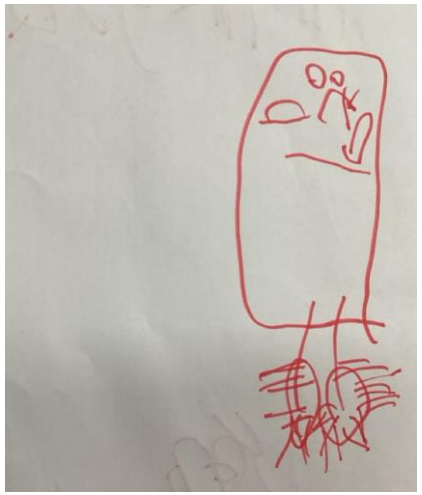
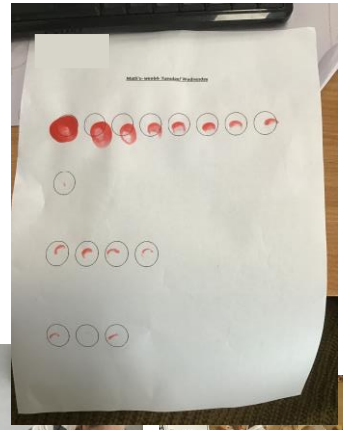
Weekly Learning Update

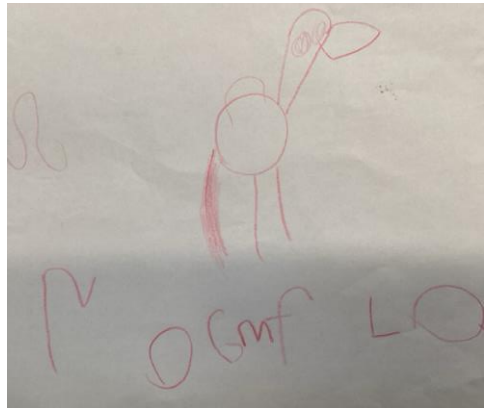
29th November 2024

Nursery

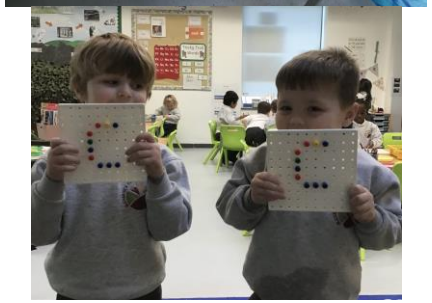
This week, we have been testing our Maths skills and challenging ourselves to count with numicon. We have been working hard on the Maths table by measuring the size of our hands using squares. The children have been exploring a few Christmas crafts and practising our sing along as we prepare for Christmas, making sure we use our best singing voices!







Reception (King Class and Parks Class)



English:

Last week, we completed learning with our key text 'We're Going On A Bear Hunt'. The children worked so hard with retelling their story. We were all very impressed.

Having explored fiction texts, this week we have begun researching facts and information to create some non-fiction writing. The children have learnt lots of interesting facts about the grizzly bear, polar bear and sun bear.

Phonics:

We continue to recap our Phase 2 phonemes and have been exploring patterns whilst blending for reading. We have looked at the Phase 2 digraphs, 'ck', 'ff', 'll', and 'ss' and how these often appear at the end of words. The children are building their confidence with recognising the high frequency and tricky troll words that have been taught in Phonics and reading these as whole words within the phonic books.

With this being the first full week of library and Phonics books going home, we are already seeing resilience developing with the fluency of their reading. Thank you so much for your support. The children excitedly took their new books home on Wednesday; we hope they enjoy sharing them with you.

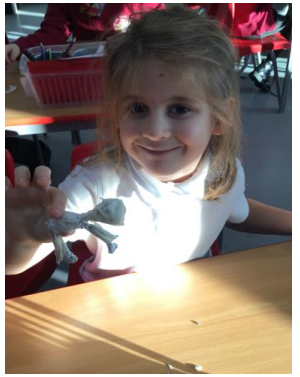
Maths:

We have been exploring pattern within number this week and understanding the order of numbers within 10 and 20. Children have had a range of opportunities to recognise ordering numbers. We also explored ordering numbers based on whether they were being ordered from lowest to highest or highest to lowest.

Learning around the classroom:

The children have enjoyed accessing the areas within the classrooms this week, particularly the Investigation Area. Within our Investigation Area, we have created our own road to support understanding of road safety. With the opportunities of role playing a pedestrian, driver and patrol officer, the children have thought about how to safely cross the road and the importance of drivers being aware of the environment around them.

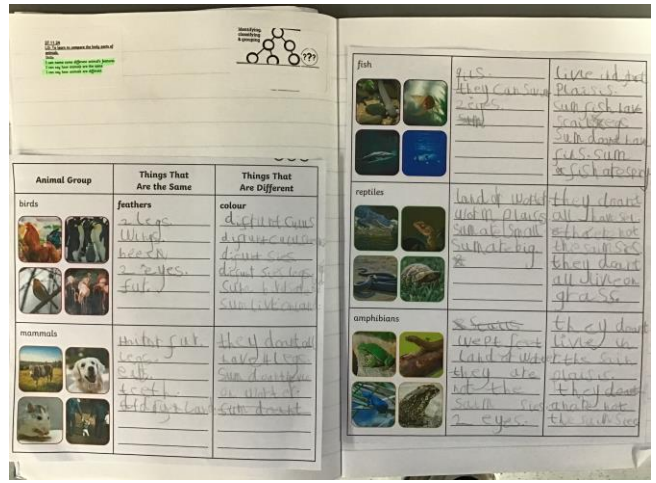
Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)



Year 1 have been working hard and showing amazing growth this week in all of their learning.

In Phonics, we have been focusing on phoneme blends at the start of a word and the children have been reading and writing words and sentences. We have been so impressed with how hard the children are working on their handwriting, using the letter sayings to help them to remember their starry sky and underground letters.

In Maths, we have been naming and describing the properties of 2D shapes. We wonder if the children can tell you and spot them in the environment around them! We then had a go at sorting the shapes in lots of different ways, based on their properties.



In Science, we have been comparing the body parts of animals, thinking about how animals are the same and how they are different. The children created fact files to describe the features of different animals.

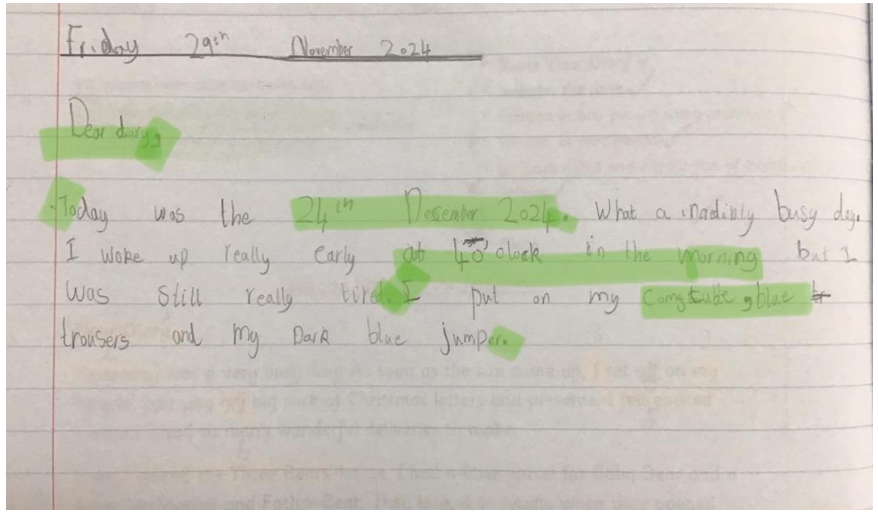
In Art, we have been learning about the artist David Gosling and looking at some of his sculptures. We used tin foil to begin to explore how to create sculptures and had a go at making our own.

In RE, we looked at mandirs in more detail and drew pictures of what happens inside a mandir.

In PSHE, we have been learning about what should be kept private. We listened to the PANTS song to help us to remember.

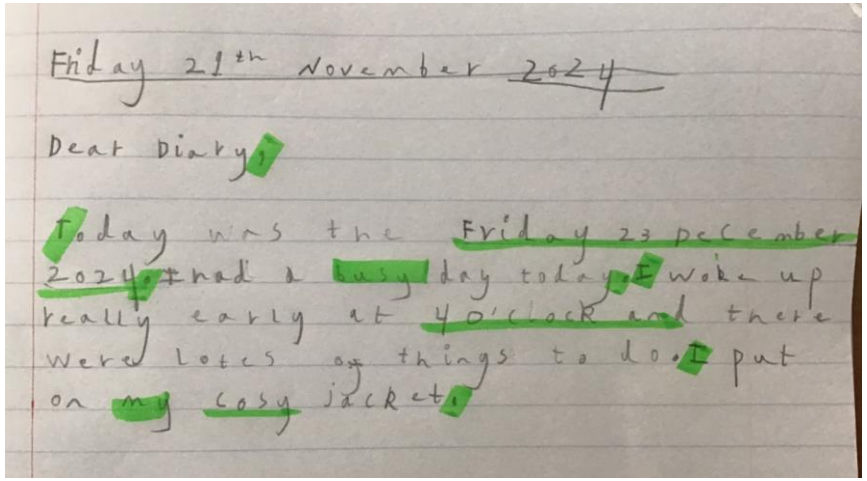
Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

We have been learning about diary entries in Year 2 for our English learning. The children have tracked the journey of the Jolly Christmas Postman and placed themselves in his role. We are recalling key events from his journey alongside implementing the skills we have been learning.



Our Maths learning was all about reinforcing our understanding of the column subtraction method. We have moved on to the complicated process of regrouping.

Our Science learning saw us developing our understanding of habitats and how animals are adapted to survive, sometimes in extraordinarily harsh conditions.



Kerr Class also delivered their assembly all about the learning they have been undertaking in this half term. The children did a tremendously good job in finding Mr Grafton's diary strictly so that they could identify the key features of a diary.

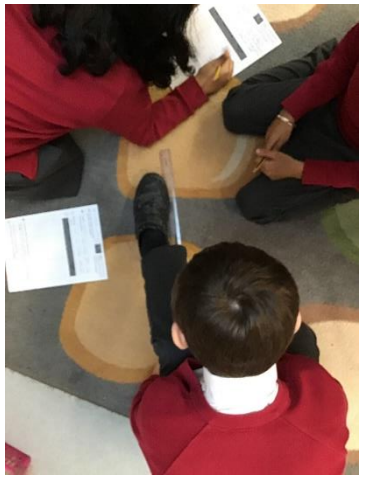
The children also completed their Autumn assessments this week alongside practising for their Christmas performance and the effort they have put in has been fantastic! Well done on another fantastic week Year 2 - good job!

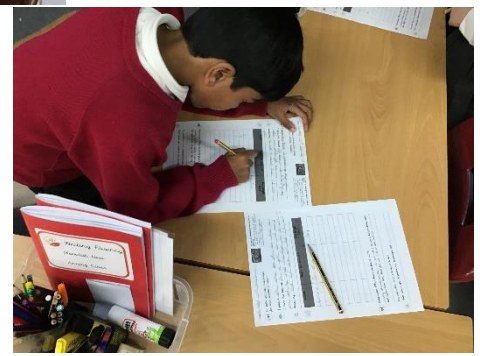
Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

We have had a super busy week this week, full of lots of exciting learning!

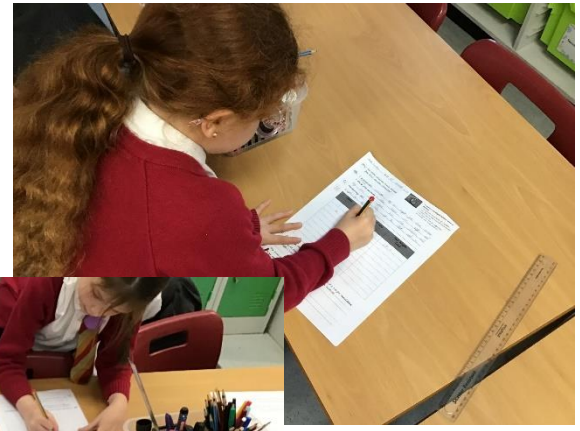
We just want to say how proud we are of all of the children in Y3 for their efforts in their assessments this week. They all showed great resilience and growth and they should be super proud of all they have achieved!

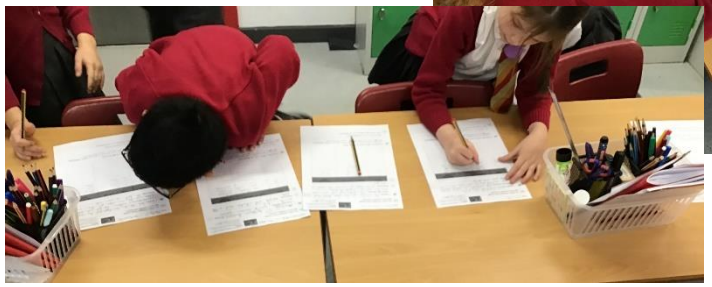
In Geography, we have been planning our Geography fieldwork for next week where we will be looking at how the population of features may change over time. We discussed how populations may change hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, seasonally and yearly. The children also enjoyed creating their own maps of Houlton and discussing how the population of the different features in Houlton may change.





In Science, we have been looking at human skeletons. We have learned that there are 206 bones in the body and that the skeleton is there to protect, support and move our bodies. We also enjoyed conducting a pattern seeking enquiry where the children were answering the question '*Do taller children have longer feet than shorter children?*'. The children enjoyed measuring themselves using tape measures and looking at the results to help them make a conclusion from the enquiry.





In RE, we have discussed the question '*Are places more sacred than others?*'. As classes, we discussed how lots of places in nature are sacred for different people with different worldviews and these worldviews can determine people's views on what is sacred and what isn't.

Year 4 (Turing Class and Tagore Class)

Year 4 have had a fantastic week of learning; we have shown great curiosity in class to have a fun filled week filled with discovery.

In Science, we investigated the enquiry question 'Does all chocolate have the same melting point?' We conducted a comparative investigation where we timed how long it would take for milk, dark, white and caramel chocolate to melt. We discovered that dark chocolate melted the quickest. We concluded that this was because, out of all the chocolate tested, it was the one closest to its natural state and did not have too many add ons such as butter that would increase its melting point.

In Geography, we have been working practically. This week we learned about river pollution and the role of humans on the worsening state of pollution in rivers and oceans. We carried out an investigation, where we attempted to filter water. Although we were able to make our own makeshift water filters, we discovered that the process of water filtration and purification is one that is very complex and does not always completely eliminate contamination. We made posters to encourage people to be more aware of their wastage and gave tips on how to decrease pollution.

In Maths we have continued to practise our 3, 6- and 9-times tables. This week, we have been set a tournament on TTRS between our classes. Each class has one week to work as a team and answer as many times tables facts. Who will be victorious? Let the games begin!

In D&T, we have continued to prepare for our 'Great Bread Roll Bake'. This week, we looked at different bread roll recipes, exploring the ingredients and the processes. We then decided which bread roll we would make, then wrote our recipes.

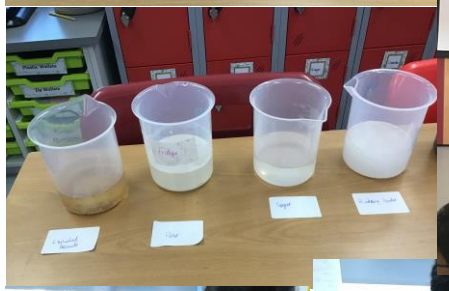
Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Gandhi Class)

Year 5 have had an amazing week and we are so proud of the resilience and perseverance they have shown during their assessments.

On Tuesday, we enjoyed a fantastic day learning even more about the Ancient Greeks. During the day, we learnt about the Greek Gods, in particular we role played the story of Cronus, who ate his children, with only Zeus escaping! We were also very interested in seeing a range of Greek armour and weapons; some of us were very glad that we didn't need to fight in the Greek army! We also learnt about Greek democracy and we explored who would vote during Ancient Greek times. Finally, we ended the day with our own Olympics, where we had to throw hoops over a chair. It was a competitive game and Gandhi class had a close victory by only 2 points!

In Science this week, we learnt about soluble and insoluble materials and we identified which materials are soluble through observing whether the material dissolved in a liquid. We tested several solids such as flour, baking powder and crushed biscuits.

In RE this week, we have explored why non-religious people may pray at points in their lives and how they may pray. We learnt about 'spiritual nones' and their worldviews.



Year 6 (Pogson Class and Ahmad Class)

It has been a very busy and a much more challenging week in Year 6 this week as the children have worked incredibly hard to complete their first set of assessments in Maths and English!

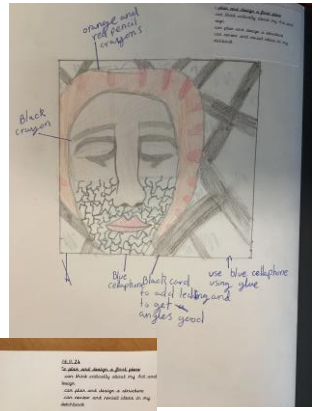
In English, we have been taking time to develop our editing and proofreading skills by identifying opportunities for improvement in our biographies about Walter Tull, including correcting errors in grammar and punctuation as well as finding alternative vocabulary in order to improve the cohesiveness and fluency of our texts. The children then published a final version of their texts!

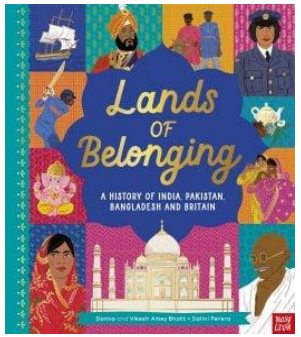
In Science, we have been investigating the relationships and patterns between light and mirrors as the children have identified the incident and reflected ray. They have also applied their learning by creating their own periscopes.

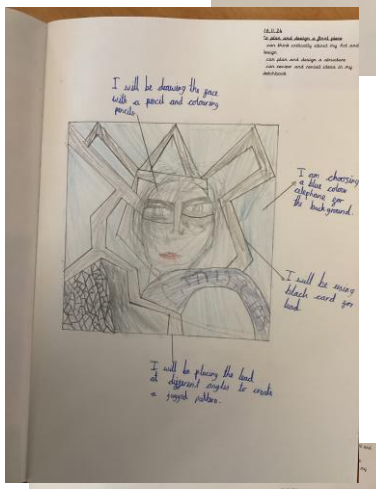
In RE, we have been learning more about the term 'Lands of Belonging' as the children have considered why a person may want to go back to a place where they have previously lived in or may have a connection with. We then focused more specifically on the country of India and how many people with different worldviews might visit similar sacred sites to celebrate different key events or take part in pilgrimages.

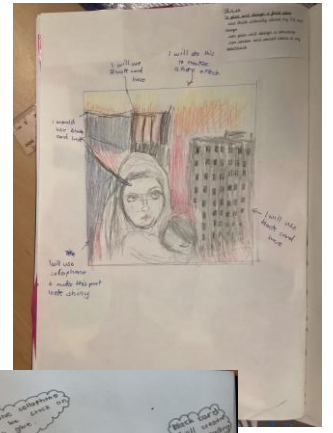
In Art, the children were given the task to plan their final pieces of work, inspired by Roman Halter, using different layering techniques. They had to think carefully about the types of shapes and designs they planned to use and annotate their work accordingly. We cannot wait to see their final products!

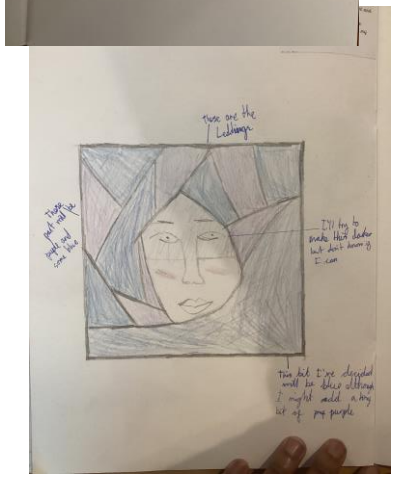
In History this week, we have found out more about the Christmas Truce and explored how we know it happened through the use of different historical sources. After analysing a variety of sources, the children were tasked with writing a summary of what happened on this important day and how we know about it.











Collective Worship

During collective worship this week, the children began to learn about the symbolism of an Advent wreath as we lit the first candle symbolising Hope.

This week Kerr Class led our Celebration Assembly. Unfortunately for Mr Grafton the children found his secret diary and read it to the whole school! We all learnt about the unicorn teddy he has at bedtime! More importantly we learnt about all the amazing work the children have been engaged in. Well done, Kerr Class. It was also wonderful to celebrate children receiving 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.

Other News

THANK YOU- your kind donations helped to raise **£816.30** for the children's hospice **Zoe's Place**. Contributions linked to our recent Festival of Light and Peace raised **£228** for the **World Peace Flame** charity.

ZOE'S PLACE
BABY HOSPICE

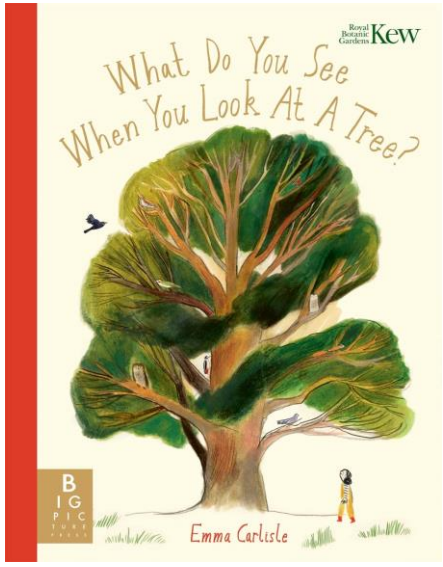
Family Support

A wide range of support is available to families through Warwickshire's [Family Information Service](#).

Recommended Read

'**What Do You See When You Look At a Tree?**' By Emma Carlisle

In association with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, this wonderful picture book explores themes of empathy, mindfulness and personal growth through the eyes of a child. Beautifully written and illustrated by the award-winning artist Emma Carlisle, *What Do You See When You Look At a Tree?* urges readers to reconnect with nature by asking questions that encourage critical thinking and reflection on their own development, as well as helping to establish a deeper appreciation for the environment and their place within it.



Online Safety

Childnet International is a registered UK charity that aims to make the internet a safe place for children and young people. Packed with advice, it is a great resource of support.

https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.8%
This week's attendance	95.4%
Latest Local Authority ranking	19th out of 188 schools
Latest National ranking	Top 10-20% 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?