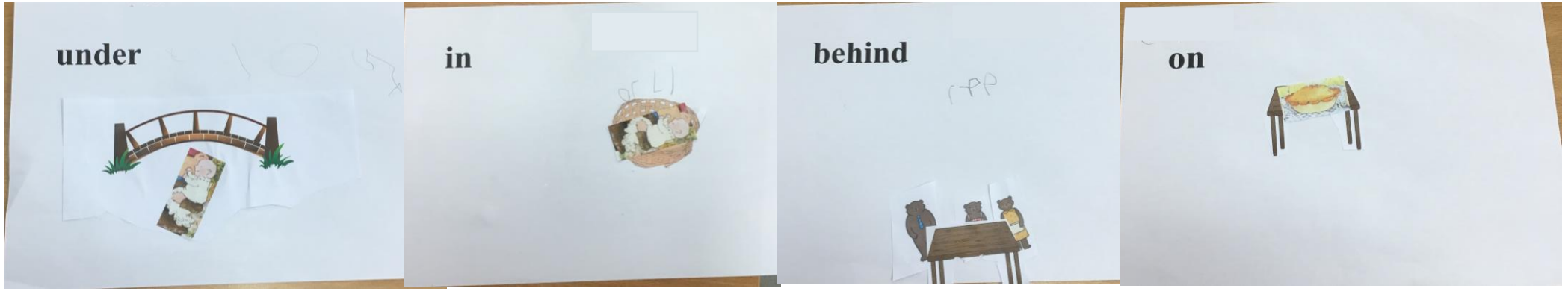
Weekly Learning Update

7th February 2025

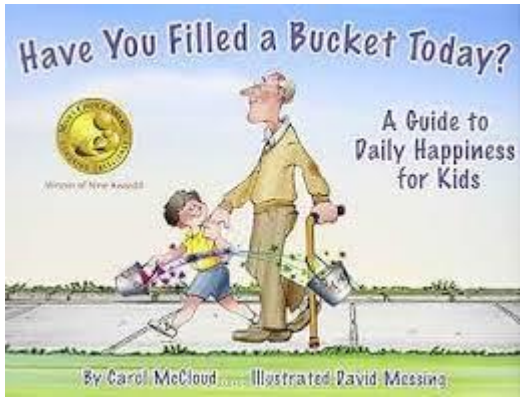
Nursery

This week, we have been focusing on a range of skills, including using props from our key text to help us build knowledge and understanding around positional language. We have completed this task with Mrs Creed and showed amazing growth in our learning.

In Maths, we have been focusing on learning the skill of subitising. The children have amazed us and mastered this skill by day 3! We are super proud of them all - well done Nursery Yellow and Blue.



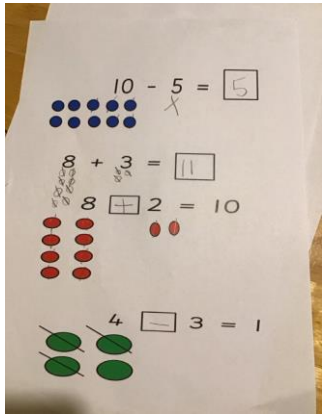
Reception (King Class and Parks Class)



It's been another wonderful week in Reception!

With it being Children's Mental Health Week, there have been opportunities to reflect on acts of kindness and supporting others to share positive messages and thoughts to others. This has been accessed during continuous provision. Children have been able to make kindness cards as well as share positive messages around the classes, by filling each others buckets, inspired by 'Have You Filled A Bucket Today?' By Carol McCloud and David Messing.

On Friday, we had a great day celebrating Number Day; the children looked amazing and thoroughly enjoyed sharing and comparing the different representations of number with each outfit.



Phonics:

We continue to recap Phase 3 phonemes. Throughout the week, we have explored the trigraphs 'ure', 'air' and 'ear' as well as digraphs 'ow' and 'oi'.

English:

Throughout the week, children have been adapting the whole class story map of 'Where The Wild Things Are' and written sentences to retell the story. This has been more of a sustained write as children have tried to write two sentences each lesson.

Maths:

This week and next, we are consolidating our understanding of addition and subtraction. Children have been exploring different calculations, identifying how to work them out and have begun to explore completing number sentences by identifying which function is missing.

Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

Year 1 have had a brilliant week.

In Phonics, we have moved on to the split digraphs 'a_e', 'e_e', 'i_e' and 'o_e'. The children have really impressed us when spotting split digraphs in words. They have been working hard to remember how we read and write words with split digraphs and have even challenged themselves to write some super sentences.

In English, we have been focusing on adding the suffixes 'ing' and 'ed' to words, playing games and completing a variety of activities. We also learnt how to use time sequencing words to sequence our sentences.

In Maths, we have been working on doubles and near doubles to 20 and using our knowledge of our number bonds to 10 to help us when adding and subtracting to 20.

In Geography, we have been collecting information about the weather in our area. We made a rain gauge to collect and measure the rain so that we can see how much it rains over the next week.

In Art, we have started to create our own landscape collage, inspired by Giles Davies. We sketched our own drawings of Ashlawn Cutting and began to use paper to collage the key colours in our pictures.

In RE, we began to understand the word 'philosophy' and thought about our own ideas and opinions on different topics. We created a web of ideas about the concept of 'happiness'!

In Science, we carried out an investigation to find out which objects sink or float. We first made predictions and then carried out an investigation to draw a conclusion.

This week, we also celebrated Number Day and completed a variety of activities for Children's Mental Health Week. We discussed the importance of self-awareness and expressing our emotions.

Windsor Class also had lots of fun sharing their learning about Safer Internet Day with you in Celebration Assembly this week. Miss Merrick is very proud! Thank you for coming – we hope you enjoyed it!

Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

Year 2 have had a super week.

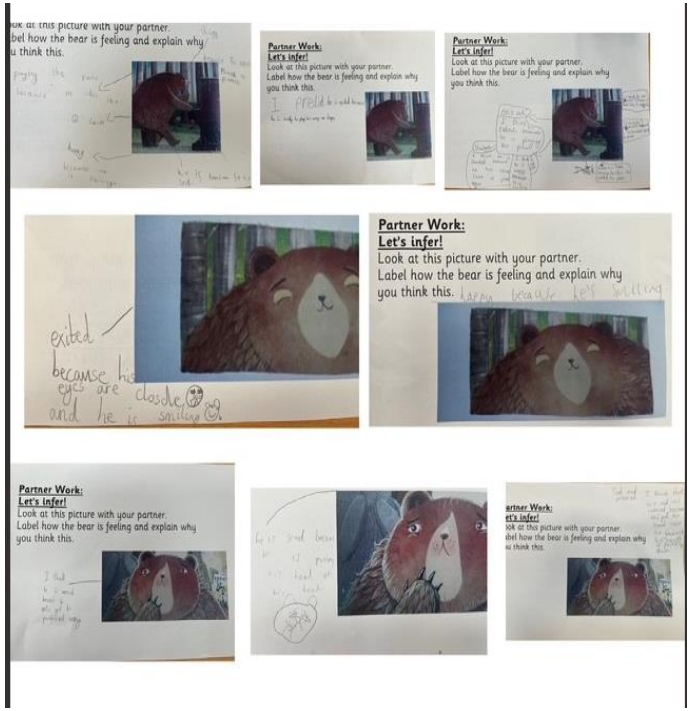
Phonics:

In Phonics, we have learnt that:

-The graphemes oor and ore make the phoneme or in words like poor and sore.

-The grapheme ar makes the phoneme or in words like war and towards.

-The grapheme augh makes the phoneme or in words like caught and daughter.



English:

In English, we have started our new book 'The Bear and the Piano', and had lots of fun hunting for a piano around the school and making predictions and inferences about the book.

History:

In History, we discussed the causes of the Titanic sinking and debated who was most responsible for the catastrophe and the number of people that lost their lives.

Can your child remember the different people who were responsible?

Captain Smith

Bruce Ismay

RE

In RE the children have been learning about Sikhism; children have been comparing beliefs about God within Sikh worldviews to their own worldview.

Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

In English, we have been focusing on our new text 'Earth Shattering Events' which is a non-fiction book about natural disasters. Our aim over the next couple of weeks is to create and write our own double-spread all about volcanoes that would serve a purpose in a new non-fiction book. We've spent time researching information to include in our text, looking at different conjunctions to help add detail to our writing as well as looking at the features of an information text.

In Maths, we have continued to develop our understanding of multiplication and have been using related number facts to solve a variety of calculations alongside comparing multiplication and division calculations.

In RE, we have focused on Jewish worldviews and in particular, we have learnt about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We learnt about the importance of these holy days for people with Jewish worldviews. We also tried apple and honey and discussed how this is a tradition that is used to celebrate the beginning of Rosh Hashanah to symbolise the sweetness of a new year.

In Geography, we have been learning how mountains are formed. We discussed how it is due to the collision of tectonic plates which then pushes rocks higher. We also learnt about different types of mountains and how they form. Some of the types of mountains we explored were **fold mountains, dome mountains, volcanic mountains and plateau mountains.**

On Thursday, we enjoyed our trip to Leicester Curve to watch 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe' which links with our learning from last half term. All the children behaved beautifully and represented the school fantastically. Thank you so much to all of the adults who supported us on the trip - the children really did have the best time!

Year 4 (Turing Class and Tagore Class)

What a great week we have had! Year 4 have been busy working in all our lessons this week and impressing us with their learning.

In English, we finished writing our information reports based on our land. We spent Friday proof-reading and editing our writing so that we are ready to publish it next week.

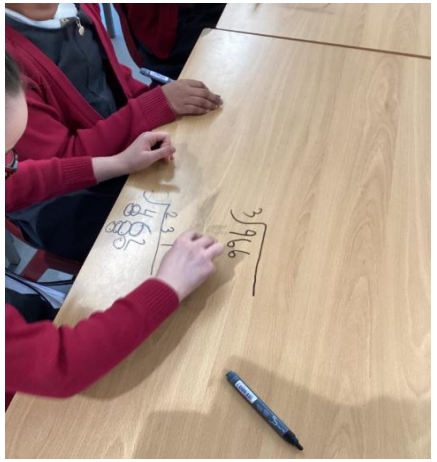
In Maths, we have learnt to divide using part-whole models and place value charts. This week, we also introduced the formal written method for short division - 'bus stop'. We used dots to help us divide and had great fun completing our Maths on the tables!

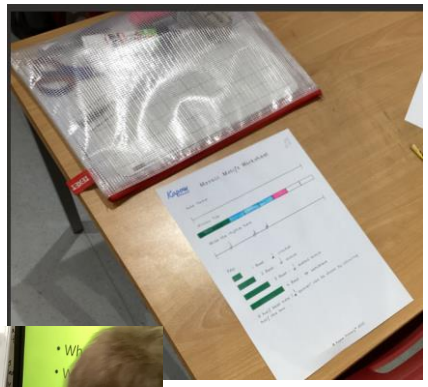
In Science, we learnt about environmental changes cause by humans and what impact this has on our environment. We discussed how biodiversity reduces due to deforestation, pollution and urbanisation. We created posters to showcase how humans can positively impact the environment.

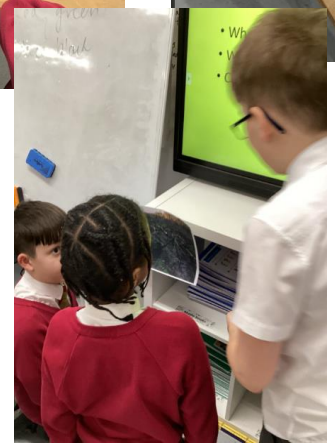
In Music, we created our own motifs. We first used blocks to create the beats and from this completed the musical notation before composing our motifs on glockenspiels.

In History, we looked at different artefacts from the Roman Empire and thought about what this teaches us about Roman life in Britain. We made conclusions based on our observations.

On Friday we celebrated Number Day; we participated in NSPCC Rocks on Times Tables Rockstars! We competed with other classes to have the highest number of correct answers. We have also been able to dress up as something inspired by numbers!







Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Gandhi Class)

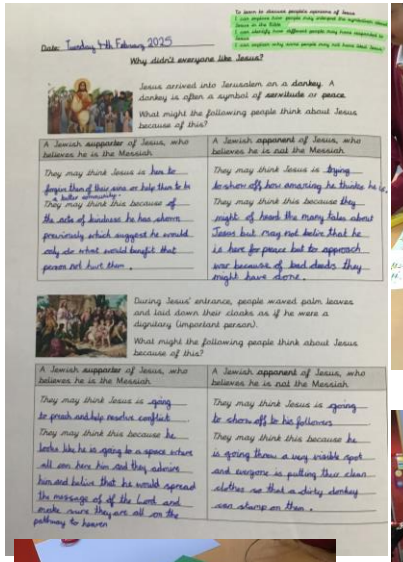
In English, we have been exploring some grammar skills which we will be using next week when we write a biography about Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson or Katherine Johnson. We have been using parenthesis, punctuated by brackets, to add in extra details for the reader.

In Maths, we have moved on to a new unit about decimals and percentages. This week, we have looked at the value of numbers with two decimal places, also representing tenths and hundredths as fractions. We have just started to explore thousandths, which we will continue to explore next week.

Today is Number Day, so alongside all our learning about decimals, we have been participating in NSPCC Rocks on Times Tables Rockstars! We have been competing with other classes to have the highest number of correct answers. We have also been able to dress up as something inspired by numbers!

In Science, we have been making links to our D&T lessons this half term, by exploring how different mechanisms work, in particular gears and pulleys. We have been investigating the different factors that can affect how this works, and considered whether gears, pulleys or levers may be most effective.

In RE, we have been discussing why some people may not like Jesus. After reading an extract from the Matthew Gospel, we have learned that Jesus returned to Jerusalem on a donkey, and was greeted by his supporters who waved palm leaves and laid their cloaks on the ground for Jesus to walk on. We have discussed that as a donkey is a symbol of servitude and peace, some people at the time with Jewish worldviews may have felt that this was a sign of good things to come. However, others may have felt that Jesus choosing to arrive on a donkey was a sign that he thought he was better than others.


Date: Tuesday 4th February 2025

Why didn't everyone like Jesus?

Jesus arrived into Jerusalem on a donkey. A donkey is often a symbol of servitude or peace.

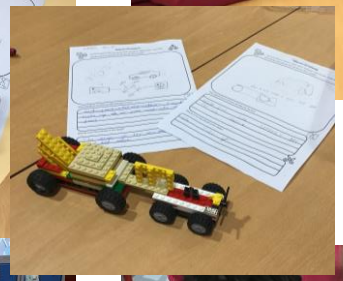
What might the following people think about Jesus because of this?

A Jewish supporter of Jesus, who believes he is the Messiah	A Jewish opponent of Jesus, who believes he is not the Messiah
They may think Jesus is here to forgive them of their sins or help them be in a better community. They may think this because of the acts of kindness he has shown previously which suggest he would only do what would benefit that person not hurt them.	They may think Jesus is trying to show off how amazing he thinks he is. They may think this because they might of heard the many tales about Jesus but may not believe that he is here for peace but to approach war because of bad deeds they might have done.

During Jesus' entrance, people waved palm leaves and laid down their cloaks as if he were a dignitary (important person).

What might the following people think about Jesus because of this?

A Jewish supporter of Jesus, who believes he is the Messiah	A Jewish opponent of Jesus, who believes he is not the Messiah
They may think Jesus is going to preach and help resolve conflict. They may think this because he looks like he is going to a space where all are here him and they admire him and believe that he would spread the message of the Lord and make sure they are all on the pathway to heaven.	They may think Jesus is going to show off to his followers. They may think this because he is going through a very visible spot and everyone is pulling their clean clothes so that a dirty donkey won't stomp on them.



Year 6 (Pogson Class and Ahmad Class)

We cannot believe it is almost the end of Spring 1! In English, we have been exploring active and passive voice and cumulating all of our learning to plan and begin to write our own newspaper reports, based on the discovery of the boat from our class text. We look forward to seeing what the children create!

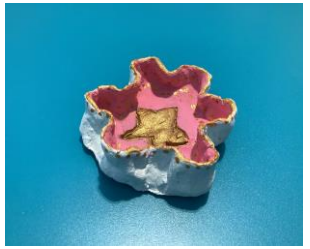
In Maths, we have been exploring the topic of 'Decimals'. The children have extended their learning by finding out more about thousandths, how to round as well as add and subtract decimals. Next week, we look forward to learning more about how to multiply and divide decimals by 10, 100 and 1000.

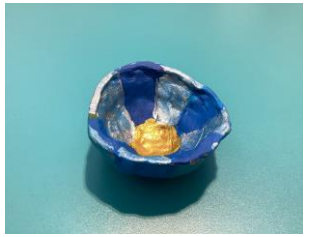
In History, the children were lucky to have a visitor and took part in an Early Islamic Workshop. It was a very action-packed experience, where the children utilised their skills of drama and role play to finalise their learning around the civilisation, its Golden Age and downfall.

In RE, we have been looking at how Christians might try to form a closer relationship with God by following his commandments and spreading the Good News. We looked at a very well-known story from the Bible, where Jesus told his followers that they are the 'light and salt of the Earth'. As a class, we explored what this metaphorical language might mean and made suggestions for how this might make Christians act.

In D&T, the children completed their Islamic inspired bowls by adding colour to them. It definitely was a tricky task as they had to think about how to create intricate designs with their paintbrush. However, we are sure you can agree they did an amazing job!

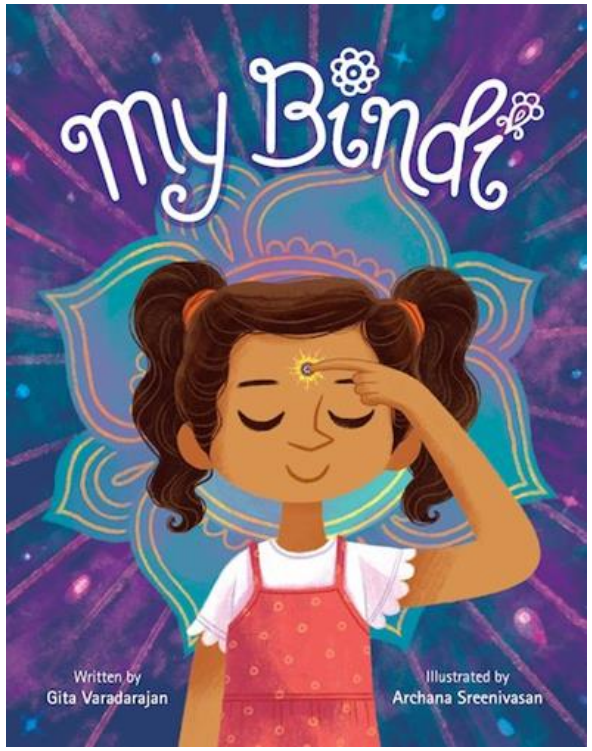
Finally, this week, we have been celebrating Children's Mental Health Week during our collective worship sessions. This year's theme is Know Yourself, Grow Yourself, so we have been looking at and taking part in different mindfulness activities (including yoga, the ABC game and doodling) that can help to regulate emotions when feeling overwhelmed – a very important life skill to build!





Collective Worship

During Worship through Story, the children listened to and reflected on the book My Bindi which centres on a young girl who finds the magic, power, and history of wearing a bindi for the first time.



This week, Windsor Class led Celebration Collective Worship teaching everybody the importance of staying safe online in preparation for Safer Internet Day. Congratulations to all 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

'The Magical Yet' by *Angela DiTerlizzi*

Each of us, from the day we're born, is accompanied by a special companion-the Yet. Can't tie your shoes? Yet! Can't ride a bike? Yet! Can't play the bassoon? Don't worry, Yet is there to help you out.

Online Safety

On Tuesday 11th February, we will be celebrating Safer Internet Day with a focus on the theme '**Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'.** Each class will be discussing the issue of scams online, how to protect themselves and others and who they can go to for support.

To continue these conversations at home and share key messages with the children, follow this link to find out more:

https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2025/tips-for-parents-and-carers

Whole School Attendance	
Attendance since September	96.3%
This week's attendance	96.7%
Latest Local Authority ranking	17th out of 194 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?

PTFA

PTFA NEWSLETTER

Friends of St Gabriel's C of E Academy

w/e 7th February 2025 | PTA@stgabrielscofeacademy.org

We have recently held a meeting with the school to agree and plan in our upcoming events for the rest of the school year and the key upcoming dates are below.

The PTFA are here to help raise funds for various projects and to enhance the childrens experience within the school that the school budgets do not stretch to.

We are run by a small group of parents but we would love for more of you to get involved. Being part of the PTFA does not mean you have to be involved in every event but the more people involved the easier it is for us to do more for the children. Please email us on PTA@stgabrielscofeacademy.org to find out more.

We are excited for our Year 1,2 & 3 disco next week!

Tickets are £2 per child and are on sale via Parentpay until Monday.

There will be a tuck shop on the night at 50p per item. Cash or tokens will be accepted.

If you are able to help us set up, during the event or clear up please let us know

EVENTS

Full details and how to book to follow

- **Thursday 13th February:** Red & Pink Disco yrs 1,2 & 3 5-6pm
- **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

Special Educational Needs

Ahead of the February Half Term holiday, we wanted to share with you holiday provision from Ladybug Lodge for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities aged 0 - 19 and their families.

They have a range of activities on offer; Stay and Play, Dance sessions delivered by Off Balance Dance and family Hydrotherapy swimming sessions.

LADYBUG LODGE

FEBRUARY PROVISION

Ladybug Lodge are incredibly excited to host a range of activities over the February Break!
All activities must be booked separately, families are welcome to book as many sessions as they wish!

All sessions hosted at: Tiverton School, Ashington Grove Whitley, CV3 4DE

STAY AND PLAY

Sensory Stay and Play for the whole family
Access to Sensory Room, Soft Play, Indoor Swing, Secure Playground and more

Tuesday 18th February
Wednesday 19th February
Thursday 20th February

DANCE

OFF BALANCE DANCE

Small group and 1:1 sessions hosted by Alexis from Off Balance Dance. SEN Children only

Thursday 20th February

SWIMMING

Small group hydrotherapy pool swimming.
An Adult must accompany their child in the pool. SEN child and 1 adult only.

Tuesday 18th February
Wednesday 19th February
Thursday 20th February

Exclusive Swimming Pool hire sessions are available on Wednesday and Thursday only.
This is open to the whole family

Sessions are suited for children and young people aged 0 – 19 with a range of needs. Hoist access is available in all rooms and from the changing room to swimming pool.

Advance booking via the website is essential via QR code link or web address below

www.ladybuglodge.co.uk/activities/holiday

Further information regarding all sessions is available via the website

PLEASE NOTE: All sessions require an upfront donation which can be made payable via the website.

Charity Number: 1207790 info@ladybuglodge.co.uk 07301 680835 www.ladybuglodge.co.uk

Family Support

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

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