Weekly Learning Update

27th February 2026

Nursery

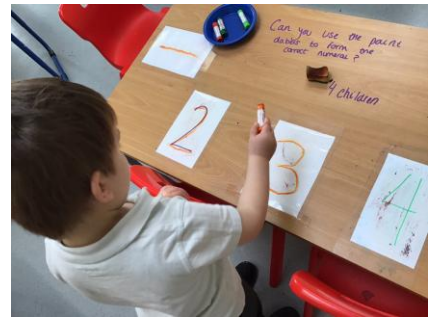
It has been a fantastic first week back to Nursery. The children have settled well and they have returned with enthusiasm - it has been such a brilliant week back!

We have introduced our new key text 'Handa's Hen' by Eileen Browne in English. The children have explored the concept of characters and what a character is and thought about the characters within the book. This has been done in an immersive way, with role play and story prompts to support understanding.

Within Phonics this week, we have had a range of focuses. We have been exploring environmental sounds and thinking about what can be heard in different areas in and outside of the school.

Nursery have also thought about rhyme and rhythm, thinking about the pace of a variety of different texts and the different rhythms within them.

There have been lots of opportunities to expand understanding within the classroom environment through continuous provision. The children have enjoyed accessing the maths areas, developing their understanding of number formation and matching numerals to quantity. There has been a lot of expansion on Handa's Hen where children could create their own chicks through the use of paint and play dough. Within the role play area, children have been turn taking and sharing within the St Gabriel's farm shop. Activities outside have been designed to support fine and gross motor, as well as support sharing.



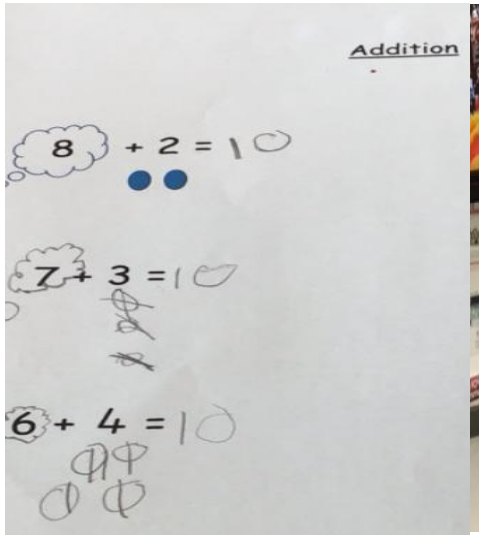
Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

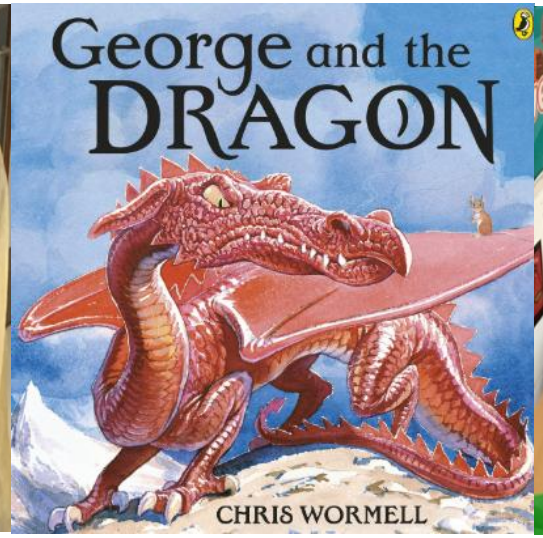
Reception have had a fabulous first week back, with all children returning ready to learn! They have settled straight back in and the energy is high!

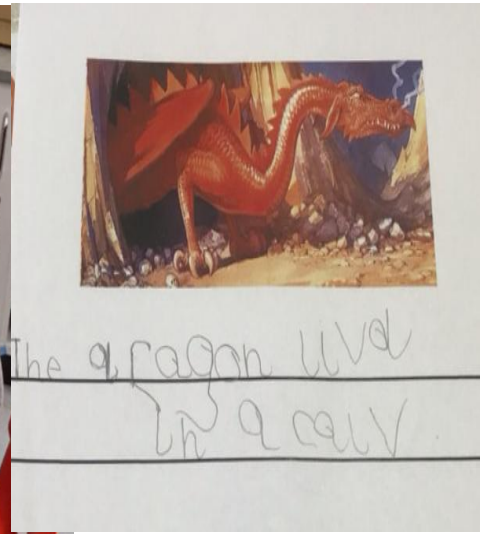
In the Investigation Area, we have explored the Chinese new year, including writing Chinese numbers in glitter, colouring the year of the horse posters, practising using chopsticks and creating dragon dances with our very own dragon heads.

In Maths, we are extending our addition skills through adding by counting on. The children have been practising this skill in the Maths area too using Numicon and cubes.

During English, we have introduced our new story 'George and the Dragon'. We are creating story maps to support our retelling skills alongside writing sentences about the mighty dragon.







Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

In Maths this week, we completed our unit on addition and subtraction and began exploring numbers from 1 to 50. The children have been practising counting forwards and backwards and using Base 10 equipment to show the tens and ones in each number. They have demonstrated real confidence and skill in recognising the value of each digit.

In English, we started our new book *The Sea Saw* by Tom Percival. The children became detectives, examining clues to predict what the story might be about. They also thought carefully about the characters' feelings and matched different emojis to show the emotions being portrayed. We have been learning to recognise the difference between a statement and a question, and the children enjoyed role-playing these from the point of view of different characters in the story.

This week our Science learning was linked to the story *The Three Little Pigs*. The children planned their own investigation by exploring three different materials. They described the properties of each one and made predictions by ordering the materials from strongest to weakest. Their curiosity and reasoning were wonderful to see!

In History, we looked at a variety of toys and discussed how they work. The children thought about the different types of toys available to them today and began preparing to compare these with toys from the past in the coming week. They had some thoughtful ideas and interesting discussions.

During collective worship on Wednesday. Reverend Steve spoke to the children about the Christian observance of Lent. They learnt about the story of Jesus and his fast for 40 days and nights and how his faith in God offered him guidance and solace. Some of the children were then presented with an ash cross on their forehead to mark Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent for Christians.

A huge well done to Windsor Class for their fantastic St David's Day collective worship. We are very proud of their effort, confidence and the entertaining performance they delivered. Thank you to all the families who were able to attend - we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

In English, we have started a new book called 'I hate/love books' by Mariajo Ilustrajo. On Monday, we reflected on our own view of books and how they make us feel. We then read the story in our next lesson and delved into the girl's relationships with books – we had some great discussion around the girl's feelings and the meaning of the story. This term, we are focusing on setting descriptions and we were so excited to design our own settings at the end of the week that we can use to write about later in the term.

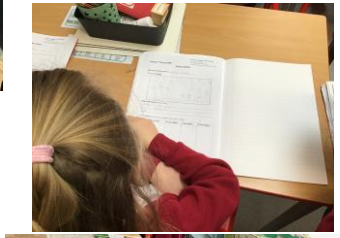
In Maths, we have continued our fantastic learning on multiplication and division. Using our knowledge of the two times table, we have worked on doubling and halving. We have learnt that doubling is the same as multiplying by two and halving is the same as dividing by two. We have also learnt about odd and even numbers and begun to explore the 10 times table.

In Science this week, we built on our learning from before half term on the human life cycle. We matched life cycle stages to events that might happen to a human at that age.

In History, we were really excited to explore some artefacts from Rugby Museum all linked to our new local history unit all about the history of Rugby. We enjoyed investigating many different objects and photographs linked to the past.

We have begun a new topic in DT all about food and nutrition. This week, we reinforced our learning from Science last term and sorted food into different food groups.

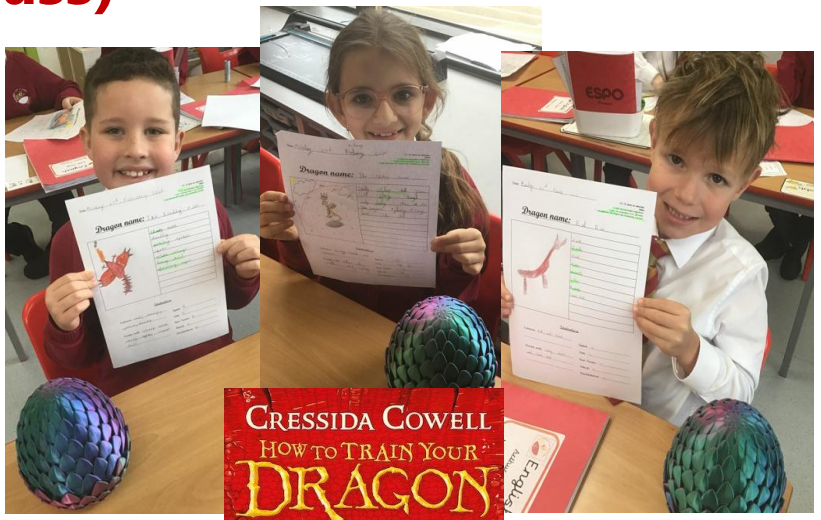
On Wednesday, we were pleased to have a visit from Rev. Gold, who put ashes on the foreheads of some of the children and shared a prayer linked to Ash Wednesday.

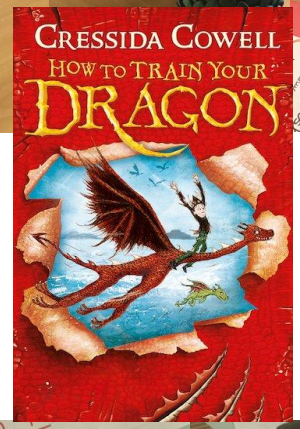


Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

Year 3 have had a fantastic first week back and have returned to school with great enthusiasm, focus and positivity.

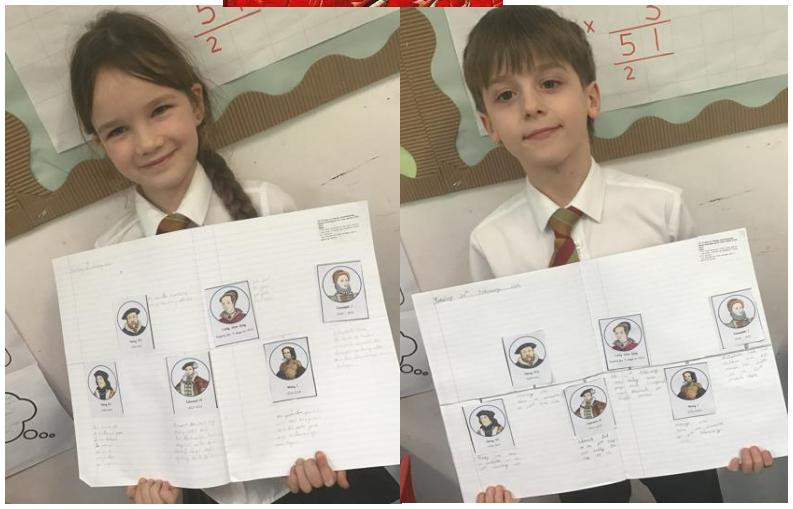
In English, we began our exciting new text, How to Train Your Dragon by Cressida Cowell. The week started with a big surprise when the children discovered a mysterious dragon egg in the classroom! They had lots of fun imagining what might be inside and used ambitious vocabulary to describe their ideas. The children then created their own dragon Top Trumps card, carefully designing and describing the dragon that might hatch from the egg. They thought about its special powers, strengths and weaknesses and considered which dragon they would choose if they were Hiccup from the story. Towards the end of the week, we began exploring the key features of persuasive writing, identifying how authors convince and influence their readers.





In Maths, we have been learning how to divide a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number using flexible partitioning. The children have been breaking numbers into tens and ones to help them solve calculations more efficiently. They have shown great resilience when tackling tricky problems and have been explaining their reasoning clearly.

In History, we launched our new topic on the Tudors. The children learned about the Tudor monarchs and worked collaboratively to place them in chronological order on a timeline. They were particularly interested in how the monarchy changed over time and asked thoughtful questions about life during the Tudor period.



In Science, we carried out an investigation all about light. The children explored how the amount of light affects how much we can see, making careful observations in different lighting conditions. They recorded their findings and discussed what makes a fair test, demonstrating excellent scientific thinking.

It has been a brilliant start to the term and we are very proud of how hard Year 3 have worked already!

Year 4 (Tagore Class and Turing Class)

We have started our new unit which is all about Boudica and her rebellion against the Romans. So far, we have discussed the features of a persuasive speech, rhetorical questions and emotive language. We are well underway with crafting our own persuasive speech to sway the tribes of Britain in the role of Boudica.

We have been learning all about fractions in Year 4 this week. We have learned about mixed numbers and how to count these using number lines.

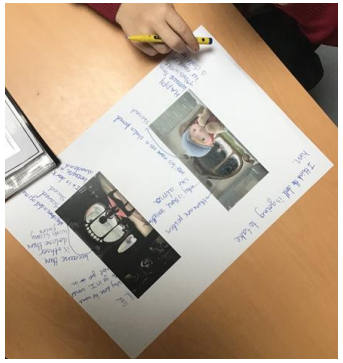
We have also started our learning about the topic of 'Sound' in Science. We developed our understanding of sound moves as a wave and that each sound begins through vibrations. We conducted an experiment to understand what sound is by using our senses to describe what happened when we altered actions on objects and instruments.

For our RE learning this week, we discussed food choices and how these can be influenced according to our worldviews. In our lesson we asked questions about the organised worldviews of Islam and Hinduism. We thought carefully about individual choices and the impact that they can have on a person's life.

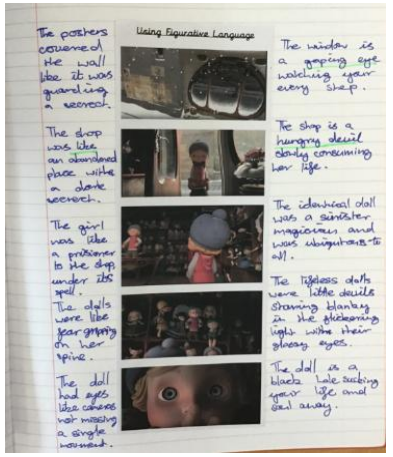
Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Rauf Class)

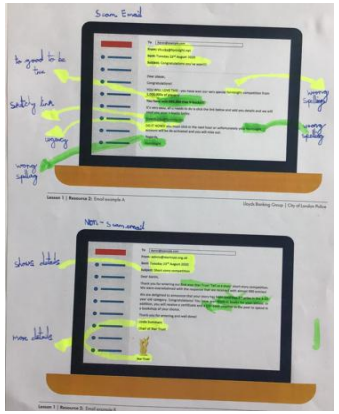
In English, we began our new English unit inspired by the short film *Alma*. The children explored how a creator uses different techniques to convey feelings, emotions and mood, and how atmosphere can be built to create suspense. We also studied ambitious vocabulary such as ominous, foreboding and unnerving, discussing how these words help shape tension in a narrative. Over the next few weeks, the ideas gathered will support the children in planning and writing their own suspense stories.

In Maths, we started learning about decimals and percentages. Our focus has been understanding tenths and hundredths, recognising their value and representing them as both fractions and decimals.



In Science, we launched our new unit on space by exploring the planets in our solar system. To help visualise their relative sizes, we used a range of different fruits to represent each planet - this proved both fun and memorable!





In RE, the children examined various artistic representations of the resurrection of Jesus. We discussed what these images convey and what the resurrection means for Christians.

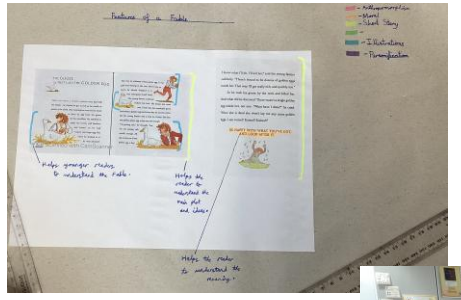
In Music, our new music unit, *Building a Groove*, began with learning about the parts of a drum kit. The children also experimented with body percussion to recreate some of the sounds a drum can produce.

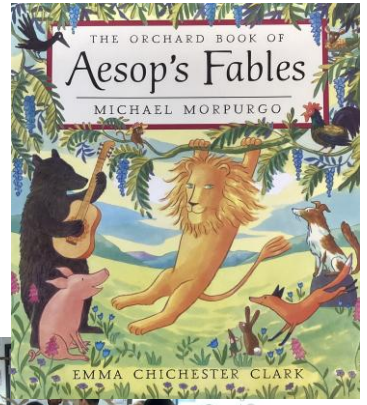
In Geography, we started our study of Coventry. The children used digital maps to locate cities and towns across the UK. They also used online measuring tools to calculate distances between different locations.

Year 6 (Pogson Class and Walker Class)

It has been a lovely start back to the new half term!

In English, we have been exploring Aesop's Fables, identifying the features of fables and their impact on the reader. A fable is a short story, which uses animals as the characters to represent human traits and characteristics. There is always a moral teaching and lesson to be learned, which can teach the reader about how to behave and treat others.

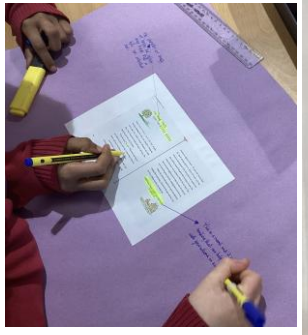


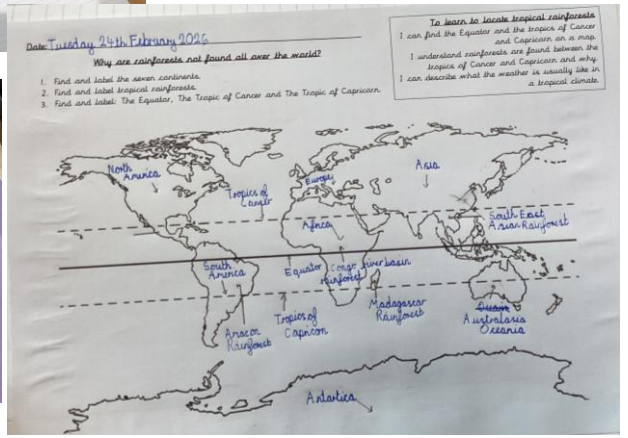


In Maths, we have started a new unit on decimals. We began by representing numbers with up to 3 decimal places and partitioned them to show the value of each digit. We also used flexible partitioning to see if we could represent the value of each column in different ways. We have used our knowledge of rounding numbers to round decimals to one or two decimal places and started to add and subtract decimals as well.

In Geography, we have started to learn about South America. We used the atlases to help us to locate rainforests around the world, especially those in South America. We represented our findings on a map of our own, which we also labelled with the equator, Tropic of Capricorn and Tropic of Cancer. We considered why rainforests are not found all over the world.

In RE, we have started our new unit, based around the questions, 'What kind of king is Jesus?' We explored the link between Heaven and Earth and whether Christians believe Jesus helped to make Earth more like Heaven, or to help more people get from Heaven to Earth. In groups, we rewrote the Lord's Prayer in a simplified way, which could be understood by younger children in school, linking our ideas about Jesus to the line "On Earth as it is in Heaven".

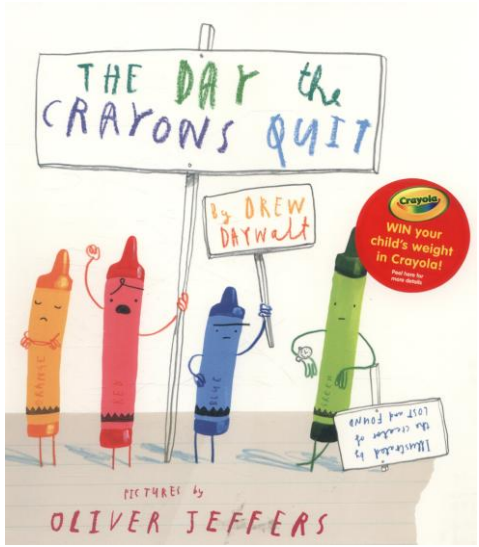




Collective Worship

During Worship Through Story this week, we read The Day the Crayons Quit. We spoke about the themes of equality, fairness and cooperation, linking to our school values of Love and Community.

On Wednesday, Rev. Gold spoke to us about the significance of Ash Wednesday. He visited classes to mark some children's foreheads with ash to commemorate this time.



This week, Windsor Class led Collective Worship on Friday. They shared information with the school about Saint David's Day. Well done, Windsor Class!

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

Key Dates: Spring 2

Tuesday 3rd March: Author Visit (Jenny McLachlan)
We'd like to say a huge thank you to the Friends of St Gabriel's PFTA, who have paid for this opportunity for the children using fundraising from previous events.

Thursday 5th March: World Book Day
As always, the day will be dedicated to a range of activities celebrating the joy of books and reading. Children are very welcome to come to school dressed as a book character if they would like to; however, dressing up is completely optional.

Friday 6th March: Kerr Class Celebration Worship

Friday 13th March: Anning Class Celebration Worship

Friday 13th March: Easter Bingo (3.30-5pm)

Thursday 19th March: Year 3 and 4 Easter Concert

Friday 20th March: Bell Class Celebration Worship

Friday 27th March: Pogson Class Celebration Worship

Community Events

Thanks to the sponsors of the event, Troubador Publishing, we have some amazing vouchers to be won for a range of places, as well as Easter treats!

Tickets are £5 per book (5 games). All children must be accompanied by an adult. Please purchase your books through Arbor. You are able to purchase more than one book through the system.

Refreshments will be available on the night, as well as a chocolate raffle.

We are also kindly asking for donations of Easter eggs and chocolate leading up to the event. Please bring these donations to the office.

Recommended Read

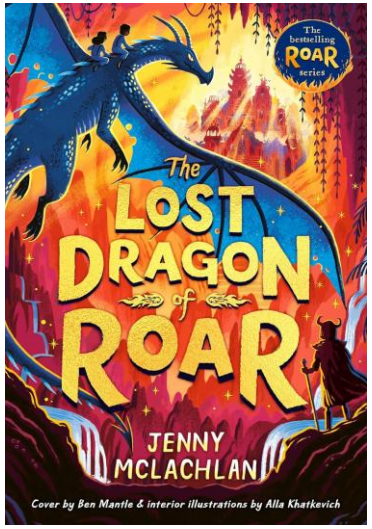
This week's recommended read comes at the perfect time as we prepare for a special visit from Jenny McLachlan next week!

Her brand new book, The Lost Dragon of Roar, has just been released - the fifth magical adventure in the bestselling The Land of Roar series.

Rose, Arthur and Win are heading back to dragon school and now that they are officially dragon riders, it's time for their very first mission. In this thrilling new adventure, they'll face a cursed island of witches, unravel a ghostly mystery, and come up against the most fearsome dragon in Roar. But danger is never far away… someone is on their tail!

Full of imagination, humour and heart, The Land of Roar books celebrate creativity and courage, making them perfect for readers aged 8–12, especially fans of Skandar and the Unicorn Thief, Percy Jackson & the Olympians, and How to Train Your Dragon.

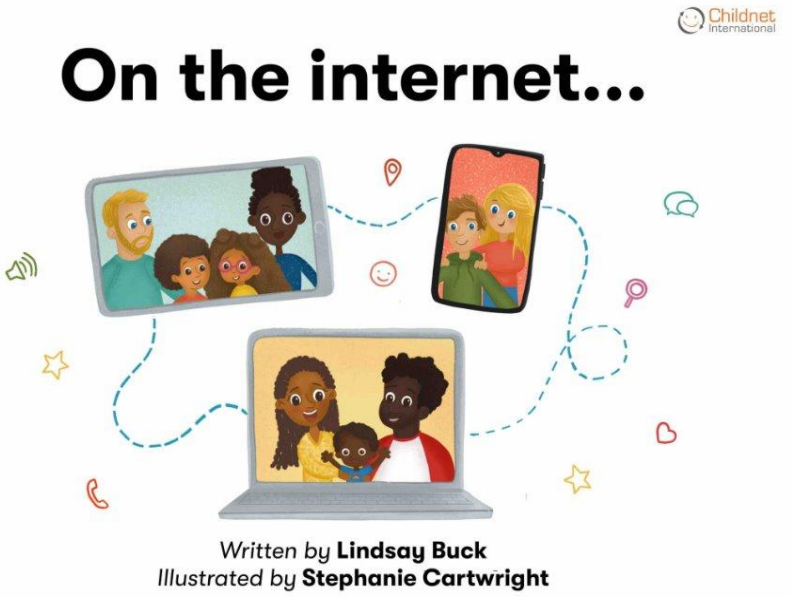
A fantastic, magical read to dive into this week! We can't wait to meet Jenny on Tuesday.



Online Safety

Sharing stories with your child helps to make learning to read an enjoyable activity! 'On the internet' is a story that has been written for 4-7 year olds by Childnet to help them to understand how to keep safe online. At the end, you will find some activities to complete together.

https://www.childnet.com/resources/a-learning-to-read-book/



Maths Problem of the Week

KS1

Whose Face?

These are the faces of **W**ill, **L**il, **B**ill, **P**hil and **J**ill.

Use the clues to work out which name goes with each face.

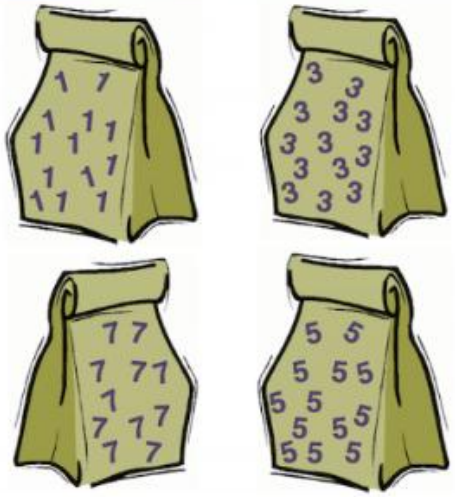
Will and Jill are smiling.
Jill has big eyes.
Lil and Will have big noses.
Bill is sad.

KS2

Make 37

Four bags contain a large number of 1s, 3s, 5s and 7s.

Can you pick ten numbers from the bags that add up to 37?



nrich.maths.org

Challenge

5, 6 and 7 are three consecutive numbers. They add up to 18.

14, 15 and 16 are also three consecutive numbers. They add up to 45.

Take other sets of three consecutive numbers and find their total.

What do you notice?
Do the totals have anything in common?

How can you be sure that what you have noticed will always be true?

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.1%
Latest Local Authority ranking	47th out of 196 schools
This week's attendance	96.8%
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:

- Secondary school place offers
- The Teenage Market
- Warwickshire's Road Safety partnership webinar

and much 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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