Weekly Learning Update

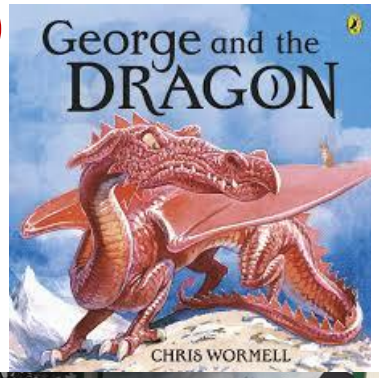
28th February 2025

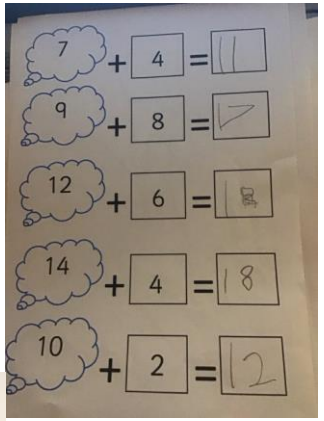
Nursery

This week, we have started our new key text: Handa's Hen. As you can see, we have introduced our very own hen to the Nursery children; they have been caring for her and her chicks! We have been exploring African animals in their natural habitats and looking at ways we can create their footprints in the sand using paintbrushes. The children have been using their imaginations to create the different animals from our story using playdough!

Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

It has been wonderful welcoming the children back this week; they have come back eager to learn and very excited about our new topic and to access the learning in the new areas.



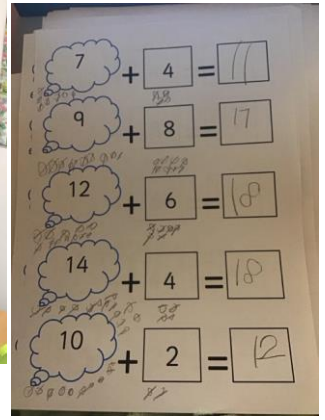


English:

We introduced our new key text: George and the Dragon by Chris Wormell. This week, we have focused on using inference, as a lot of the context in the story can be found in the imagery. We also spent time predicting what may be happening. The children loved exploring the front cover, thinking who the characters may be and identifying what the dragon's BIG secret may be. The children have had some very creative suggestions!

Phonics:

We are nearing the completion of recapping the Phase 3 phonemes and so we are now developing automaticity in reading. The children have been building their confidence with reading whole words, rather than blending them and they have enjoyed reading at different points throughout the week.



Maths:

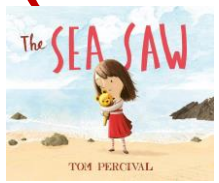
We have explored the concept of adding by counting on this week. Children are locking the first number of an addition number sentence in their head and then counting on by the second number. This has been explored through counting on using circles to represent the second number, or by using a number line.

Continuous Provision:

The children have really enjoyed accessing the learning linked to our new topic, from creating their own coats of arms and shields in the Creative Area to accessing the Reception castle in the Role Play Area. They have explored the classrooms and engaged fantastically!

Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

It's been a great first week back for Year 1!



In Phonics, we have been consolidating our Phase 5 phonemes. It has been great to hear that the children have enjoyed practising these at home so thank you for all of your support with this.

In English, we have started reading a new book called 'The Sea Saw' by Tom Percival. The children have enjoyed making predictions about the text, as well as role playing key characters. With a focus on using questions and statements, the children also created 'Missing' posters to help Sofia to find her bear!

In Maths, we have started to focus on Place Value to 50. The children have been using number tracks, counters and Base 10 to recognise the value of different numbers and sequence them.

In History, we have started our 'Toys' topic. The children had lots of fun exploring a variety of toys in the present, thinking about what they are made from and how they work. They then thought about their favourite toys. We are looking forward to comparing these to toys in the past next week!

In RE, we have been focusing on the Golden Rule and how it can be used as guidance for both religious and non-religious people. In groups, the children acted out different examples of when the Golden Rule is broken and together, we thought about what could have been done differently if the Golden Rule had been followed.

In Art, the children completed an observational drawing in the style of Andy Warhol to begin our Pop Art topic.

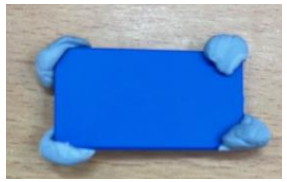
Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

Phonics:
In Phonics, we have learnt that:

- The grapheme our makes the phoneme or in words like fourth and pour.

- The grapheme or making the phoneme er in words like world and word.

English:
In English, we have been learning about different sentence types and have created questions, exclamations, statements and commands linking to some of the illustrations from our story.

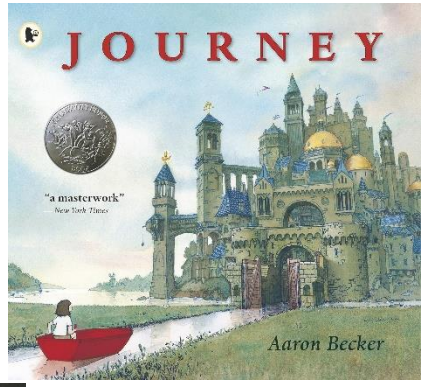


Shape	Vertices	Sides
C	0V	1S
T	3V	3S
R	4V	4S
S	4V	4S
P	5V	5S
X	6V	6S
H	7V	7S
O	8V	8S

Maths:
In Maths, we investigated the properties of 2D shapes and created our own class chart to remind us of the number of vertices and sides that each shape has.

Titanic Art and D&T Day
We had a fantastic day on Tuesday creating our own models of the Titanic. We loved painting them too! Here are some super examples.

Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

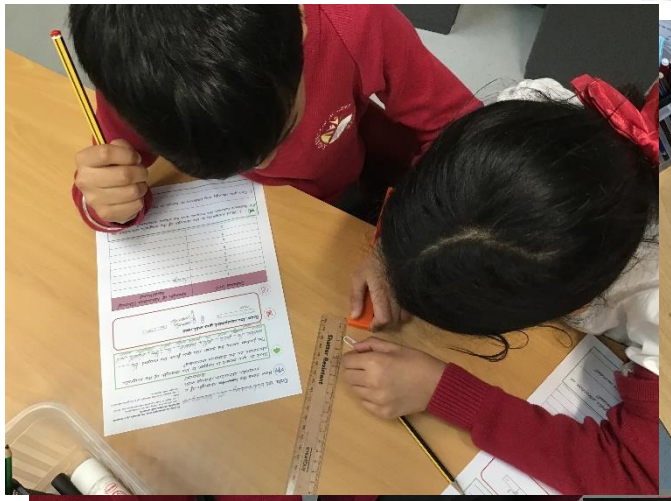


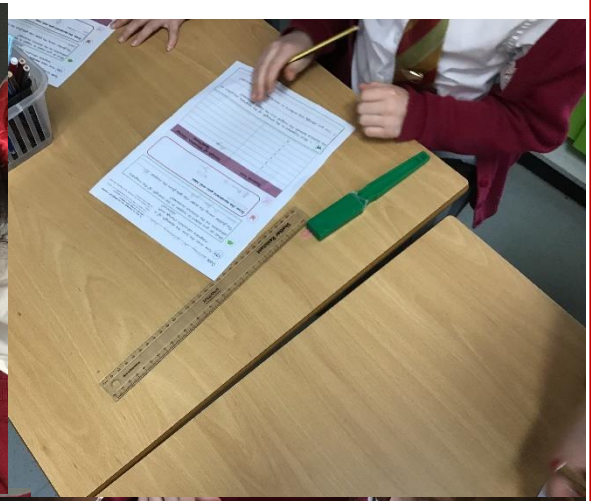
In English, we have started our new unit focusing on the wordless book 'Journey' by Aaron Becker. This week we have been developing our prediction skills as well as developing our vocabulary as writers. We identified ways we can improve our vocabulary with the intention to engage the reader as much as possible. We looked at using synonyms and similes as well as finding ways we can describe a character's feelings and actions without explicitly telling the reader, allowing them to infer.

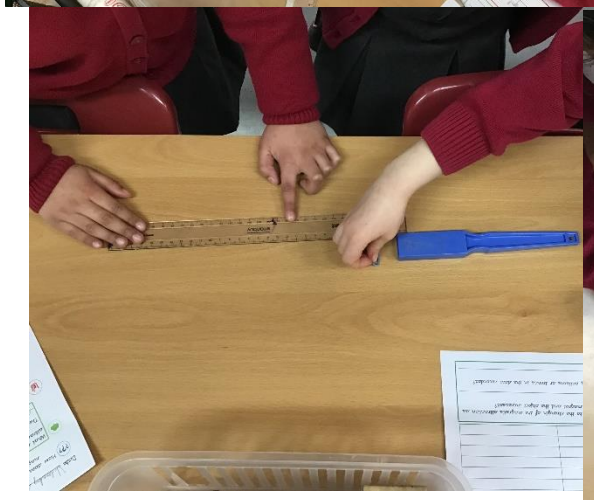
In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of dividing with remainders. We have looked at using the number line method to support us, alongside the grouping method and representing it pictorially.

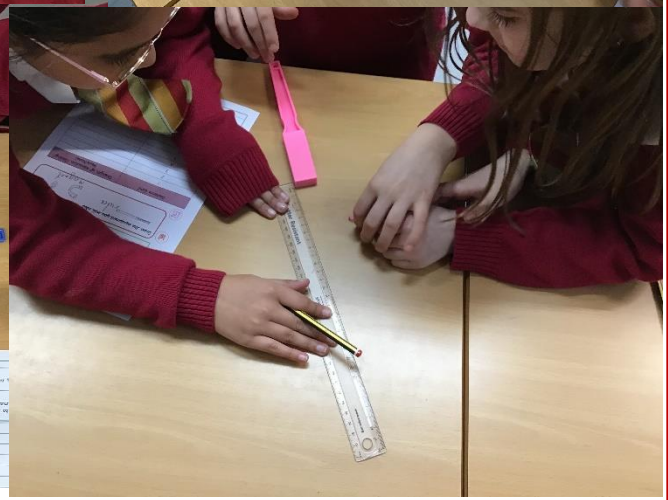
In Science, we completed an investigation which focused on understanding the strength of a magnet's force in correlation to the distance of the magnetic object.

In History, we have started our unit on 'The Tudors' and this week we looked at using chronology and timelines to support our knowledge and understanding of this period in history.





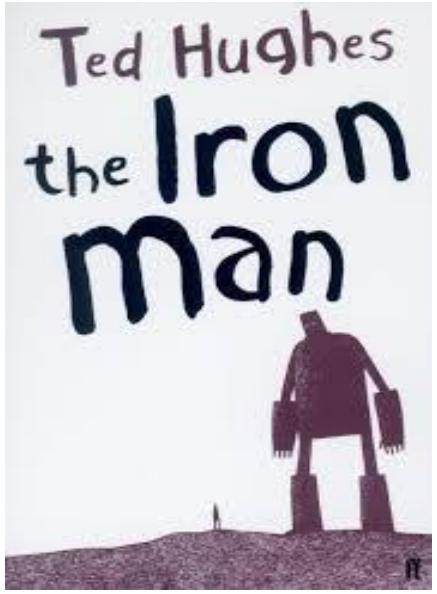




Year 4 (Turing Class and Tagore Class)

Year 4 have a had a thrilling start to the Spring 2 term.

To kickstart our term, we received a rather mysterious package along with a letter instead of our new book. Inside this intriguing parcel were all sorts of shiny objects, including gears, clocks, body parts and nails, as well as some images of a robotic-looking character. We were captivated by these clues and engaged in a lively discussion to predict what our new text might entail. We are excited to announce that we will be delving into the captivating world of 'The Iron Man' in our English lessons!



In RE, we have been learning about Lent and its significance within Christian worldviews. We took time to reflect on ways we can assist others during this special period. It has been heartening to see everyone's thoughtful contributions and ideas.

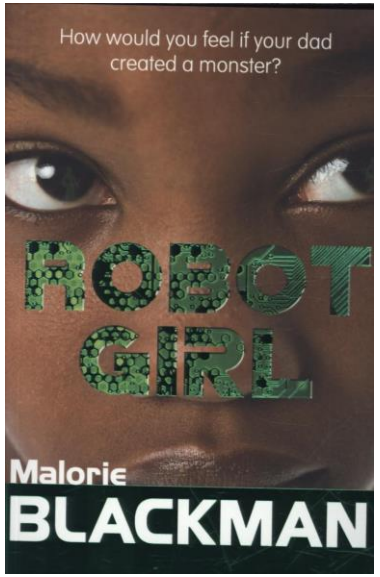
In Mathematics, we have embarked on our Fractions unit. We have been busy counting forwards and backwards beyond 1, as well as learning about mixed numbers and how to partition them effectively. It has been wonderful to witness everyone's effort and enthusiasm for this challenging area of mathematics.

Our History lessons have taken us back in time to learn about the fearless warrior queen Boudicca. We learned about her unrivalled strength and courage against the mighty force of the Roman army. We then worked diligently to write a recount of her rebellion against the Romans, showcasing our creativity and deep understanding of historical events.

Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Gandhi Class)

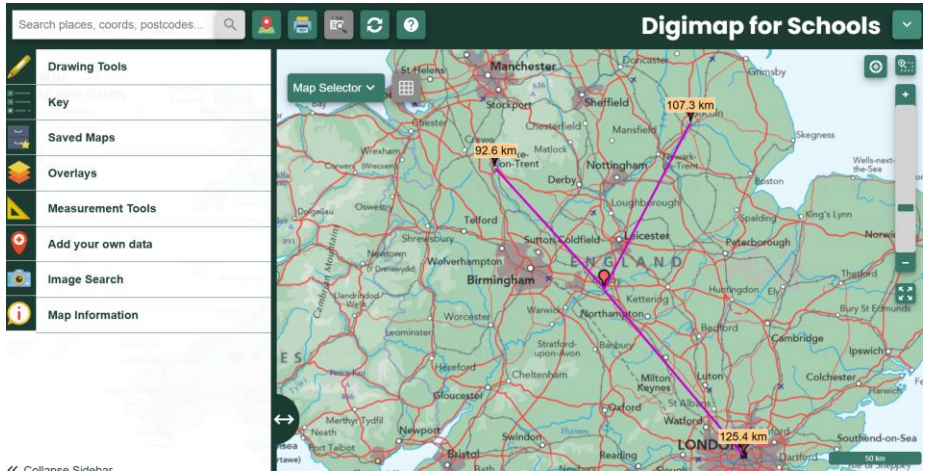
The children in Year 5 have had a fantastic start to the new half term.

In English, we have started looking at a new text called 'Robot Girl' by Malorie Blackman. We have made inferences about the characters, and compared Maisie and Claire by analysing the emails they write to one another. We predict that Maisie is a robot, who has been made specially to be friends with Claire!



In Maths, we have continued our learning about decimals by rounding to the nearest whole number, and to one decimal place. On Thursday, we started learning about percentages and converted between percentages and fractions.

We have started a new unit in Geography, which is all about cities of the United Kingdom. We are going to focus particularly on our local city, Coventry. This week, we have used digital mapping on a website called DigiMaps, where we have used markers to locate different cities around the UK. We then used these markers to measure the distance from a local town to the different towns and cities. We then challenged ourselves to find the closest town or city and then the furthest!



In RE, we have continued to explore the question, 'Who was Jesus?'. This week, we have focused more specifically on the importance of the resurrection for his followers. We explored this through art and discussed how the resurrection was represented.

Year 6 (Pogson Class and Ahmad Class)

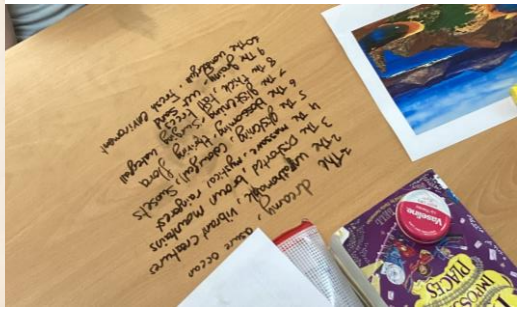
It has been a great first week back in Year 6 – we have dived straight back into lots of learning!

In English, we have been exploring our new class text: Charles Darwin's On the Origin of Species. Our learning began with making predictions based on key vocabulary and terminology from the text as we explored what it means to make discoveries and go on discovery journeys. We then moved on to explore how we can use language effectively to create engaging expanded noun phrases and dialogue that portrays character.

In Maths, we have changed topic and moved onto Fractions, Decimals and Percentages. The children have made wonderful progress, noticing the relationship between the three as they have learnt how to convert between them all.

In Science, we have started our unit on Evolution and Inheritance. This week, we focused on inheritance and variations and how different characteristics can be determined by either genes, the environment or a mixture of the two. We then broadened this learning as we explored how scientists use this in selective breeding of plants and animals. The children had to carefully select which two breeds of dogs to cross breed to create a new breed that had more favourable characteristics.

In Art, we did observational drawings of rainforest and jungle scenes. This was to practise key skills that will be needed when creating our own rainforest paintings based on the work of Henri Rousseau.



Collective Worship

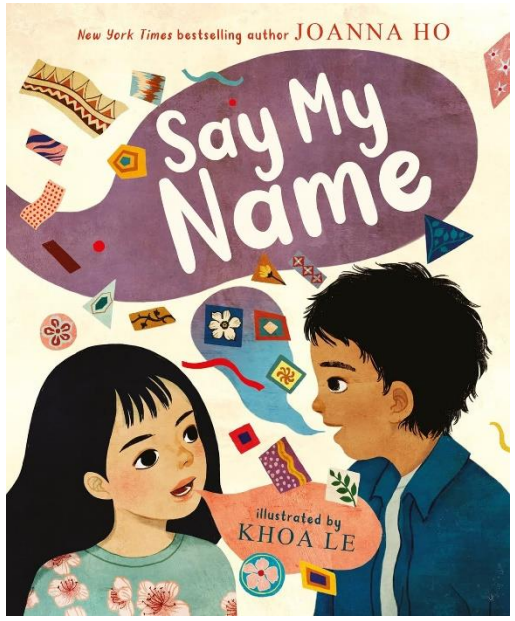
During collective worship this week, we have been learning the song This Is Our World and reflected upon its lyrics and their connection to our school value Community.

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

Recommended Read

Say My Name by *Joanna Ho*

Six children connect with the reader and proudly celebrate their names and backgrounds: Hé Xiao-Guang, Ofa Kivaha Tupoumalohi, Bijan Hosseini, Nizhoni Yazzie, Xóchitl Luna, and Akosua Acheampong. These captivating kids of Chinese, Tongan, Persian, Navajo, Mexican, and Ghanaian descent also honour their ancestors and cultural histories.



Online Safety

Following on from our focus for Safer Internet Day, figures from Ofcom claim that nearly 3.5 million British children have encountered a scam online and it's vital that we learn how to recognise their tactics and protect youngsters against them.

Follow the link below to download a PDF with more information.

https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fake-news-and-scams

Other News

NSPCC Number Day

Thank you so much for all of your support in raising money for the NSPCC on Number Day. We raised a total of £326, which is amazing and will make a huge difference to the lives of so many children.

PTFA

PTFA NEWSLETTER

Friends of St Gabriel's C of E Academy

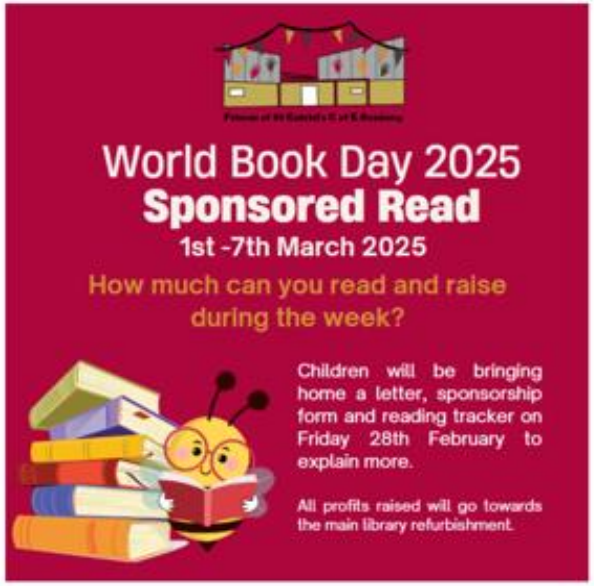
w/e 28th February 2025 | PTA@stgabrielscofeacademy.org

Today the children will be coming home with a letter, sponsorship form and reading tracker for our **WORLD BOOK DAY 2025 SPONSORED READ.**

We wanted to do something to celebrate World Book Day and encourage the children's lifelong love of reading all whilst trying to raise funds for the main school library refurbishment.

It is an optional event but we hope that many children will want to take part. There will be prizes for the classes that read the most and raise the most over the course of the week.

HAPPY READING!



EVENTS

Full details and how to book to follow

- **Monday 3rd March**: World Book Day Week Sponsored read
- **Friday 28th March**: Donut sale
- **Friday 16th May**: Non uniform day
- **Thursday 22nd May**: May fair

Friends of St Gabriel's C of E Academy (Registered Charity No: 1204367)

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.2%
This week's attendance	94.8%
Latest Local Authority ranking	14th out of 188 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?

Cycle Safety and Competition

Warwickshire County Council Road Safety Education Team are running a competition to name their new county fleet cycles. Fleet cycles are available for children to use to access Bikeability cycle training delivered by their cycle training providers. By providing fleet cycles, they are aiming to remove barriers to children gaining the skills they need to become the safe cyclists of the future. By naming the cycles, they hope to make them engaging for the users, and make it easy for children and their team to identify the different cycles.

- The competition is open to everyone.
- The closing date for entries is 31st March 2025.
- You can suggest a name for one of the cycles per entry.
- All names will be considered by the Road Safety Officers and cycle instructors.

They will share the new names for the 20 cycles once they have been chosen and let the winners know that they are using their name. They will provide a small, age appropriate prize for the winning names. Winners who are under 18 will be contacted via their school or college. Winners over 18 will be contacted via email.

Here is the link to the entry form.

Here is some information about cycle safety. Wearing a cycle helmet is particularly important as this can prevent serious head injuries if your child falls off or crashes into something. It will also help children get into the habit of wearing a helmet if they see the adults around them wearing bicycle helmets.

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

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