Weekly Learning Update

27.09.24

Nursery

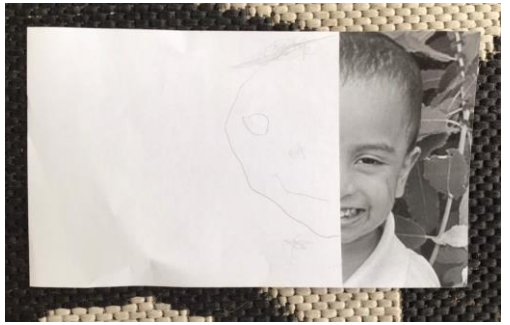
This week, we have been focusing on a range of dinosaur creations.... dinosaur pasta skeletons, duplo dinosaurs and exploring our dinosaur swamp tray! The children have been working incredibly hard to embody a dinosaur by using their dinosaur horn or beak to paint with. It has been fabulous to see how the children have improved their core muscles and balance when completing these movements!

We have also created our own autumnal tree whilst exploring numbered acorns!

We have been exploring a range of listening games during our group times, creating our own stories using flashcards and discussing some behaviours we like to see at Nursery such as sharing and turn taking. Next week we will be starting our Maths & Phonics sessions whilst at Nursery. ☺

In our English Area, we have been using 'slow and controlled' movements to complete our face illustrations.

The children have also enjoyed creating transient art pieces using loose parts - lots of imaginative ideas have been shared.



Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

It has been another fantastic week in Reception. The children enjoyed having their first primary school photos this week and showed our school values brilliantly to the photographers. The photographers commented on how respectful the children were and it is wonderful to have people from the wider community sharing their positive interactions with us. Well done Reception.

English:

We have continued to deepen our understanding of our key text, The Tiger Who Came To Tea, by adding to the whole class story map. We have also used this as an opportunity to develop the children's writing, by creating a range of lists. The lists have included shopping lists to re-stock the cupboards, a list for the Tiger to have a sleep over and invites to a cafe!

Maths:

Our focus this week has been the concept of touch counting. Children started the week by creating their own touch counting rules and have applied them in the follow up sessions.

Phonics:

This week we have learnt the following phonemes: m, n, d, g and o.

PE:

The children have continued to reflect on body control. In our lesson this week, we introduced some equipment. The children needed to move balls in a range of safe ways, ensuring they could stop them and change direction.

Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

We have had another super week in Year 1! Not only has there been lots of amazing learning going on, we have also had a couple of extra exciting events. On Thursday, we had a special visit from Olympian rower, Lauren Henry. She came in to speak to us about her experience at the Olympics and her journey to winning a Gold medal. We even got to see the medal up close! We also celebrated St. Gabriel's Day this week. We found out who St. Gabriel is and the link between him and our school. As St. Gabriel and our school are known as a symbol of communication, we decorated bookmarks to communicate a message to someone we love. We hope you enjoyed sharing these with your child.

In Phonics, we have been focusing on the phonemes 'ee', 'igh', 'oa' and 'oo'. It has been amazing to see the growth in the children's confidence when recalling the phonemes and caption actions and they are using their phoneme fingers to segment words for spelling.

In English, we started reading our new text, Coming to England by Floella Benjamin. We wrote predictions, created a piece of drama and sequenced the events of the story. On Thursday, we received a letter asking us to tell Floella all about England so we have been busy planning what we are going to write next week.

In Maths, the children have been learning about 1 more and 1 less. The children had lots of fun practically exploring this.

In Science, the children have learnt about the five senses and what parts of the body they are linked to.

In Geography this week, we have been beginning to name and locate the capital cities of the UK. We used this song to help us to remember – perhaps the children could show you at home! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvDIZoQLgIE

Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

We have had another excellent week of learning!

Phonics:

In Phonics, we have learnt that:

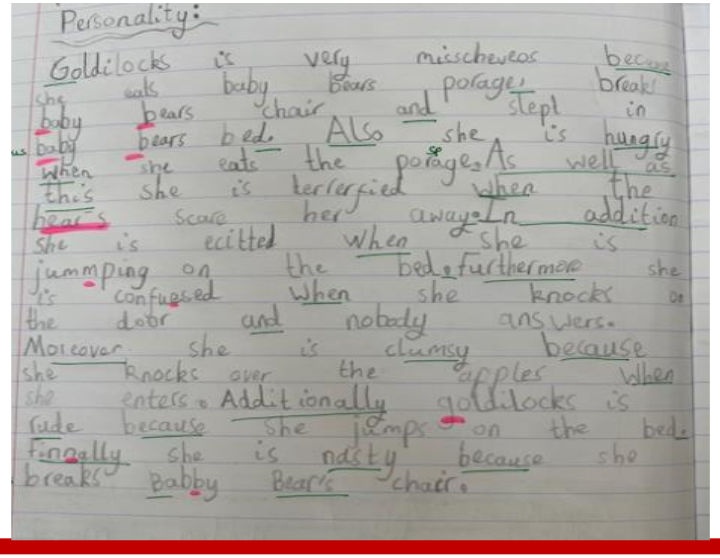
-The grapheme u makes the phoneme yoo in words like unit and unicorn.

-The grapheme er makes the phoneme u in words like ladder and farmer.

-The grapheme a makes the phoneme ay in words like April and acorn and o in words like was and what.

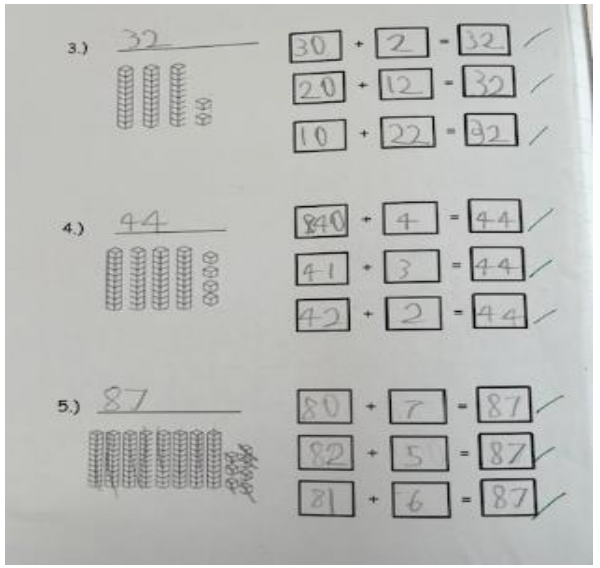
English:

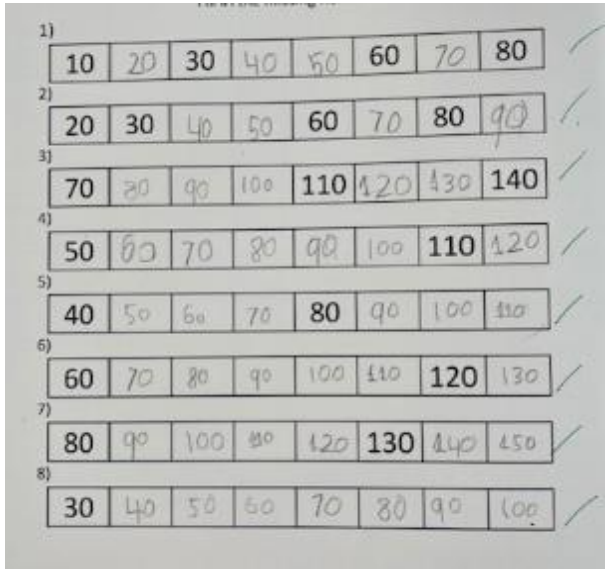
In English, we finished off our character descriptions of Goldilocks and started creating our own wanted posters, focusing on using expanded noun phrases and similes.



Maths:

In Maths, we have been partitioning 2-digit numbers in more complex ways and have been counting forwards and backwards in tens.





RE:

In RE, we celebrated St Gabriel's Day, which will be on Sunday 29th September. We learnt about St Gabriel and the fact that his messages spread love; we created our own bookmarks to celebrate.

Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

We have had another super week in Year 3!

In English, we have started our book for the next couple of weeks called '***How To Wash a Woolly Mammoth***'. The children have been using their inference skills to determine the best way to wash a woolly mammoth and have been writing sentences using imperative verbs, preposition and conjunctions in preparation for writing their own instructions next week.

In Maths, we have been continuing our unit on '**Place Value**' and we have been looking at estimating and placing numbers on a number line, finding 1, 10 and 100 more or less than a number and comparing numbers.

In RE, we have celebrated St Gabriel's Day which will be taking place on Sunday (29th). The children enjoyed discovering more about St Gabriel and the links between St Gabriel and our school. The children also enjoyed creating bookmarks with messages for their loved ones as a way to symbolise St Gabriel's duty of being a messenger.

In Science, we have been looking at the different types of rocks: ***igneous, metamorphic*** and ***sedimentary***. We have focused on how each of these rock types are formed.

The children were also super excited to welcome Gold Medalist and Olympic Athlete Lauren Henry to our school on Thursday. The children enjoyed this opportunity to ask questions to Lauren regarding her Olympic journey so far. They were also thrilled to be able to see and touch an Olympic gold medal! Year 3 would like to thank Lauren for her visit and wish her all the best for her future!

Year 4 (Turing Class and Tagore Class)

This week marks halfway through our first term in Year 4 and it has gone so fast. It has been a great week full of growth and amazing opportunities. It was such a pleasure to welcome Lauren Henry, an Olympic gold medallist, into school and ask some insightful questions. It was fascinating to hear all about her time at the Olympics and we even got the chance to hold the gold medal!

In Geography, we completed some fieldwork, looking at different land use in our local area. We were looking out for education land use, industrial land use and transport. We are going to use our data to present our findings.

In English, we have been busy writing a diary entry based on Grendel's mum and her thoughts and feelings at the beginning of the story. We learnt the key features of a diary entry which helped us to write successfully.

In Maths, we have learnt to compare and order numbers to 10,000. We have also learnt to read and write Roman Numerals. We used lolly pop sticks to create the different symbols before applying it in our fluency work. We finished off the week with rounding numbers to the nearest 10.

In Science, we learnt about the different types of human teeth and what their roles are within the mouth. We used carrot sticks to help us understand how our teeth work to fulfil certain roles.

In RE, we celebrated St Gabriel's Day which will be on Sunday 29th September. We learnt about St Gabriel and the fact that his messages spread love; we created our own bookmarks to celebrate.

Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Gandhi Class)

We have been working hard this week in Year 5 and the team are very proud of the progress made this week.

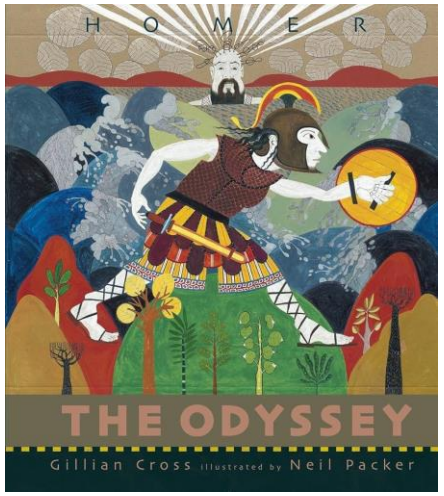
In Maths, we have been focusing on rounding. Initially we consolidated our previous learning from Year 4 on rounding to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000. We then advanced onto rounding within 100,000.

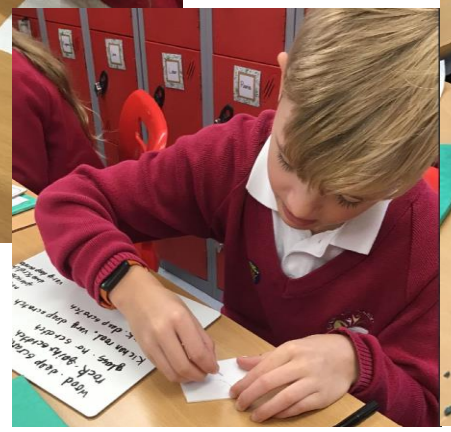
In English, we started our brand new book – The Odyssey by Homer. We explored the opening chapters of the story and applied our inference skills to make predictions about what we've read. We then explored a range of vocabulary and identified synonyms we could use to describe more effectively.

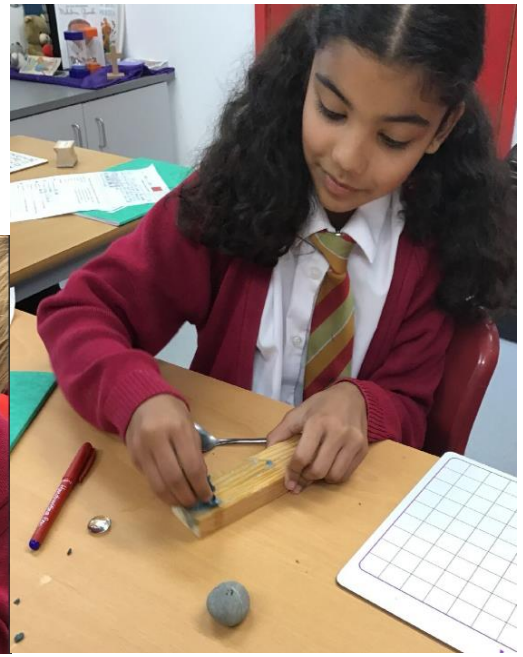
Our Science lesson this week involved comparing the properties of materials. We chose a particular focus to investigate, including the durability of the material, how easy it is to clean and the absorbency of the material.

In History, we learnt about chronology with a focus on when the Ancient Greek period happened in the order of the historical timeline. We learnt a story to help us to remember the timeline – perhaps we could share this with you at home?

In PSHE we rounded up our learning on 'Respecting Ourselves and Others' by learning about body image and what can influence someone to view their body in certain ways. We discussed ways we could encourage people if they were struggling to feel positive about their bodies.







Year 6 (Gutenberg Class and Ahmad Class)

Week 4 has flown by in Year 6! This week we have been busy with lots of different learning activities.

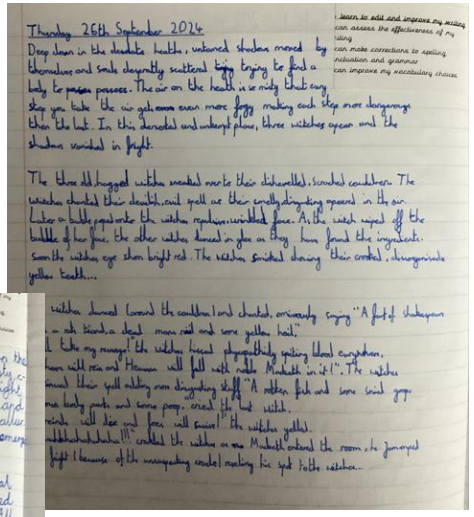
In English, we have been applying our skills of proofreading and editing in order to improve our writing by ensuring consistency of punctuation, tense and grammar and our texts meet our primary purpose: to entertain. We have then published our final versions of our character descriptions. We are very proud of what we have been able to create in just a few weeks!

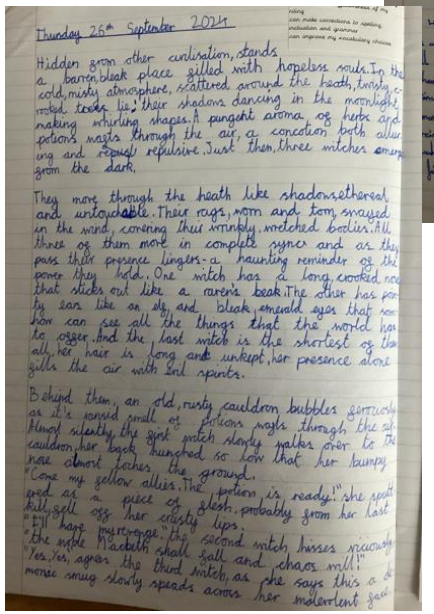
In Science, we have shifted our focus on the heart towards finding out more about the separate components of blood. We researched the functions of red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets and plasma. We then had a go at creating our very own 'Blood Soup' model using sweets!

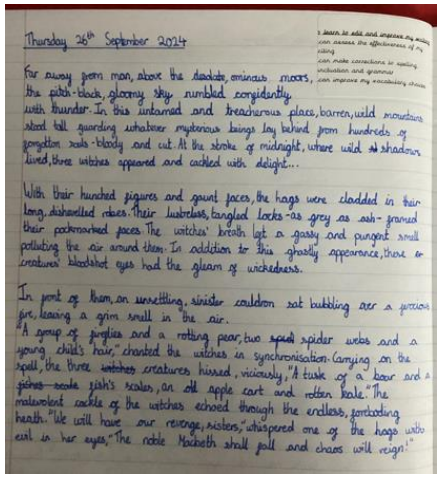
In History, we have been exploring racial diversity in the Elizabethan Era. Through using primary sources, we have found out about the lives and experiences of black people in Elizabethan England, including John Blanke, a significant individual and important musician.

In PSHE, we have been discussing the importance of being respectful online as we have looked at different scenarios that could take place and made suggestions on what each person could do to fix or avoid a negative outcome.

RE this week was slightly different as we took our time to celebrate St Gabriel's Day. We found out more about who St Gabriel was and then, inspired by his importance as the patron saint of communication, the children took some time to write their own messages to loved ones on bookmarks to take home!







Collective Worship

During collective worship this week, the children met local Olympic gold medal winner Lauren Henry who inspired us all with her determination to be the best rower she could be. Everybody had the opportunity to hold Lauren's gold medal, which was heavier than expected!

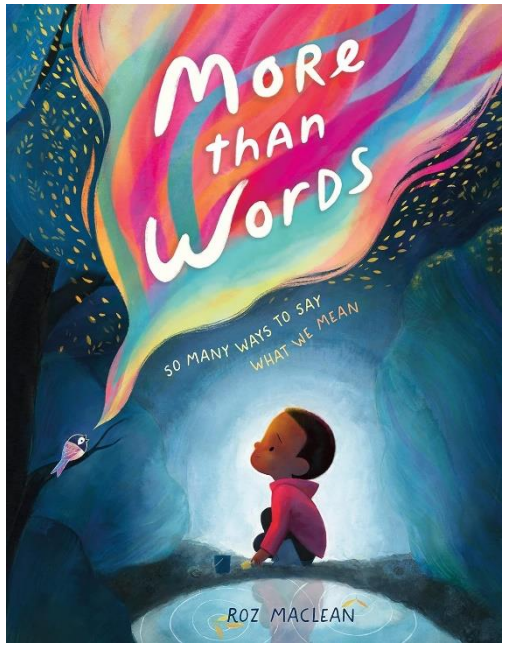
Children in Key Stage 2 have spent collective worship time sharing their vision for the school as part of the election process for School Council. Voting slips were then completed and counted; representatives of School Council will be announced next week.

Time was also spent learning about Joseph from the Old Testament who, despite great adversity, rose to be respected by his people and the pharaoh of Egypt.

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

Recommended Read

'More Than Words' by Roz Maclean



This is a beautiful picture book that brings recognition to the many unique ways we communicate, and how we can better listen to and respect these different modes of expression.

Nathan doesn't say much but he sure has a lot on his mind. At school, Nathan quietly observes the diverse ways his peers communicate. Even when they're not talking, they're expressing themselves in all sorts of ways. Throughout the book, Nathan learns and shows his fellow classmates the essential lesson that understanding and being mindful of one another is the greatest bridge to friendship and belonging.

Online Safety

Streaming songs with explicit lyrics. Watching videos featuring adult themes or bad language. Downloading apps or games that they're not quite old enough for yet. When a child uses a smartphone – either their own or a parent's – there are all kinds of harmful content they could unlock, either through natural inquisitiveness or by sheer accident.

The parental controls you'll find on most smartphones are an excellent way of minimising this possibility. They don't completely remove the element of risk – but they do significantly reduce it. This guide to home internet controls walks you through the process of setting up these potentially invaluable filters on iPhone and Android smartphones.

NOS National Online Safety®

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.6%
This week's attendance	96.6%
Latest Local Authority ranking	102 out of 188 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?

PTFA NEWSLETTER

Friends of St Gabriel's C of E Academy

w/e 27th September 2024 | PTA@stgabrielscofeacademy.org

SAVE THE DATE

We are pleased to announce our first ever Family Bingo Night is being held on Thursday 17th October 6.30pm after our AGM.

£5 per person and lots of prizes to be won!

Watch this space for details on how to book!

FUNDING NEWS

For the 2024/25 Academic year the PTFA has committed to providing £200 for each year group to help subsidise trips. Year 5 are using theirs towards Ancient Greek Day!

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

If you are a new Asda App user, Asda will give you £5 in your cash pot when you spend £5 on your first shop using the App.

You can raise FREE donations for Friends Of St Gabriel's C of E Academy **EVERY** time you shop online. Just use easyfundraising!

Over 7,000 brands will donate, including all the big names like John Lewis & Partners, BT, Expedia, Argos, ASOS, Just Eat, Uswitch and many more!

Scan the QR code to find out more...

EVENTS

Full details and how to book to follow

- **Thursday 17th October:** PTFA AGM and Bingo night
- **Friday 25th October:** Cakes and second hand uniform sale
- **Thursday 7th November:** Yrs 4-6 Disco
- **Thursday 28th November:** Wreath Making Night
- **Friday 29th November:** Hot Chocolate sale
- **Friday 13th - Sunday 15th December:** Santas Grotto at the Barn

Family Support

Drop-in Sessions for Families of Children with SEND:
SENDIAS has also been holding drop-in sessions across the county since the beginning of September, giving parents, carers and young people an opportunity to seek advice from their trained advisors about any SEND queries they may have.

The drop-in sessions will continue to run throughout October, November and December at Children and Family Centres (CFC) across the county - planned dates are below:

- 15 October, 9.30am - 1.30pm at Boughton Leigh CFC, Rugby
- 10 December, 9.30am - 1.30pm at Boughton Leigh CFC, Rugby

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

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