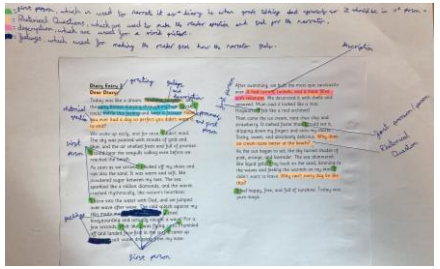
Finally, in History, we took the time to explore chronology and how it is used to organise different periods of time. We then learnt a fun short story to help us successfully organise some of the key periods of British History on a timeline.

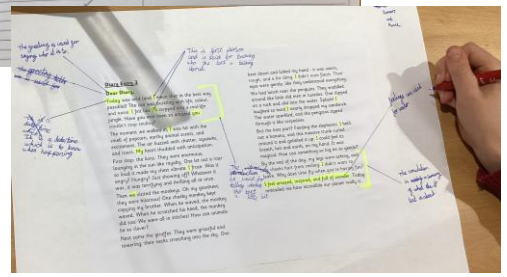


Year 6 (Pogson Class and Walker Class)

In English this week, we have been exploring the differences between formal and informal language, considering when we would use each. We have discussed how Matt Goodfellow uses informal language in 'The Final Year' and we have applied this to some writing of our own.



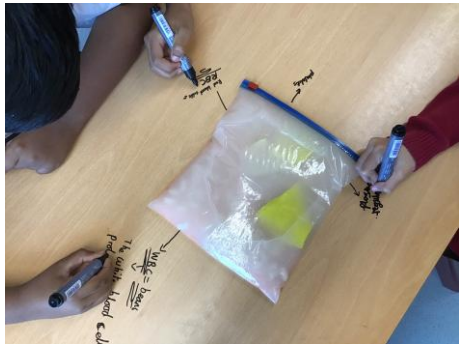




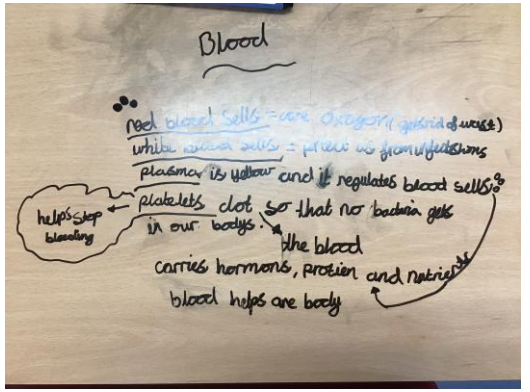
In Maths, we have started a new unit on the four operations, adding and subtracting numbers in formal written methods. We have also explored common factors and multiples, which have aided us with division and multiplication.

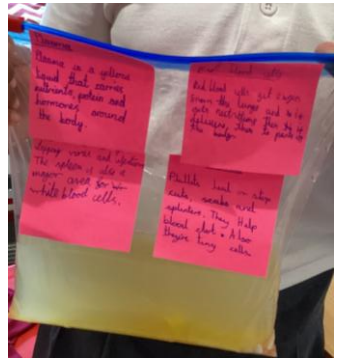
In Art, we have been experimenting with weaving, using a variety of different tools to practise. We had to make sure we kept moving in and out in opposite directions with the wool.

In RE, we have learnt about some different worldview perspectives on climate change. We have focussed specifically on Christian worldviews and eschatology, which considers the final destiny of mankind. Some Christians believe that God gave humans a duty to protect the Earth, whereas others disagree and believe it is not the responsibility of humans to intervene in Climate Change.



In Science, we have investigated the different parts of blood, and made our own 'blood soup' to represent the different parts! Blood is made up of red blood cells, white blood cells, plasma and platelets!





In History, we have learnt about crime and punishment during the Elizabethan Era. The Nobility and Commoners committed very different crimes and also received very different punishments. We have discussed whether crime and punishment was fair within the class system, and reached our own conclusions about whether one class was treated more fairly than the other.

Collective Worship

During collective worship this week, we have been reflecting on thankfulness with our friends at iSingPop. We spoke about making sure our thankfulness is from our hearts and not manufactured. We spoke about the importance of showing authentic thanks in our lives.

On Tuesday, during Collective Worship, we discussed the final British Value: Rule of Law. The rule of law is a framework we follow as a society to ensure everyone can live happily and safely. It involves everyone working hard to follow the rules and ensuring we have people and systems in place to uphold the law.

Children have enjoyed singing together during our worship through song assembly on Thursday, where they continued singing songs related to harvest, ahead of their Harvest Festival Worship next week.

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

Upcoming Dates

Monday 29th September: KS2 Netball Festival
Children in KS2 will need to come to school wearing PE kit.

Tuesday 7th October: Reception Open Day
Join us at 4-5pm to find out more ahead of Reception school applications for September 2026.

Wednesday 8th October: PTFA Coffee and Catch Up
Come and find out about this year's community events.

Tuesday 14th – Thursday 16th October: Parent/Carer Consultations
More information to follow, with details on how to book and specific times and dates available for each teacher.

Wednesday 22nd October (3.30-4pm): Uniform Shop
Please donate any clean, pre-loved uniform to help us to raise money for Year 6's celebrations this year.

Friday 24th October: Non-Uniform Day (Bring a Bottle)
All are welcome to come to school in non-uniform and bring a bottle to collect donations for our St Gabriel's Christmas Fair tombola and raffle.

We also have lots of exciting, upcoming trips, including Year 6's visit to Tudor World, Year 5's visit to watch the Lightning Thief and Year 3 experiencing an author event at the Macready Theatre.

PTFA

St Gabriel's PTFA

What is the PTFA?

It is a group of friendly, enthusiastic staff, parents/carers and friends of the school, who work together to organise events, raise funds and support school projects.

How can you get involved?

Come to a Meeting

They're informal, friendly and involve biscuits!

Volunteer at Events

Any time you can spare makes a huge difference!

Answer the Call

Send in donations, bake or spread the word.

Sign up to Easy Fundraising

Support us while you shop.

Have Fun!

It is a great way to meet other parents and carers and feel a part of our community.

Please join some of our teachers on Wednesday 8th October, 5.30-6.30pm, to find out more about our PTFA, this year's events and have a catch-up!

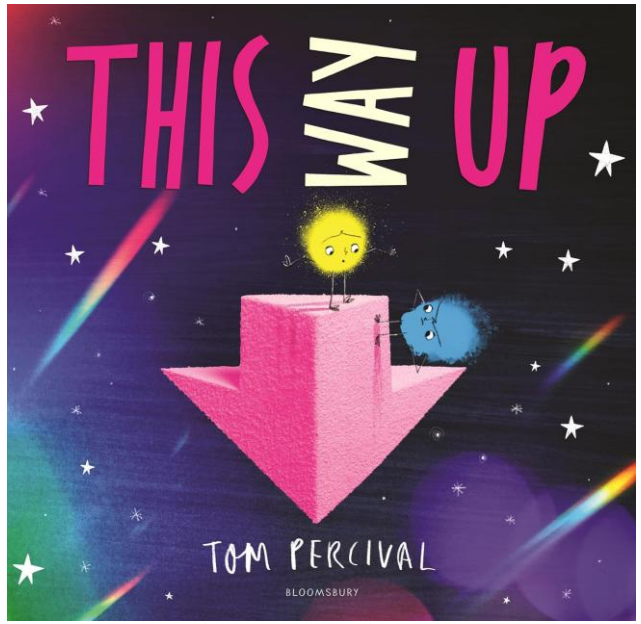
Refreshments will be provided.

Recommended Read

Queetle knows which way is up and no one has ever disagreed with him on that. That is, until he meets Meeple who sees the world quite differently!

After a huge argument, and a dramatic event, perhaps Queetle and Meeple can find a compromise, see things from different perspectives and find common ground?

This is a powerful, warm-hearted book celebrating the life-changing power of seeing the world from other points of view.



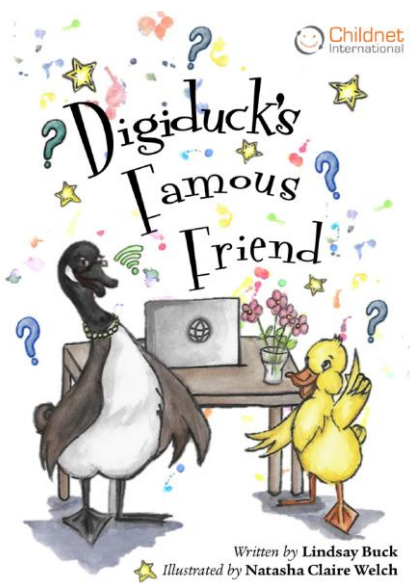
Online Safety

Beginning discussions around online safety from an early age will help children to make sensible choices when accessing games and other content.

Childnet have a 'Digiduck' collection of fun resources to support parents and teachers to educate children aged 3-7 about online safety. The collection includes ebooks, learning activities and a poster.

Follow the link to explore these with your child:

https://www.childnet.com/resources/digiduck-stories/about-the-series-and-supporting-resources/



BBC 500 Words Competition

500 Words is open for entries! Make sure you submit your stories before 9pm, Friday 7th November.

There are two age categories: 5-7 and 8-11 year-olds. There are prizes to be won - each winner will take home a bundle of books and the gold winners will also win 500 books for their school library.

50 finalists will be invited to a star-studded grand final at Windsor Castle in February 2026, which will once again be hosted by Her Majesty The Queen. If that's not enough, each winner will also see their story be read aloud by a superstar celebrity on TV, which will be shown as part of a special 500 Words programme with The One Show in early March.

Find out more here.

Other News

If children ride to and from school on a bike or scooter, please ensure they dismount their bike before coming through the school gates and walk their bike/scooter to the bike racks.

At the end of the school day, we also ask that children wait until they are out of the school gates to begin riding their bikes and scooters.

Thank you for helping us to keep our school grounds safe.

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	95.9%
This week's attendance	97.2%
Latest Local Authority ranking	130th out of 194 schools
Latest National ranking	Top 40-50% 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

The latest Warwickshire SEND newsletter is here!

Get all the latest news and updates on special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Warwickshire including:

- Important updates to the Education, Health Care Plan (EHCP) process
- New single-provider model for SEND Mediation Services
- Working together: Young people and professionals shaping better EHCPs
- Warwickshire SENDIAS updates
- Last chance to share views on short breaks and respite in Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice survey...

...and more!

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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