Weekly Learning Update

28th March 2025

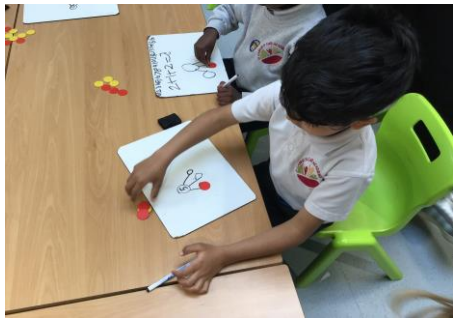
Nursery

This week, we have been focusing our learning in English around 'Amazing Africa' and we have researched some facts about the continent. From this, we explored a chosen topic in more depth and worked hard to learn some facts - Blue Nursery focused on the River Nile and Yellow Nursery focused on pyramids.

We have also celebrated Mother's Day with some adults coming to Nursery to share and explore our learning together. We hope you all enjoyed the stay and play and we hope you have a lovely Mother's Day.

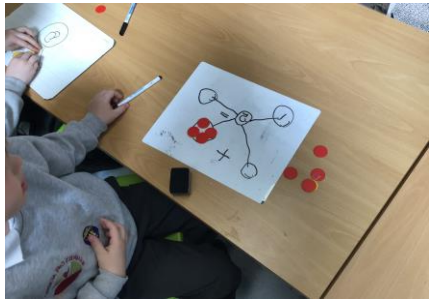
Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

It has been another awesome week in Reception!



English:

We asked the children a big question at the beginning of the week... are dragons real? Throughout our English lessons we have been exploring different types of 'dragons'. We have learnt facts about bearded dragons, Komodo dragons, dragonflies and even dragon fruit! The children have been so enthusiastic to learn some amazing facts about these different things and have shown this in their writing; they wrote a range of different sentences about the facts that they retained. We have been so impressed with their writing that there have been trips to the leadership team through the week to celebrate their learning!



Phonics:

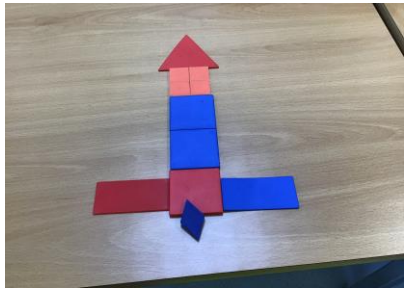
We are continuing to explore a range of different Phase 3 phonemes, with a focus on blending for reading. We are promoting children being able to identify phonemes in words and then blend words accurately for reading.

Maths:

We have explored composition of number. With the children showing confidence in number bonds to 5, composition adds to this skill set by exploring further ways in which 5 can be made. Children have enjoyed exploring breaking 5 as a whole into lots of different parts and have even looked at part, part, part, part, part, whole models!

Continuous Provision:

The children have also enjoyed exploring our castle themed activities. They have really enjoyed creating and sculpting with the play dough to make castle and character related items. They have also enjoyed exploring the 2D and 3D shapes to create a range of different models.



Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

It's been another super week for Year 1, full of lots of fun!

On Monday, we came into the classroom to find a present had been left for us. It was a big, red bus! We spent some time wondering why it had been left and thinking about what we knew about buses. We then came in on Tuesday to find that our classroom had been left in a mess. It wasn't until we found our new book 'Naughty Bus' that we put the two together and realised that the bus had been having some adventures in our classroom! We had lots of fun reading the book and writing a letter to the Naughty Bus.

In Maths, we have been recognising and making equal groups, using counters and Base 10 to support us.

In PSHE, we have been thinking about skills that people need to do certain jobs. We talked about how jobs can be done by anyone, no matter who they are, their gender, where they are from, what they look like and how they choose to live their lives. We decided that it is the person and their interests and abilities that determine whether they can do the job – nothing else!

The highlight of our week was our toy workshop! We stepped into a story about a boy who was sorting the toys in his attic. Our job was to help him to sort the toys into old or new! We had so much fun exploring all of the toys, finding out how they worked and thinking about what they were made of.

Ahead of next week, Bell class are looking forward to practising their class assembly ready for Friday 4th April!

Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

We have had another super week!

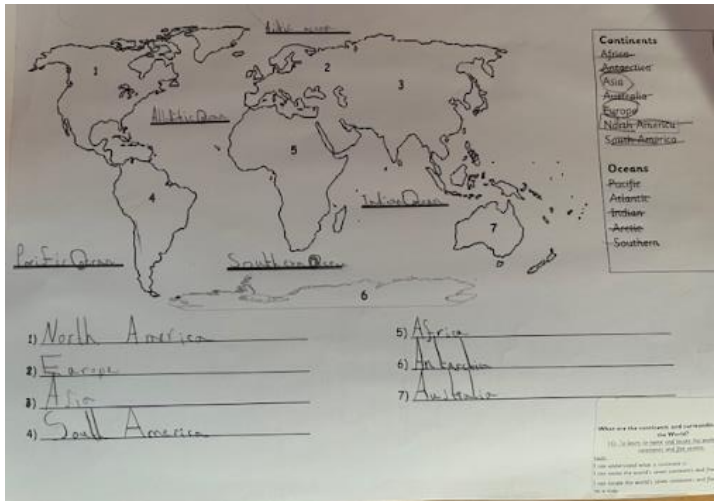
Phonics:
In Phonics, we have learnt that:

-The grapheme il makes the phoneme l in words like pencil and nostril.

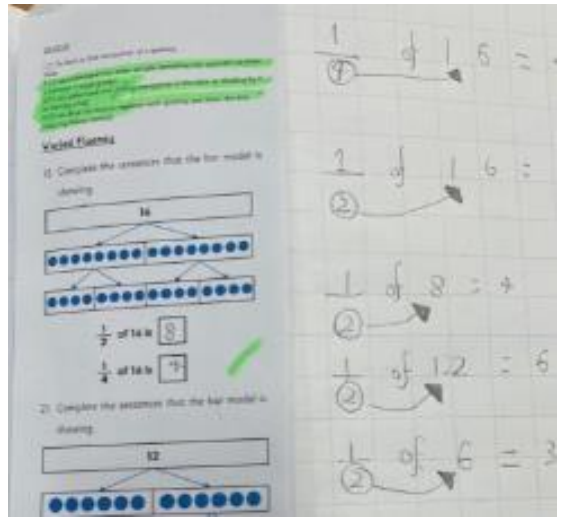
-The grapheme ture makes the phoneme chu in words like picture and mixture.

-The grapheme ea makes the phoneme e in words like dreamt and deaf.

English:
In English, we have been learning about conjunctions and have been writing sentences using coordinating and subordinating conjunctions.

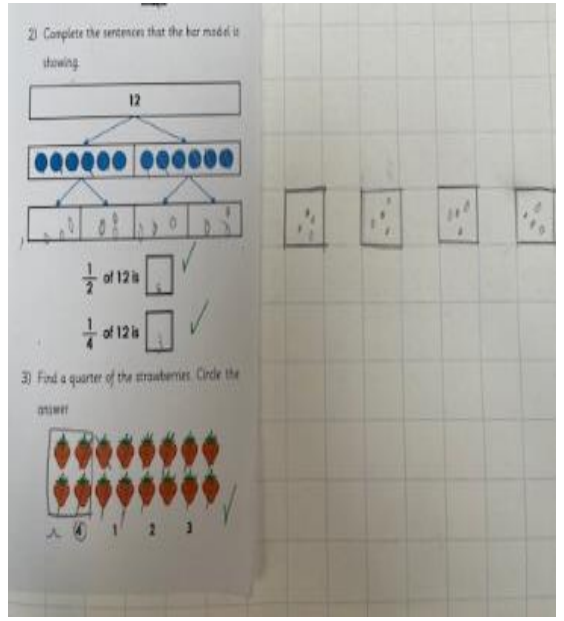


Maths:
In Maths, we have continued learning about fractions and have been finding ¼ of an amount using the dots and groups method or by halving and halving again.



Geography
In Geography, we have been learning to name and locate the five oceans of the world.

Handwriting:
In handwriting and spelling, we have been focusing on the grass letters i, n and m. We have also been learning to spell words ending in ing.



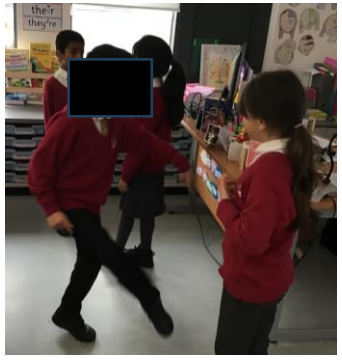
Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

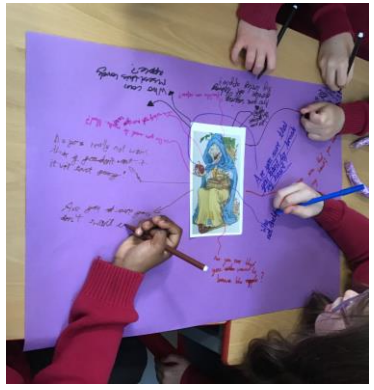
In English, we have started our new text 'Once Upon a Wild Wood' by Chris Riddell. This week we have been learning about the purpose of writing to persuade and have used a section in the book for our focus. The children acted out the scenario where the kind, old lady was trying to persuade Green to eat an apple. The children have looked at how we can use rhetorical questions and adverbs to persuade.

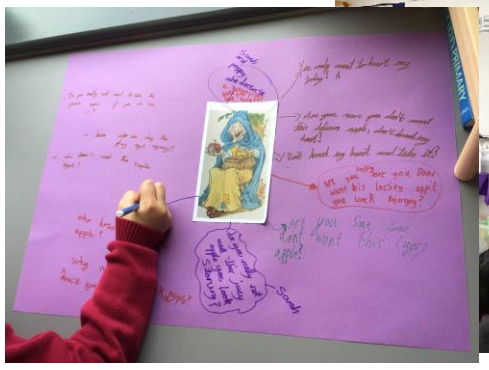
In Maths, we have been finding equivalent fractions on a number line and using a bar model. We have used this knowledge to identify patterns between the numerator and denominator in equivalent fractions.

In RE, we have been looking at the importance of peace and reconciliation for people with non-religious worldviews. We discussed how even though people may not have religious worldviews, they see peace and forgiveness as an important aspect of their life.

In History, we explored how social class impacted the lives of people during the Tudor period. We looked at similarities between their houses, the food and their clothing.







Year 4 (Turing Class and Tagore Class)

This week, Year 4 have had a spectacular week! The highlight of our week was a visit from Professor McGinty and his time machine, which took us on an exciting journey to delve further into the topic of the Romans. We were lucky enough to ride back into history and gain a better understanding of the Romans. On our journey, we encountered a Celt, who we learned lived in a Celtic roundhouse. He had a moustache, white hair, and painted his skin blue! He showed us his home, and we learned about how he lived his day to day life.

Before long, we saw the arrival of the Romans in Britain, who invaded and settled here for over 400 years. They governed the land with the might of their powerful Roman army and even built Hadrian's Wall to keep out the Scots and the Picts, who were a threat . We learned about the daily lives of everyday people in Roman times and even had the opportunity to try on some of their clothes. Purple was a colour that many of the wealthier Romans wore to show their wealth, since we discovered that purple was a difficult colour to make.

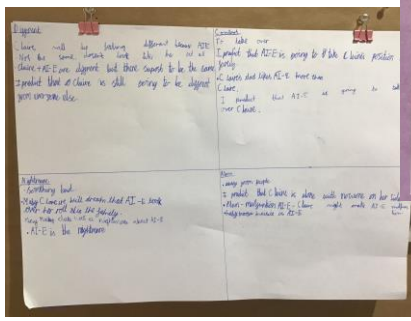
We also learned about inventions such as the Roman baths and toilets. It was fascinating to see the remnants of their thinking in our sewage systems today; however, we are relieved that there have been significant developments since those days! The Roman Empire spread far and wide, and we discovered some of the Roman foods they enjoyed, like peacock and flamingo's tongue, which, funnily enough, was not the tongue of a flamingo but a type of snail found in the Mediterranean!

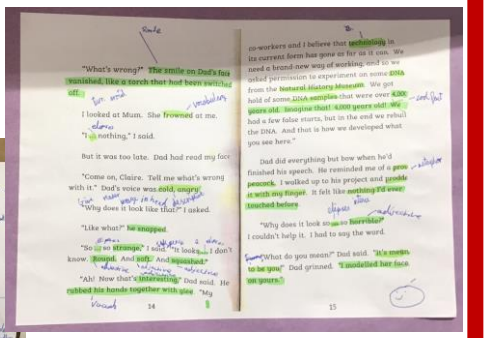
We were able to apply some of our Latin and Maths knowledge, which added to the excitement of the day. We recognised some of the Roman words that Professor McGinty mentioned, like gladius, aqua, and equus. We even solved a Roman numeral puzzle of DCCLXXIX!

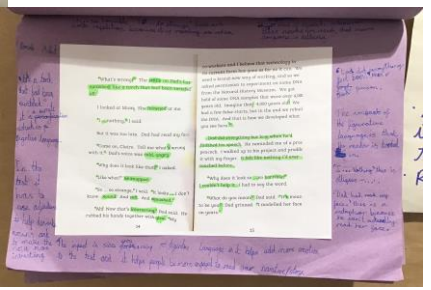
Professor McGinty did not come empty-handed; we had the chance to handle some authentic Roman artefacts, such as nails used for building, Roman coins and much more. It was truly a wonderful day! Not only did we build on our knowledge of the Romans, but we also created lasting memories that we will cherish for a long time.

Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Gandhi Class)

In English this week, we have read more of 'Robot Girl' by Malorie Blackman. We were given the titles of the next four chapters, and had to predict what was going to happen, using our background knowledge and clues from previous chapters to support us. We have also been exploring how the author has used different features in the narrative to build suspense and engage the reader, such as figurative language, first person and speech.

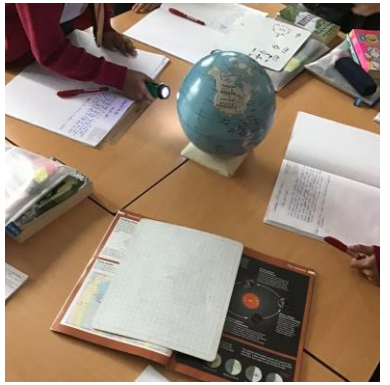






In Maths, we have moved on to learning about statistics. We have been drawing line graphs, and interpreting the data. We have also been exploring tables and two-way tables.

In Geography, we have been planning our fieldwork, where we will be investigating how tourism affects the population of Coventry. We have considered what kind of data we will need to answer our enquiry question, and evaluated the most effective way to record and present our data. We are really excited about going to Coventry to conduct our fieldwork after the Easter break!



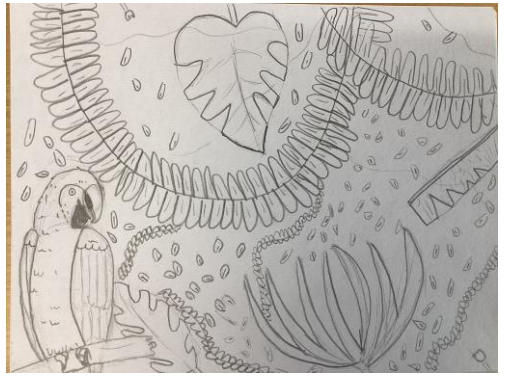
In Science, we have continued with our learning about space, focussing specifically on day and night. We used torches and globes to investigate how daytime and night time can take place at the same time across the globe. For example, when it is daytime in the UK, it is night time in Australia! We were also able to explore different time zones across the world too.

In RE, we have discussed how different worldviews have differing views of Jesus and compared these with Christianity.

Year 6 (Pogson Class and Ahmad Class)

We cannot believe how quickly the weeks seem to be going by! Another week in Year 6 is completed and lots of learning has happened!

In English, we have been dipping into our Science learning as we have been discovering more about how to write to inform. Our week began with exploring the typical structures and features of informative texts and then recapping our knowledge around the active and passive voice as well as causal conjunctions. We then moved on to carry out some research using secondary sources to find out about the adaptations specific animals have to suit their environments – this has formulated our planning for our writing next week!



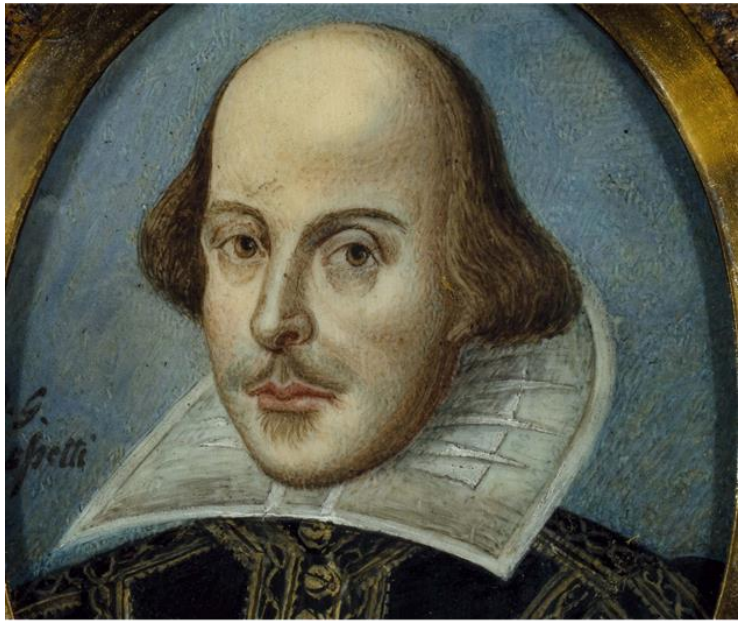
In Maths, we have been learning about everything to do with statistics! The week has consisted of exploring all of the different ways in which we might record, present and interpret collected data including in line graphs, dual bar charts and pie charts. We then finished off the week by learning how to find the mean. You might like to support this at home by asking your child the method they need to use to find the mean!

In Art, we started off our final drafts of our own artwork, based on the pieces of Henri Rousseau. We had to think carefully about our outlines so that we can be prepared to add colour next week!

Finally, in Geography, we have moved on to explore deforestation as we compared aerial shots of different forests from different years. We then identified its positive and negative effects and considered different methods to help limit its impact on the world.

Collective Worship

During Worship Through Song, the children have been singing Easter songs and reflecting on the lyrics and how they connect to the Easter story.



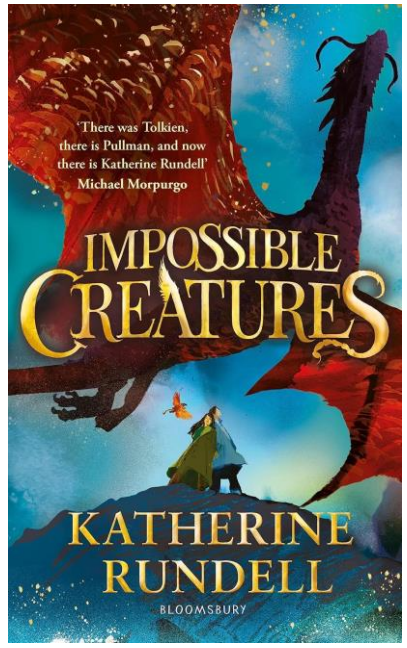
This week, Anning class led Celebration Collective Worship teaching the school all about the importance of Warwickshire's William Shakespeare. As well as teaching us all about the important events in his life, the children entertained us with a song they had learnt about him. Congratulations to all of the children who received a Head Teacher's award this week.

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

Recommended Read

'Impossible Creatures' *by Katherine Rundell*

Christopher is astonished to uncover a passage leading to the Archipelago, a collection of enchanting islands where mythical beings continue to exist, reproduce, and flourish in great numbers. There, he encounters Mal, a girl from the islands who possesses a magical flying coat and a baby griffin, and who is being hunted by an assassin. Together, they embark on a critical mission to uncover the cause of the sudden decline of these creatures, journeying through the breathtaking landscapes of the Archipelago, where sphinxes guard ancient secrets, all in an effort to rescue both the islands and the wider world from an encroaching darkness—before time runs out.



Online Safety

Whilst it's important to be aware of the dangers of children being online, there are so many positives to be celebrated.

The way that we engage with text has changed over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging. Here are some top tips on how to utilise these:

https://nationalcollege.com/guides/using-technology-to-boost-reading-skills

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.5%
This week's attendance	97.4%
Latest Local Authority ranking	16th 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?

Family Support

In Warwickshire, parents to be, parents, carers and grandparents have access to a variety of parenting resources and advice. Support can be accessed online, face-to-face through informal advice, one-to-one consultations, group programmes and workshops.

The following pages contain information on parenting support that is available.

Contact the Family Information Service for advice and guidance on a wide range of subjects including:

- Housing
- Finance
- Childcare
- Parental conflict and contact
- Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

Contact the Early Help Family Support Work service for advice and guidance on:

- Parenting and all aspects of family life
- Children and young people's behaviour

Visit the Warwickshire Family and Relationship Support Team webpage for information about accessing free:

- Online guides
- Workshops
- Programmes

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