Weekly Learning Update

30th January 2026

Nursery

It has been another fabulous week in Nursery! With the children gaining further confidence and our routines being embedded, we have began to introduce additional elements to the day. The children have started small group work as well as carpet sessions to develop a range of social interactions.

Within our English focus, we are working on our key text, The Oak Tree by Julia Donaldson. Within small groups we have focused on the rhythm and pattern of the text as well as being able to retell the story, using the illustrations to support with certain points.

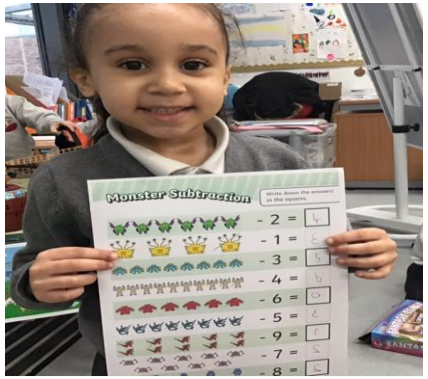
The children have enjoyed accessing the challenges within the areas. The children have explored getting a set quantity from a larger group, creating their own acorns and messy mark making!

Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

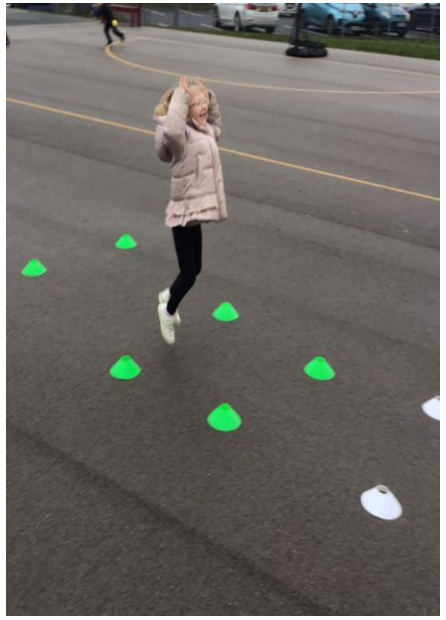
Reception have had another wonderful week, filled with lots of exciting learning.

In the Investigation Area, we are exploring computer science as we program the beebots to help Max get home.

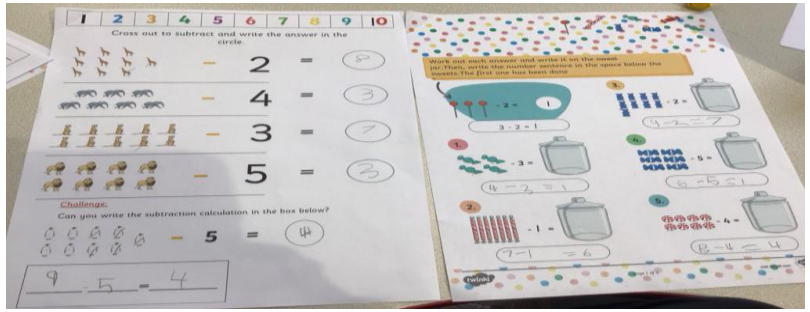
In English, we have nearly completed our stories and next week we will add the finishing touches before sending our books home.



Our Maths lessons are developing and extending our subtraction skills. Subtraction snake has been sneaking some of our biscuits and we've even had bears taking our gems! The children have been using counters, cubes and circles to work out the subtraction number sentences.



We had lots of fun on Monday taking part in our dodgeball festival, learning vital skills to support in the sport of dodgeball. We were throwing under arm and over arm whilst aiming for a target.



Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

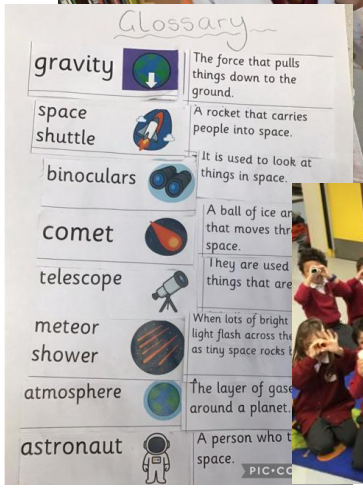
This week we began exploring our new class book, *Look Up!* by Nathan Bryon. The children have been especially enthusiastic about learning new vocabulary linked to space. They created their own glossaries to explore these words and their meanings, showing great curiosity and understanding. We also followed a set of instructions to make our very own card telescopes. The children worked carefully and enjoyed the activity. We will be using these telescopes next week as we 'Look Up' at the sky and write descriptive sentences inspired by what we might see.

We have now completed our unit on place value with numbers up to 20. The children have shown fantastic understanding, confidently using a range of equipment to represent numbers and compare them. They have accurately used the terms greater than, less than, and equal to, which is wonderful progress.
We have now begun our new unit on addition and subtraction, starting by exploring concrete ways of finding a total. The children have enjoyed working practically to build strong foundations for this next stage of learning.

In Geography, the children created their own sketch maps of our school site. We discussed the importance of a key and how it helps us identify features on a map without needing detailed drawings. We also looked at satellite images of our local area and identified familiar landmarks, sparking lots of discussion and excitement.

In Religious Eucation, we continued learning about the worldviews of Muslims. We explored why the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him) is an important figure in Islam. The children then reflected on what makes a good teacher and talked about the people in their own lives who help shape their worldviews. Their ideas were thoughtful and sensitive.

This week in Art, we further explored the medium of collage, continuing our study of the artist Giles Davies. The children experimented with creating different effects using paper and practised layering to build their own collage-style artworks. They showed great creativity and care in their work.



In science, we investigated the properties of materials by creating Venn diagrams. The children sorted objects based on properties such as *transparent*, *flexible*, *hard* and *smooth*. Their challenge was to find an object that could be placed in the centre of the Venn diagram - belonging to both groups. They showed impressive scientific thinking and enjoyed exploring the materials around them.

Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

What a fantastic week Year 2 have had!

We began with a brilliant Dodgeball Festival where the children threw themselves (sometimes quite literally!) into a range of activities designed to develop their throwing, catching and agility skills. They worked with enthusiasm, supported one another beautifully, and showed real determination as they practised new techniques. It was a joyful afternoon full of teamwork, laughter and active learning.

In Maths, we kicked off the week by beginning our new unit on multiplication and division. The children revisited key ideas from Year 1, including recognising equal and unequal groups, making equal groups and adding equal groups. We explored these concepts using practical resources, drawings and real-life examples, helping the children understand that multiplication is all about combining equal groups.

In English, we had an especially exciting week when we discovered that a terrible crime had been committed against none other than Paddington Bear! The children found a distressing message from Paddington explaining that his precious suitcase had mysteriously disappeared from the staffroom. Using their inference and deduction skills, the children examined clues, questioned motives and pieced together the evidence. Eventually, they concluded that the culprit was… Mr Grafton! Thankfully, it was all a misunderstanding: he had taken the case without realising it belonged to Paddington and had accidentally eaten the marmalade sandwich inside because he was very hungry. The children were completely absorbed in the mystery and produced some fantastic detective work.

In Science, we have been learning about why our bodies need exercise. The children carried out an investigation to explore how physical activity affects the body. They measured changes in their breathing, heart rate and temperature before and after exercise, and discussed why these changes happen. This helped them understand that exercise keeps our hearts healthy, strengthens our muscles and supports our overall wellbeing.

In Art, we continued our learning about the sculptor Rachid Khimoune, focusing particularly on his wonderful turtle sculptures. We explored how he uses texture, pattern and found materials to bring his creatures to life. Over this unit, the children will be creating their own turtle sculpture inspired by his work. This week, they experimented with clay - learning how to manipulate, shape, join and decorate it - ready for designing and making their final pieces later in the term.

Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

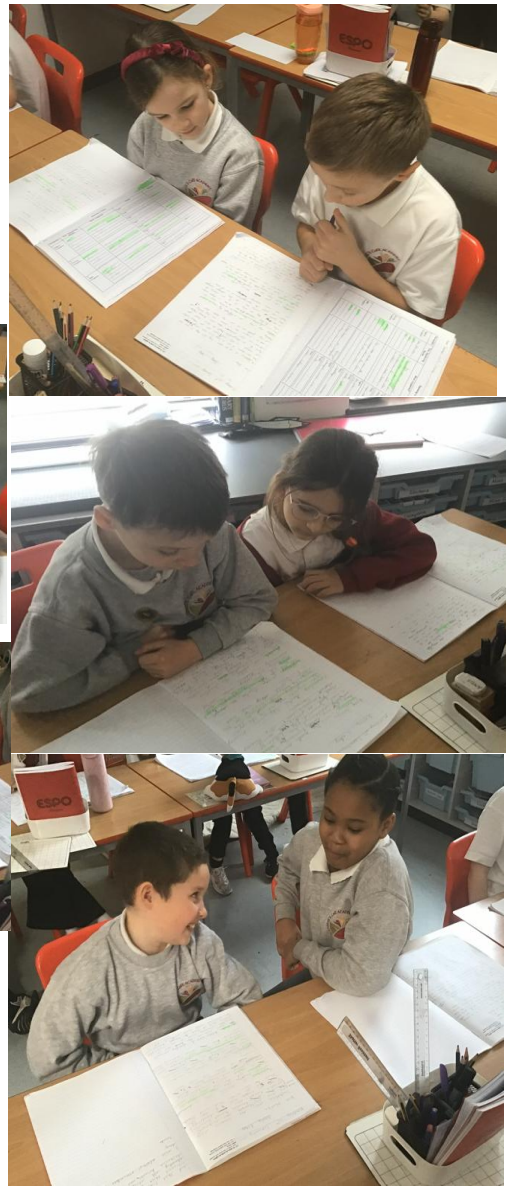
What a brilliant week it's been in Year 3!

The children have blown us away with the amazing writing they have produced, inspired by Escape from Pompeii. They stepped into the shoes of people living at the time and wrote powerful diary entries, carefully using the key features of a diary, including first-person voice, thoughts and feelings, and reflections on events. Their work was filled with vivid, descriptive language, showing how deeply they imagined what it must have been like to be in Pompeii during the eruption of Mount Vesuvius - the fear, confusion, sounds, sights and emotions of that terrifying moment. The level of empathy, creativity and detail in their writing has been truly impressive and we are so proud of the growth they have all shown. The children enjoyed sharing their diary entries with their partners and it was lovely to hear the kind words of encouragement they had for each other.

In Maths, the children have been developing their understanding of multiplying and dividing by 4 and 8. The children showed growing confidence in applying these skills to calculations and problem-solving, explaining their thinking clearly and checking their answers.

In RE, we have been learning about the importance of reconciliation for Christians. They have explored what reconciliation means and why it is significant in Christian life. The children have also considered how sacred texts contain ideas about God, often expressed through metaphor, and have practiced summarising these ideas to reflect a Christian worldview.

In Geography, we have been discussing how human and physical geography interact, particularly focusing on volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. They have explored both the negative and positive consequences of these natural events. Additionally, the children have considered the reasons why people might choose to live in areas prone to tectonic activity, developing a balanced understanding of the challenges and benefits of such locations.



Year 4 (Tagore Class and Turing Class)

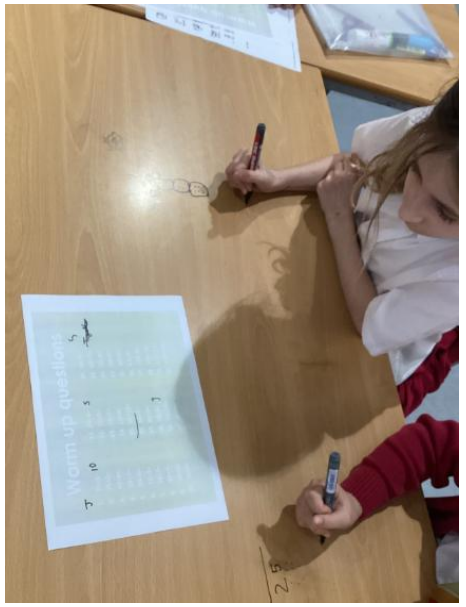
In English this week, the children have been writing diary entries in the role of Ahmet. They have thought very carefully about the emotions he experiences and have used lots of emotive language to help express his feelings clearly. We were really impressed with the thoughtful sentences and the empathy they showed for the character.

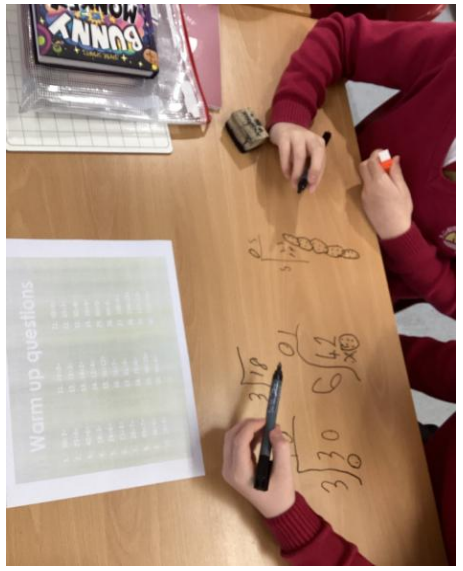
In Maths, we learned how to use the bus stop method for division. To help us understand the method deeply, we started by using a visual approach with dots before moving on to using remainders within the bus stop. The children also tackled correspondence problems and used their knowledge of times tables to support them.

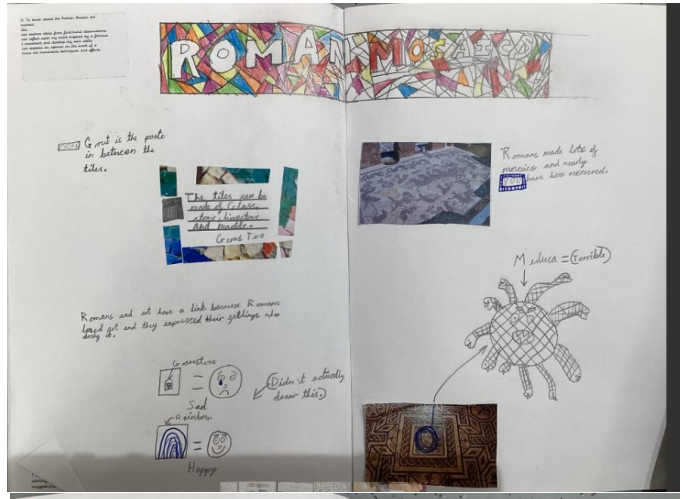
Our Science learning focused on classification keys. The children explored how to use yes/no questions to classify different animals. They practised this skill using an alien classification key and enjoyed thinking of their own questions to sort the aliens into groups.

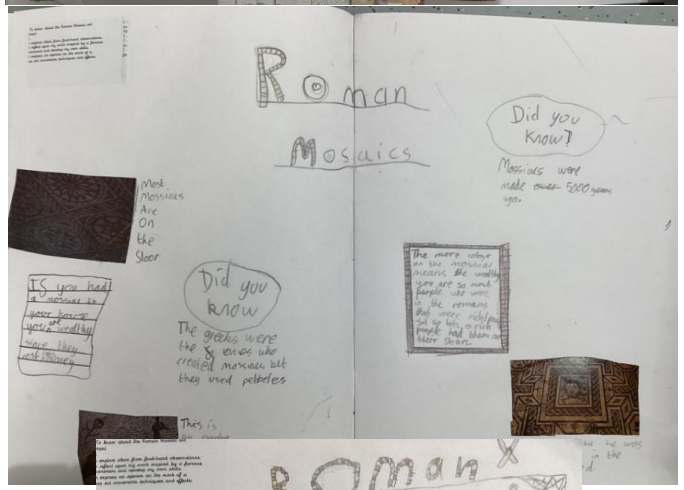
Our Art lessons focused on building a deeper understanding of Roman mosaics. The children looked closely at the colours, patterns and shapes used in traditional Roman designs and learned about where mosaics were found and why they were important in Roman homes. They then recorded all their learning on a beautifully presented double-page spread, which included sketches, annotations, colour experiments and facts about mosaic techniques. Many children were enthusiastic about designing their own mosaic patterns, showing great creativity and attention to detail.

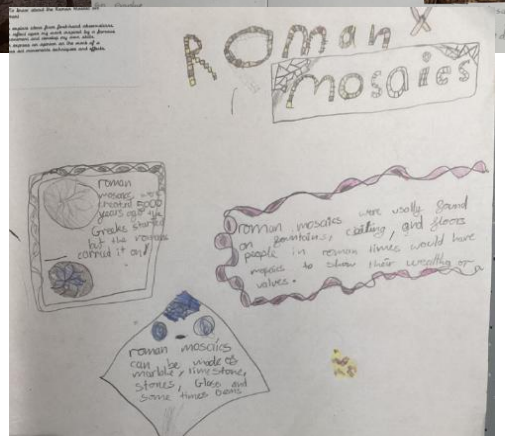
In RE, we learned about the significance of fasting for Muslims. The children explored the reasons why Muslims fast and showed their understanding by creating informative posters.











Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Rauf Class)

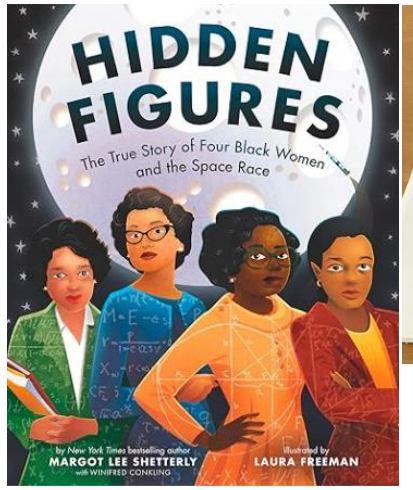
In English, we have started our new text *Hidden Figures*. The children loved using the front cover and small clues to make predictions about the story. We have also been developing our inference skills, using evidence from the text to understand the characters more deeply. We have finished the week by identifying the features of a biography in preparation for planning and writing our own linked to the text.

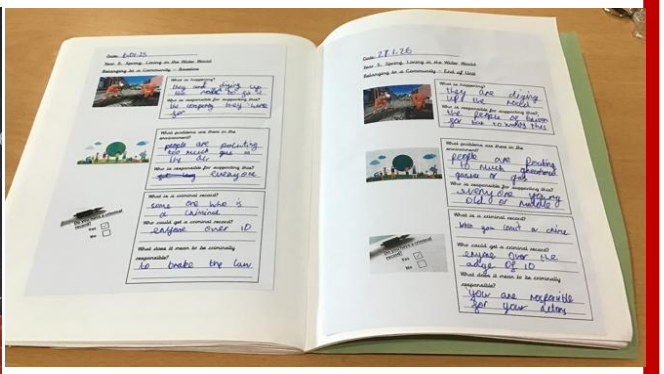
In Maths, we have begun our new topic on fractions. Last term, we focused on adding and subtracting fractions and this term we will be moving on to multiplying and dividing them. The children have made a confident start and are already showing how they are making connections to their previous learning.

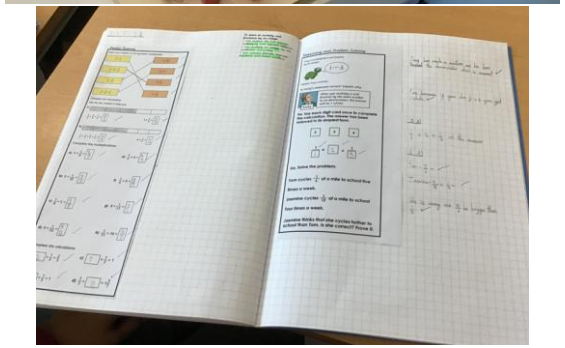
In Science, we continued our work on friction and water resistance. The children drew arrows to show the direction of forces acting on objects, helping them visualise how these forces work. We also investigated how an object's shape and surface area can change the amount of friction or resistance it experiences.

In PSHE, we completed our unit on belonging to a community. We discussed what it means to be criminally responsible and learned about what a criminal record is. The children were very thoughtful when exploring how a criminal record might affect someone's life, such as limiting certain career choices.

In History, we learned about the life of Amelia Earhart. We explored her achievements as a pioneering aviator and discussed how she used her fame to show that women could achieve anything they set their minds to. The children were inspired by her determination and courage.

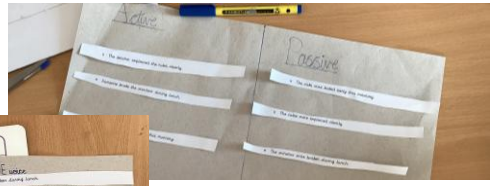


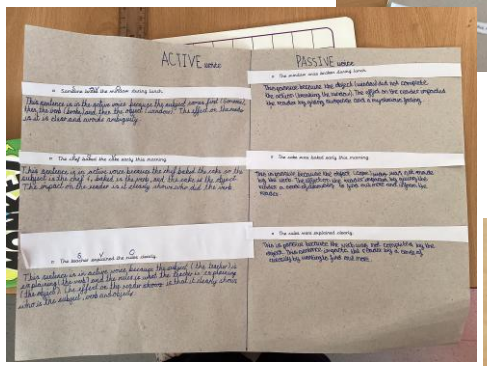




Year 6 (Pogson Class and Walker Class)

In English this week, we have continued to focus on persuasive writing. We have explored how we can use a range of different techniques we already use, such as figurative language, to persuade a reader and encourage them to feel a certain way. We have also learnt about active and passive voice and how this can impact the reader too, through changing the order of different words, whether that be the subject completing the action (active voice) or the action happening to the subject (passive voice).





In Maths, we have continued with algebra. We started our week by forming expressions to represent a missing value. We then used our expressions and substituted the value to calculate what the expression could be representing. On Thursday, we had our HSBC Workshop, where we were able to learn about money around the theme of 'The World of Work'.

In History, we learnt about the Silk Road. We used a variety of secondary sources to research about the trade which took place and its' significance during the Early Islamic Civilisation. We were also able to consolidate the learning we did during our workshop last week, which supported us in our research.

In Science, we were learning about micro-organisms. We carried out research, using secondary sources, and presented the information in a writing format of our choice. We used layout devices to organise the information for the reader.

In PSHE, we had a workshop where we were learning about our body image. We talked about how people can view their bodies either positively or negatively, and what factors can influence our perception of ourselves. We learnt about strategies which can encourage us to view ourselves more positively.

Collective Worship

During collective worship this week, we have continued to reflect on change and how it feels to us.

We also watched some brilliant performances this week during collective worship from some children who have taken part in keyboard lessons at school. It was amazing to see the growth the children have made in their lessons!

This week, Walker Class led Celebration Collective Worship, sharing their exciting learning from the last few weeks. Well done, Walker Class!

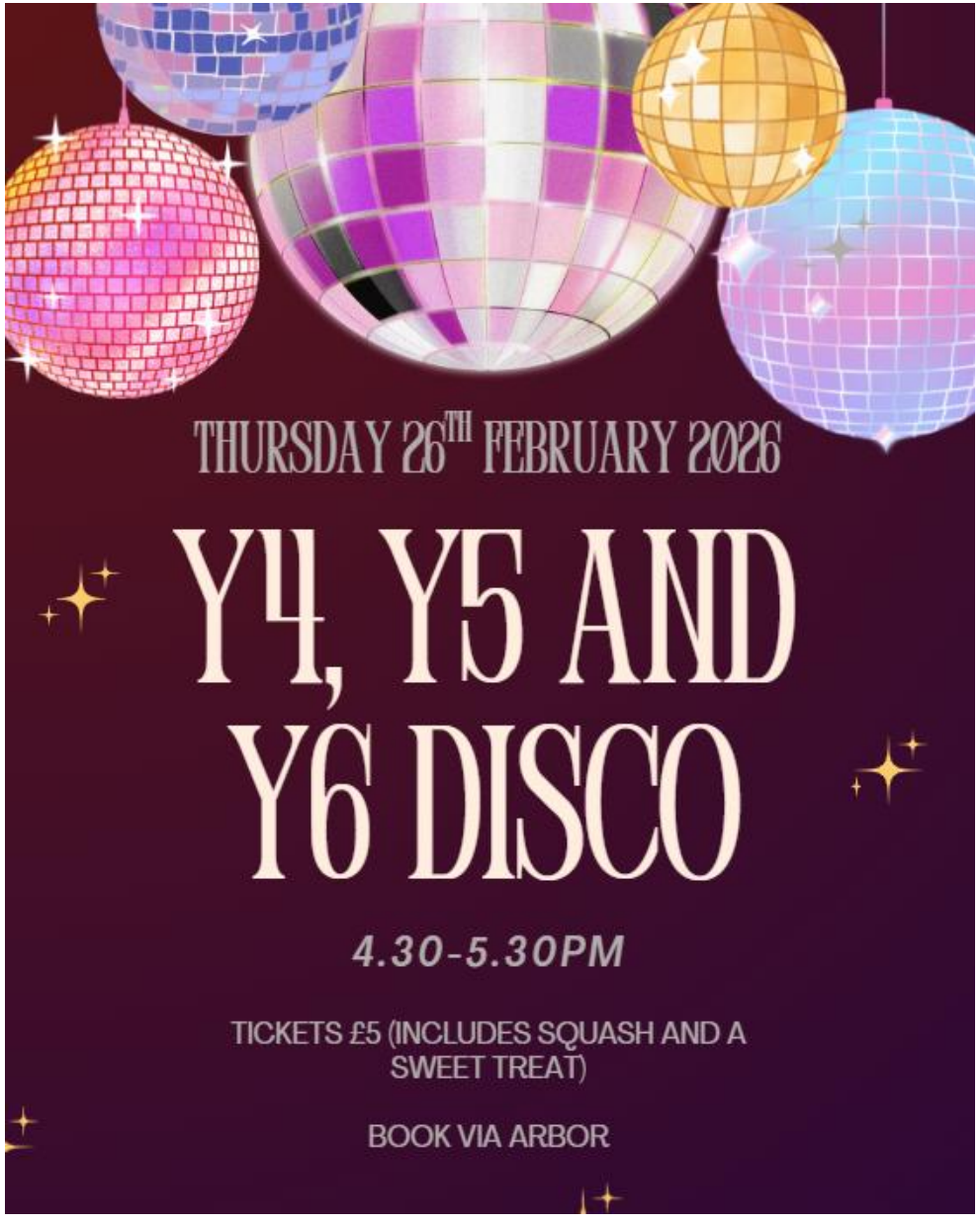
Collective worship at St Gabriel's always aims to be **inspirational** for all, **invitational** to all and **inclusive** of all.

Parent/Carer Workshops

This week, the Mental Health in Schools Team delivered a workshop: Understanding and Managing your Child's Emotions. Advice and strategies were shared about supporting emotional regulation.

It was a brilliant turn-out! Information from the session has been shared via email.

Community Events



Fundraising Efforts

We are pleased to share that we raised £187 from our sound bath event this week. Thank you for supporting our community events and to Evelyn Frain for giving up her time to help the school's fundraising efforts.

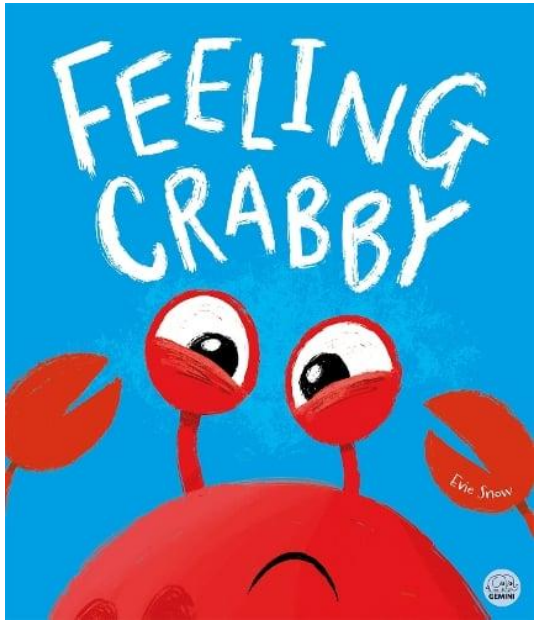
We are also delighted to say that through hot chocolate sales at the Bedtime Stories event, we raised £61! Thank you.

Recommended Read

Hector the hermit crab is feeling crabby. Can YOU help Hector to feel better?

Hector is a hermit crab. His shell isn't swirly and whirly like the other crabs' homes. Hector's shell is old, and way too small. He needs to find a new shell home to live in. Hector looks high and low on the beach for a nice new shell to move into but the only homes Hector finds are rubbish and nothing is right. Can YOU help Hector find a new home?

Feeling Crabby is a humorous debut picture book from exciting new author-illustrator Evie Snow, about a disgruntled crab trying to find the perfect new home. It also contains an important and mindful eco message about keeping the oceans clean.



Online Safety

This week, we would like to share with you some top tips for online safety from the Mental Health in Schools Team

MHST
Mental Health in Schools Team
Tips For Wellness

1. Have regular conversations about online safety. Making communication about online activity a normal part of the conversation will create an open and more relaxed dialogue around what your young person is accessing online. This can also make it easier for your young person to come and speak to you if they do have any worries.

2. Encourage time away from devices. Spending too much time online and looking at a device can begin to blur the lines between the online world and what is happening right in front of us. Encourage regular screen time breaks. This could be by completing an activity which the whole family can get involved in e.g. playing a board game or going for a walk. There are also wellbeing setting on apps, including Instagram and Tik Tok to support setting these boundaries.

3. Keeping it real. It can be useful to remind our young people that not everything they see online is real. Some of this content may have a negative impact on how they feel about themselves and what they are doing. It can be useful to remind young people that an online post is only one snapshot of time. Encourage your young person to take control of what they are looking at and help them to feel empowered to choose to access online content that encourages positivity and makes them feel good about the work they do and discover how the future of our planet starts here, right now!

Maths Problem of the Week

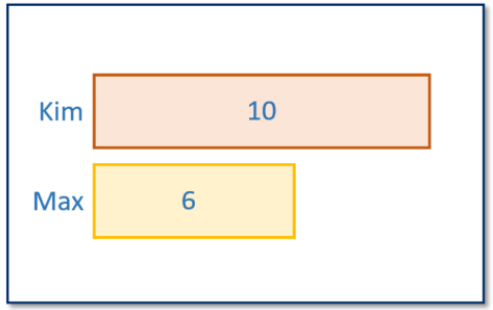
KS1

1 Kim makes 10 snowballs.

Max makes 6 snowballs.

Kim gives Max 5 snowballs.

How many more snowballs does Max have than Kim now?

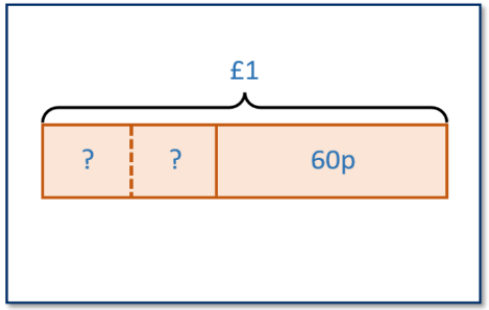


2 Mo buys two gingerbread biscuits.

He pays with a £1 coin.

He receives 60p change.

How much does one gingerbread biscuit cost?



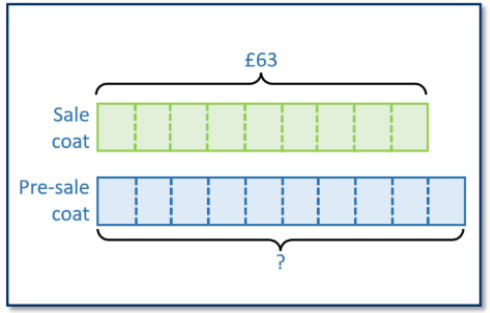
KS2

3 In a winter sale, there is $\frac{1}{10}$ off the price of coats.

Sam buys a new coat in the sale.

She pays £63.

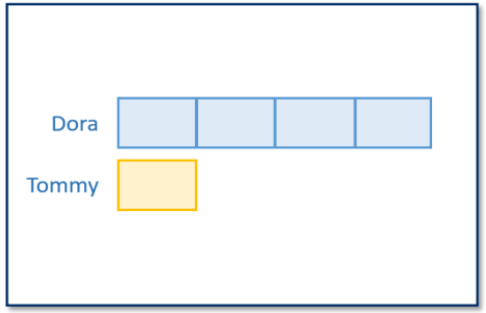
How much did the coat cost before the sale?



4 Dora has 4 times as many marshmallows as Tommy.

- Dora eats $\frac{2}{3}$ of her marshmallows.
- She gives Tommy $\frac{1}{4}$ of the marshmallows she has left.
- Dora now has 24 marshmallows left.

How many marshmallows does Tommy have now?



Challenge

5 Mr Trent has the same number of snow globes, candles, and scarves.

- He gives away 150 snow globes.
- He uses some of the candles and scarves to make gift hampers.
- There are 310 items left.
- There are twice as many candles as scarves left.
- There are now 45 fewer snow globes than candles.

How many of each item did Mr Trent have at the start?

Answers

1. Max has 6 more snowballs than Kim.
2. One gingerbread biscuit costs 20p.
3. The cost of the coat was £70.
4. Tommy has 32 marshmallows.
5. There was 247 of each item.

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96%
This week's attendance	95.9%
Latest Local Authority ranking	49th out of 196 schools
Latest National ranking	Top 20-30% 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: Coffee Afternoon

We'd love you to join us for a coffee afternoon on Wednesday 11th February, 2.15–3.15pm, in the Main Hall.

As part of Children's Mental Health Week, we've invited a range of external agencies to come along and chat with you. They'll be on hand to answer questions, offer advice and guidance and share useful information on a variety of topics linked to children's physical and mental wellbeing.

This is a great chance to connect, find support and learn more about what's available in our community. Pop in for a coffee, a friendly conversation and anything else you might find helpful.

We hope to see you there!

Warwickshire Family Information Service

School Nursing Service

Mental Health in Schools Team

Worried about a Child?

If you have concerns that a child is suffering any form of abuse, neglect or cruelty, contact the Warwickshire Children and Families Family Connect immediately by calling 01926 414144.
Lines are open Monday to Thursday 8.30am - 5.30pm, Friday 8.30am-5.00pm.

If you need to get in touch out of usual office hours, please contact the Emergency Duty Team immediately by calling 01926 886922.

If you think that a child is at immediate risk, contact the police immediately by calling 999.

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