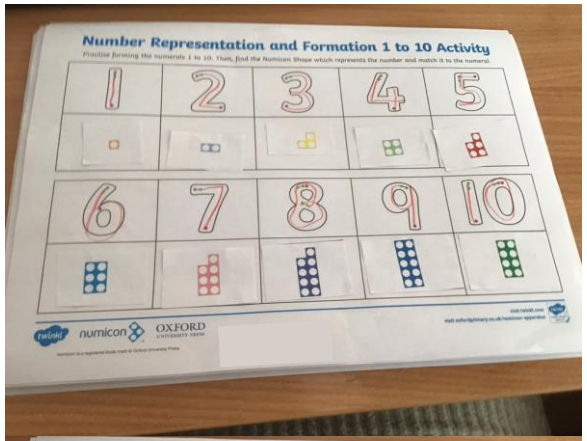
Weekly Learning Update

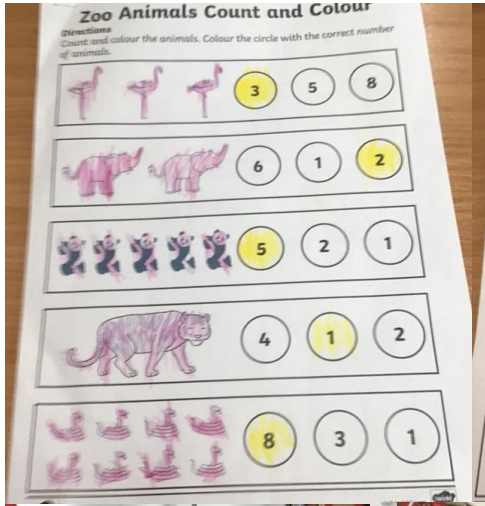
27th June 2025

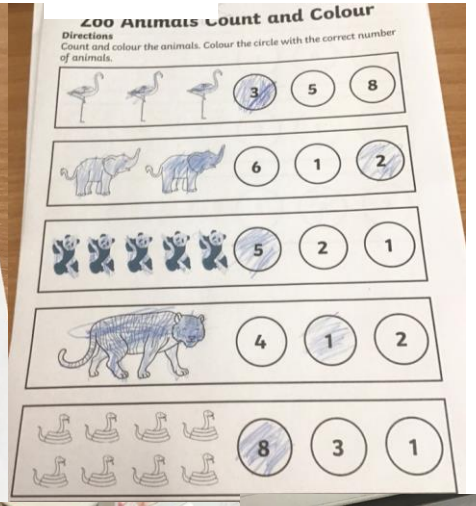
Nursery

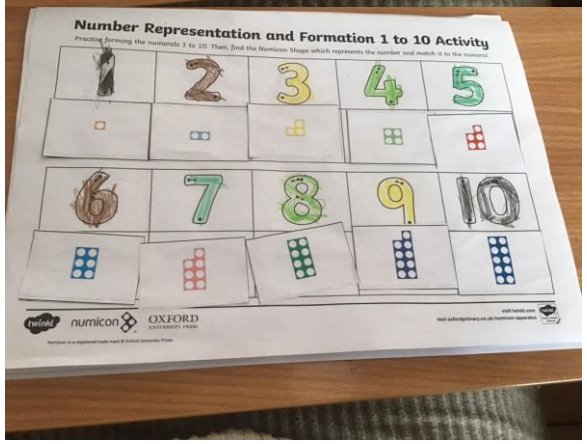
This week, the children have continue to explore our key text of 'Dear Zoo'. We have explored a range of activities based around the story and have produced some amazing Maths learning this week during our sessions.

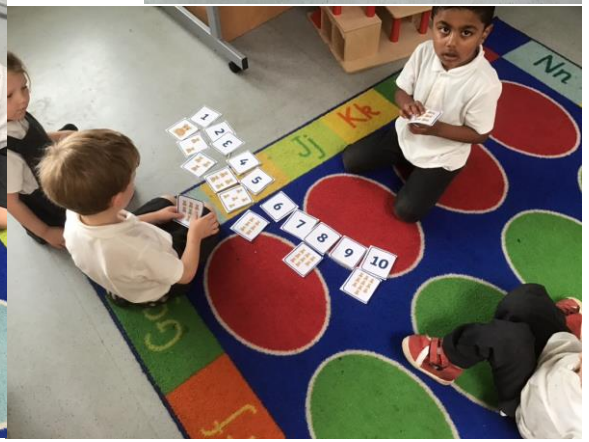
The children have been encouraged to correctly identify the number of animals in different ways and were then supported to recognise the numbers and match them accordingly. We have even worked on number line ordering and matching the quantity with some bears.











Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

It has been another wonderful week within Reception! It is a lovely point of the year as the team are going through assessment tracking to see the progress that the children have made throughout the academic year. We have spent time with the children thinking back to their starting points in September and focusing on the growth within their learning. We are so proud!

English:

We have continued to compare the similarities and differences between different items within the key text 'Handa's Surprise.' This week, we have moved on to comparing the different animals, thinking about what is similar and different between two animals each day. We have been focusing on the use of adjectives as well as the conjunctions 'and' and 'but.'

Maths:

We have explored the pattern within the number system this week, focusing on numbers beyond 20. We have thought about counting in 10s and the pattern that as we count with bigger numbers, the ones increase as well as the tens. We have spent time thinking about two-digit numbers and thinking about patterns that can be seen within a hundred square.

PSHE:

Our focus this half term has linked to healthy and safe choices. Children have been thinking about the importance of people making informed and healthy choices and some of the different ways this can be achieved. This week, the focus was linked to safety in the sun. With a view of the importance of enjoying the sun in a safe and responsible way, the children made posters to inform.

Continuous Provision:

We have enjoyed a range of different learning opportunities this week, including learning about the important roles of bees within the eco-system and improving fine motor and creative skills with threading.

Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

What a great week it's been in Year 1! The children had lots of fun at the Disney Football Festival, developing their skills and taking part in matches against other schools. The children demonstrated great sportsmanship and really got stuck in. We were so proud of them!

In History, we learnt about the history of the coronation, looking at the key events, key people and key objects. The children had lots of fun making their own crowns and re-enacting a coronation ceremony.

In PSHE, as part of our Growing and Changing unit, the children have been identifying how bodies change from being a baby. We talked about physical changes, as well as changes in abilities, and how everybody grows at different rates.

In Science, we have been naming common fruit and vegetable plants and thinking about their similarities and differences.

In D&T, the children had lots of fun beginning to make their thrones and testing them out to see if they were freestanding ready for King Ted! They can't wait to decorate them next week!

The children have also worked really hard to complete their final assessments of the year. We are so proud of the growth they have all shown.

Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

English:
In English, we started our new book 'Inside the Villains'. We used illustrations from the text and our background knowledge to infer and match the clues to the different fairy tale characters.

Reading:
This week, we have been completing reading assessments and have been focusing on retrieving information, sequencing, predicting and inferring.

Disney Football Festival
On Monday and Thursday, Year 2 had the opportunity to attend a Disney Football Festival. We had lots of fun learning drills and playing football matches.

Maths:
In Maths, we have been learning about statistics and have been learning to represent data using tally charts and tables.

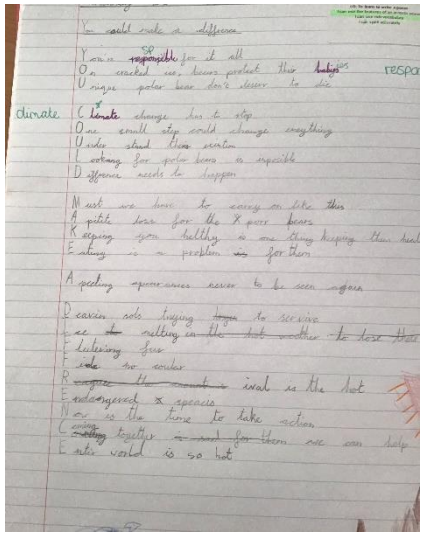
ANIMAL	TALLY	TOTAL
CAT	𝍸 |	6
DOG	𝍸 𝍸 |	10
RABBIT	𝍸 |||	8

ANIMAL	NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO CHOSE IT
CAT	
DOG	
RABBIT	

Handwriting:
In handwriting, we have been focusing on learning to join the letters h,p, b and k.

Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

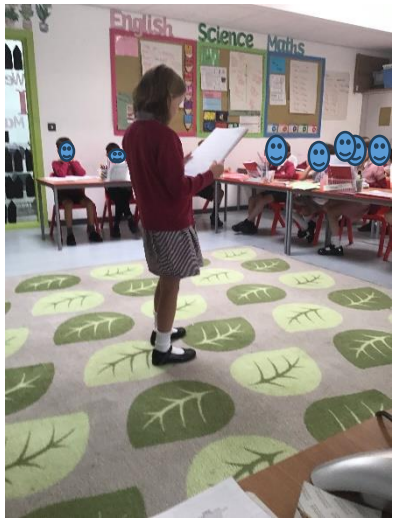
We have had a super busy week of learning in Year 3. We are incredibly proud of the progress the children are making each week.

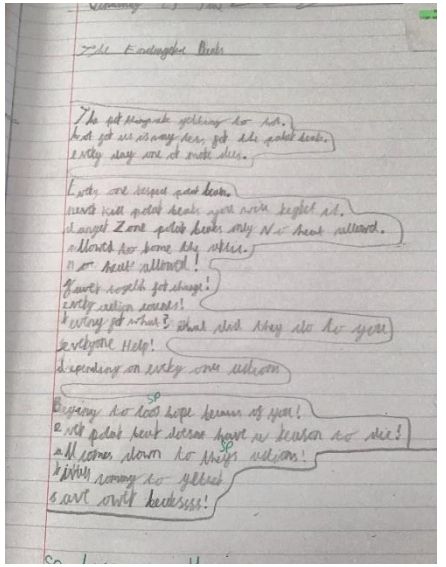


In English, we reflected on 'The Last Bear' and we wrote our own acrostic poems. First, we had to look at how an acrostic poem is set out, then the children picked their own words for the theme of their poem linked to the text. The children wrote some brilliant poems which they later performed to the rest of the class; they showed great confidence!

In Maths, we started our new unit of 'Time' - a topic that can be challenging to understand. We explored Roman Numerals to 12, telling the time to 5 minutes and to the minute, using digital clocks to tell the time and we finished off by looking at AM and PM. It would be really helpful if children could continue to practise telling the time at home - a few minutes a day can make a huge difference.

In Science, we explored the process of pollination. We looked at the journey an insect takes during their role and we sequenced each step of pollination. We enjoyed looking into this.





In RE, we were posed with the question 'How can dance represent worldviews?'. We learnt that some people with an Islamic worldview participate in the Sufi dance which helps them to unite with God. We also explored the Hindu festival of Navaratri which is dedicated to the Goddess Durgha; we learnt that Dance holds immense significance during Navaratri and is an integral part of the festivities. We also had some volunteers who showed the rest of their class their dancing.

In Art, we have been exploring different stitching techniques ready to apply when it comes to creating our final piece based on the work of Althea McNish.

We can't wait for another week of fantastic learning!

Year 4 (Turing Class and Tagore Class)

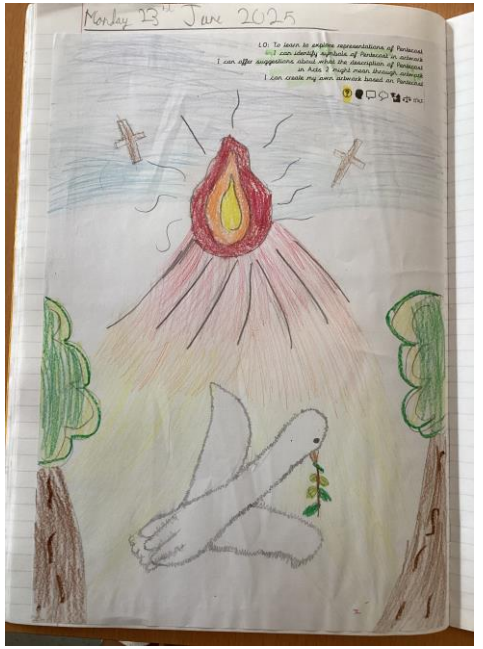
It's difficult to believe we are already in week 4 of the term; time really does fly when you're having fun! Here are some highlights of the wonderful experiences we have had this week.

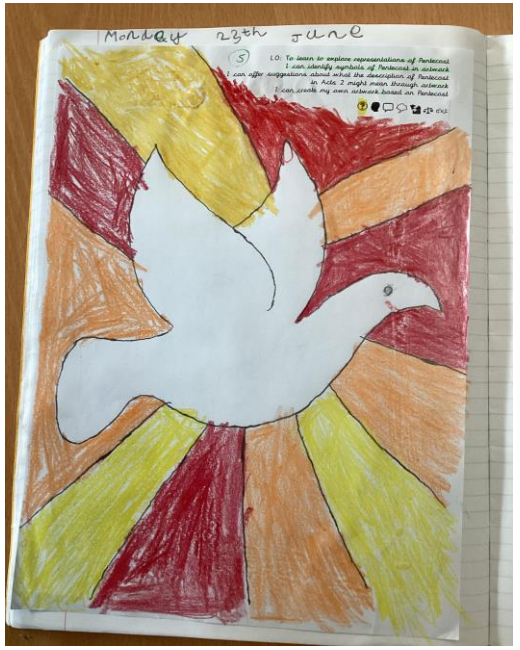
In English, we have concluded our final persuasive speeches to Ra, to save our father. We've poured our hearts into crafting these speeches, showcasing our understanding of persuasive language and emotive appeals. Following thorough drafting and editing, we then performed our speeches to our peers, which has greatly enhanced our speaking and presentation skills – a truly commendable achievement!

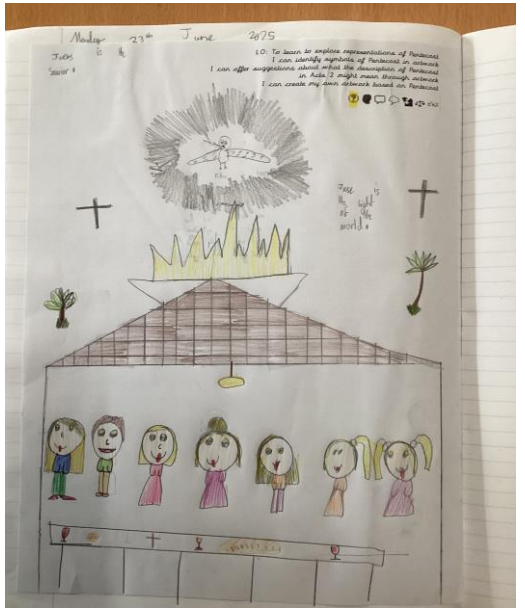
In Music, we've been diving into the rhythmic world of samba. The children are learning to identify the key features of samba music and its cultural roots. We are now familiar with instruments typically found in a samba percussion ensemble and had an incredible time playing them. We even created our own samba carnival in class, fostering both creativity and collaboration.

In RE, we explored various Christian representations of Pentecost. We delved into artwork, discussing similarities and differences, and identifying the significant symbols of Pentecost present in the pieces. We then created our own artwork, intentionally incorporating symbols meaningful to the celebration.

Finally, in **History**, we focused on how agricultural advances supported the Ancient Egyptian civilisation. By extracting evidence from various sources, including Menna's tomb, we gained valuable insights into this fascinating era.







Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Gandhi Class)

Attenborough Class have had a fantastic few days at Viney Hill on their residential, facing new challenges, such as the Leap of Faith, tunnelling, navigation and bushcraft! What a fantastic two weeks of residentials we have had!

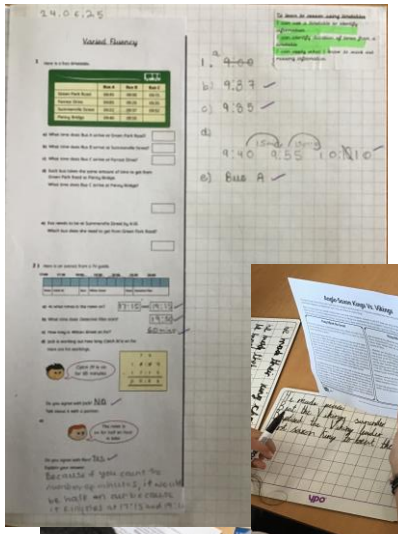
We are so proud of the children this week as they have also worked incredibly hard to showcase all of their learning from Year 5. We are amazed by the progress and growth the children have demonstrated. Well done!

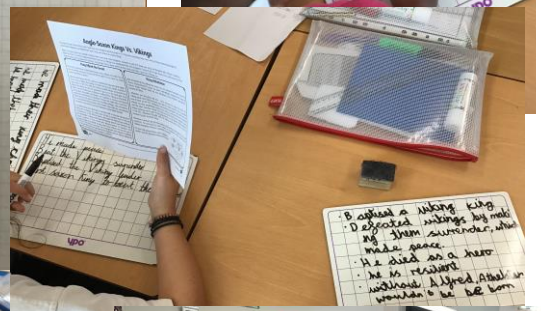
In Maths, we have finished our learning on converting units. We have explored converting between metric units, such as metres and centimetres, and imperial units, such as inches and feet. We have also compared units of time and looked at timetables.

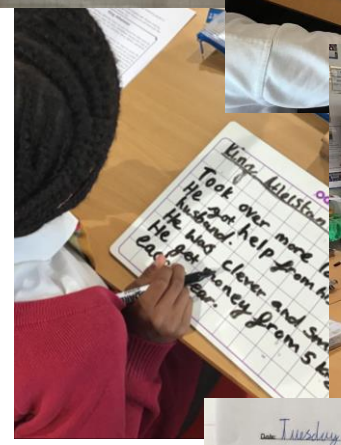
In History, we have learnt about the Anglo-Saxon kings, in particular King Athelstan and King Alfred the Great, and considered their impact on the Vikings. As a class, we had a debate about which king had the greatest impact, considering points for and against both of them! It was fantastic to hear everyone's thoughts and opinions on these historical figures.

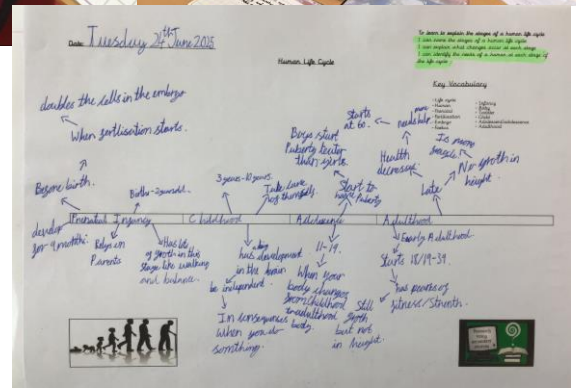
In PSHE, we have continued with our learning on how our bodies grow and change during puberty. This week, we have specifically focussed on how girls' bodies change, considering how these changes might make someone feel and how they can manage those worries.

In Science, we have explored the life cycle of humans, and the different stages, from prenatal to late adulthood. We have learnt about how human bodies change in each stage and what the needs are in each stage.









Year 6 (Pogson Class and Ahmad Class)

It has been another great week in Year 6!

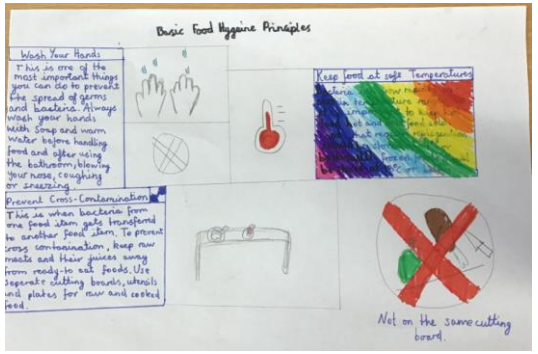
In Maths, we have been taking the time to start building some important life skills that will come in handy for the future. We have been applying our knowledge of the four operations and fractions to explore how we can calculate tax, annual take home pay, time sheets as well as budgeting and bills! It has been great to see the children begin to understand the complexities of these life skills and the importance of simple arithmetic methods.

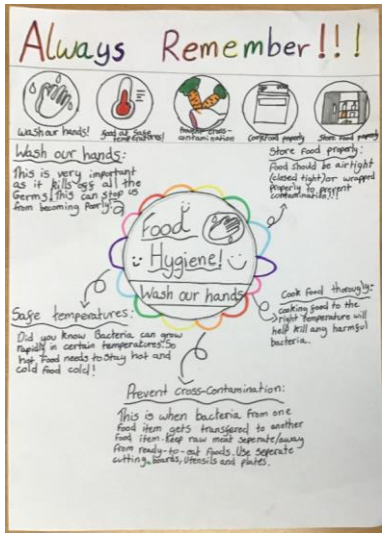
In Science, we have continued our investigations as, this week, we have planned and carried out an experiment to explore the link between the number of cells within a circuit and the volume of a buzzer. Based on the previous week's learning, the children confidently predicted that the greater the voltage in a circuit, the louder the buzzers. Unsurprisingly, they were correct!

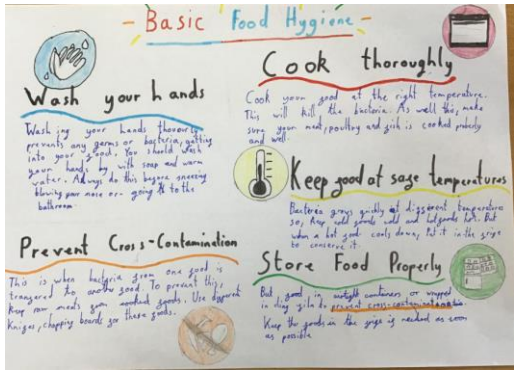
In PSHE, we have been taking the time to explore the impact of stress on a person's wellbeing and the many different techniques that we can use to help reduce the impact of stress. You might want to ask your child about some of these strategies at home.

In Design and Technology, in preparation for our soup-making, we have been looking at the importance of basic food hygiene principles. After exploring these, the children were tasked with creating an informative poster that could be used to show another child in the school.

Finally, in Geography, we have built upon our learning about coastlines by finding out more about coastal protection strategies. As a class, we looked at images of different hard and soft engineering strategies. The children then worked in groups to research each strategy specifically, finding out about what they involved, their advantages, disadvantages and costs.







Collective Worship

During Worship through Song, the children enjoyed singing ‘Believe’, which links to our school value of growth.

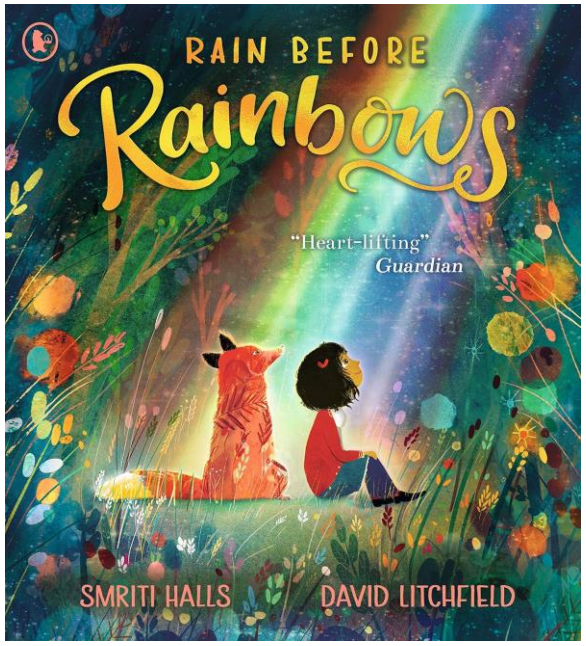
In Friday’s Celebration Worship, Kerr Class shared some wonderful singing with us in celebration of World Music Day. Congratulations to all of the children who received a Head Teacher's Award.

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

Recommended Read

'Rain Before Rainbows' by Smriti Halls

A girl and her companion fox travel together from a place of loss and despair, through uncertain times, towards the hope of colour, light and life. Along the way, they find friends to guide and support them. Together, they build a glorious future and discover there is a way out of the darkness, into the light of the rainbow.



Online Safety

A great alternative to Google search engine for children to use is www.kiddle.co.uk

Sites appearing in Kiddle search results satisfy family friendly requirements, as they filter sites with explicit or deceptive content.

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.5%
This week's attendance	97.1%
Latest Local Authority ranking	12th out of 195 schools
Latest National ranking	Top 10% 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:

- Child Friendly Trail at Pooley County Park
- Support for young people from The Children's Society
- Drop-in workshop on communication and SEND

and much more!

St Gabriel's CofE Academy, Houlton Way, Houlton, Rugby, CV23 1AN

✉office@stgabrielscofeacademy.org ☎01788 222405