

Weekly Learning Update

2nd October 2026



Nursery

What a wonderful week Nursery have had! The children have continued to settle into our routines beautifully and have enjoyed taking part in our new Maths learning sessions. We have been learning to identify numbers 1-10, practising our counting skills and joining in enthusiastically with lots of number songs and rhymes.

Maths Area: The children have been counting pompoms into numbered ice cream cones, matching quantities to numerals 1-5. This has supported their early counting and number recognition skills.

Writing and Fine Motor: The children have been using felt-tip pens and stencils on large sheets of paper, developing their pencil control, hand strength and creativity.

Role Play: Our Healthy Eating Café has been very popular this week. The children have enjoyed taking customer orders, using menus and the till and preparing lots of healthy meals.

Investigation Area: Linked to our Healthy Eating Café, the children have been creating healthy lunchboxes. They have enjoyed selecting a variety of healthy foods and talking about the choices they have made.

Small World Area: The children have been exploring animal-themed small world play linked to our focus story, *From Head to Toe* by Eric Carle. Animal masks have extended the play further, encouraging storytelling, movement and imaginative play.

Sensory Area: We have been developing our gross motor skills and getting our energy out by completing push-up style exercises using handprints placed around the room. The children enjoyed rolling a dice, counting the number shown and completing that number of movements.

Creative Area: The children have been creating collage artwork inspired by the animals in *From Head to Toe*. They have carefully selected materials and explored different ways to represent the characters from the story.

Outdoors: The children have been very busy with large-scale construction using tyres, wooden blocks and planks. Our mud kitchen has also been a favourite area this week, especially with the addition of fresh soil and the newly expanded space we have created by moving it around. The children have enjoyed working together, creating imaginative recipes and developing their communication and teamwork skills.

Reminder – Home learning suggestion: We are sending home a sheet titled "The Best Part of Me." We would like your child to draw the part of themselves they like best. Please add any comments about what they have drawn and what they have said about their picture. Further information can be found on Tapestry. We look forward to seeing all of the children's wonderful work next week! (if your child is not in Thurs/Fri, they can collect on their next day in).



Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

It has been another fantastic week within Reception. The children are engaging well with learning and enjoying accessing both classrooms and the outdoor provision.

Phonics.

Within our phonics sessions this week, we have focused on the phonemes: e, u, r and h. Within our final session we consolidated our learning and the children enjoyed reading the new decodable book. It is wonderful how many children are bringing their phonics books back on Thursday morning! New books are sent home on Friday. Please use the QR code to access the electronic version of the text as well.

English.

The children have worked hard, creating lists to support the Tiger with a sleepover, Sophie and Mummy with a shopping list and creating a café menu as well. Alongside this, the children have been developing confidence with retelling the key text of 'The Tiger Who Came To Tea' creating whole class story maps. The children have enjoyed thinking of actions and images to support the recall of the story.

Maths.

In Maths, the children have been practising the skill of counting a set number from a larger group. The children have enjoyed using a range of concrete resources to practice this in a practical way and embedding their touch counting as well.

Reader 4
Phase 2
hug



Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

We have had another great week of learning!

Phonics:

This week in phonics, we have been revisiting the phonemes ar, or, ur and s. We practised reading and spelling words such as park, torch, hurt and jars. The children have been working hard to apply their phonics knowledge when reading and spelling new words.

English:

In English, we have been learning to write to entertain. We have been planning and writing our build up, problem and the ending. We have been focusing on neat handwriting, using capital letters, finger spaces, full stops and adjectives. We are so proud of the children's amazing work!

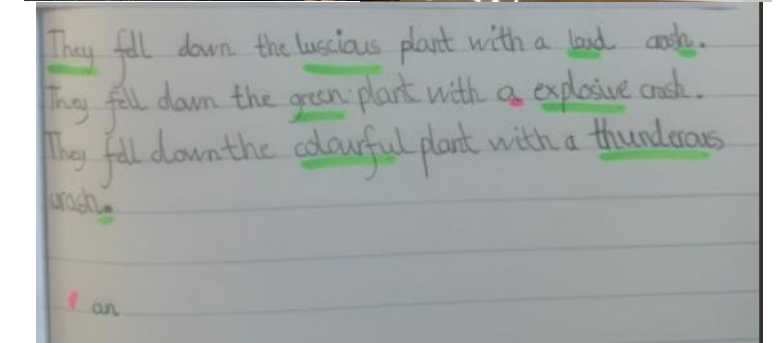
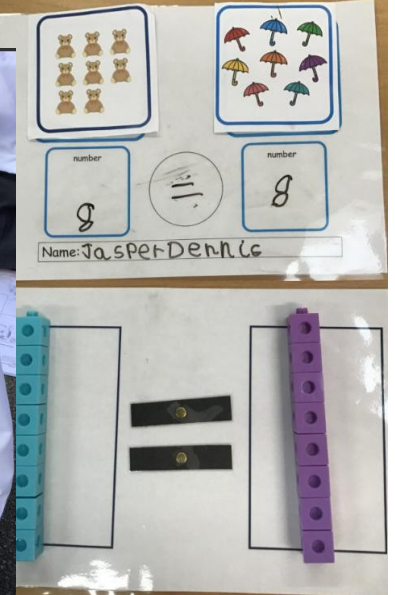
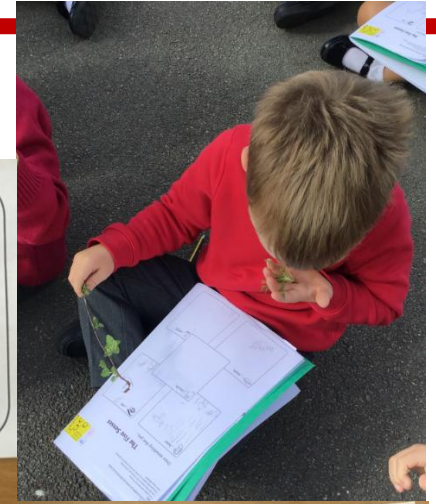
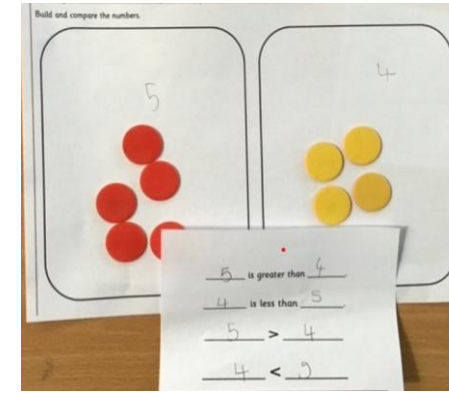
Maths:

In Maths this week, we have been learning how to compare numbers using inequality signs ($<$, $>$ and $=$). The children have used a range of concrete resources to help them understand which numbers are greater than, less than or equal to each other.

We have focused on comparing numbers up to 10 and have enjoyed using practical activities to develop our understanding.

Geography:

This week, we've been learning about the capital cities of the UK, with a spec focus on London. See if your child can tell you the name of a famous London landmark!



Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

What a brilliant week it has been in Year 2! The children have been incredibly busy and have worked so hard across all areas of the curriculum.

In English, we have been writing our own circular narratives. Throughout the writing process, we have thought carefully about the writer's knowledge needed to entertain the reader, including creating engaging characters, exciting events and satisfying endings. The children have shown fantastic creativity and determination, and they have truly blown us away with their fabulous stories. We are so proud of the effort and imagination they have shown. Well done, Year 2!

In Maths, we have been learning to count forwards and backwards in 2s, 5s and 10s. We also took part in some practical maths activities to help deepen our understanding and make our learning more memorable. It was wonderful to see the children confidently applying their counting skills.

In Science, we continued our research into habitats and turned our attention to the savannah habitat. The children visited different learning stations to discover information about the plants and animals that live there. We also explored how animals are specially adapted to survive in this environment.

In Geography, we learnt about the human and physical features of London. The children used their knowledge to complete a table identifying different features and explaining whether they were human or physical.

In Art, we began planning and designing our final pieces. We also had the opportunity to practise using blue water colours as preparation for our finished artwork, carefully experimenting with different techniques.

In RE, we investigated the enquiry question, *"Is Jesus a teacher?"* We first discussed what makes a good teacher before learning about Jesus' role as a teacher. We explored some of the parables he told and considered why many Christians see Jesus as a good teacher who shared important lessons with others.

We hope you all have a wonderful weekend and look forward to another fantastic week of learning ahead!



Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

It's been a fantastic week in Year 3, with lots of exciting learning and wonderful work across the curriculum.

In English, we have been writing threat narratives based on The Iron Man. The children have worked incredibly hard to include all of the grammar skills we have been focusing on over the last few weeks, including prefixes, conjunctions, *a* and *an*, apostrophes, similes and writing in the past tense. We have been blown away by the ambitious vocabulary they have used and the way they have drawn their readers into their writing. They should all be very proud of themselves!

In Maths, we have come to the end of our place value unit. The children have been focusing on counting in 50s, as well as ordering and comparing numbers up to 1,000, and have shown growing confidence with these skills.

In Science, we carried out an investigation to test the permeability of different rocks to find out which would be the best material for the roof of a house. The children used a range of scientific skills to ensure their test was fair, carefully recording their results, drawing conclusions and reflecting on whether their findings matched their predictions.

In History, we learnt about the importance of Henry VIII's wives and why his marriages are still remembered today. The children created biographies of each wife and discussed who they believed was the most influential, using evidence to support their opinions.

In RE, we discussed how darkness is an important part of nature and can have special meaning for some people. We explored religious traditions linked to darkness and created artwork to show how darkness can help us appreciate and notice light. We hope you have a lovely weekend!



Year 4 (Tagore Class and Turing Class)

This week, we have enjoyed a busy and exciting week of learning.

In English, we continued exploring *The Whale* by Ethan and Vita Murrow and used the events of the story to inspire our own setting narratives. We worked hard to bring our scenes to life by using a range of writing skills, including expanded noun phrases, fronted adverbials and similes. We carefully described the setting and atmosphere, helping our readers to imagine the sights, sounds and feelings of the story.

In Maths, we developed our understanding of Roman numerals up to 100 and practised reading, writing and interpreting them. We also learned how to round numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000, using number lines and reasoning skills to explain our answers.

In Science, we investigated the different types of teeth and their important functions. We learned about incisors, canines, premolars and molars and discussed how each type helps us to eat and digest food. To support our learning, we created tooth models using marshmallows, which helped us to identify and understand the shape and purpose of each type of tooth.

In Geography, we used the data collected during our fieldwork to create bar graphs. We carefully presented our findings and interpreted the data to draw conclusions about our local area.

In Music, we learned a fun new song called *I Wanna Sing Scat*. We enjoyed exploring rhythm, pitch and vocal techniques while developing our confidence and performance skills.

We are very proud of all the effort and enthusiasm shown this week. Keep up the fantastic work, Year 4!



Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Raúf Class)

In English, we have spent much of our week writing the final versions of our journey narratives, following Curiosity's incredible adventure from Earth to Mars. The children have done a brilliant job of bringing their narratives to life by using a range of descriptive devices to make their writing engaging for the reader. They have also worked hard to accurately punctuate direct speech and apply a range of grammatical features to make their writing cohesive and effective.

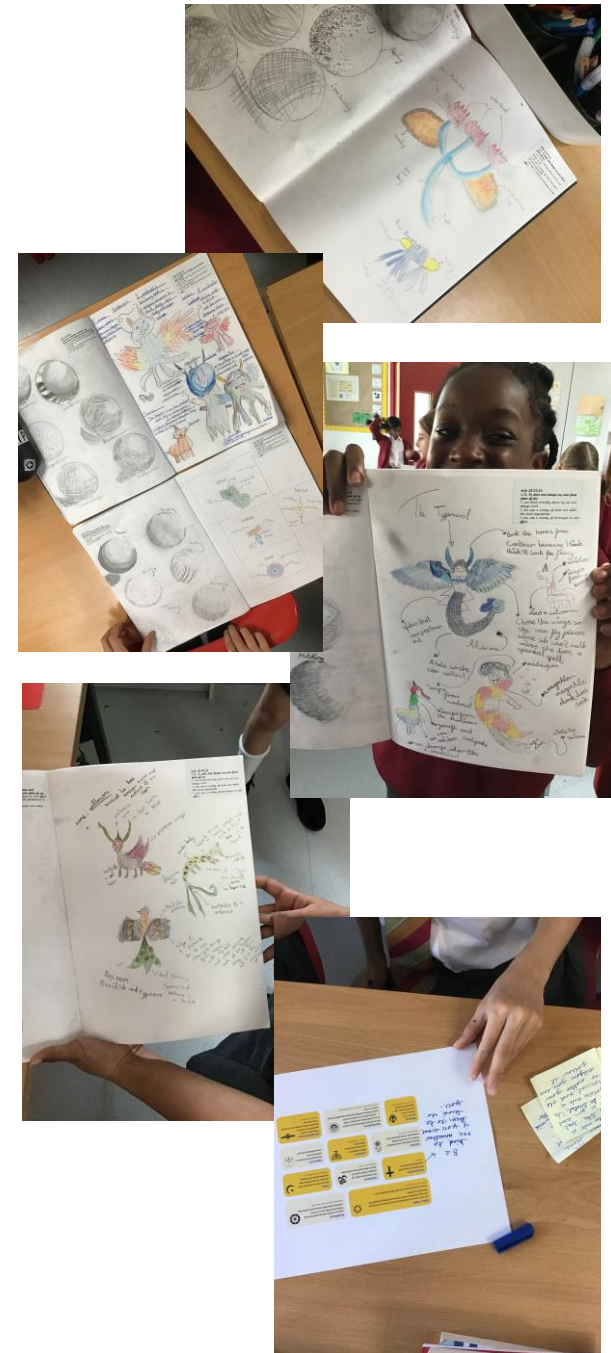
In Maths, we have now begun our new topic on addition and subtraction. This week, we have explored a range of different mental strategies that can be used to solve calculation problems efficiently. We have also introduced and practised the formal methods for addition and subtraction, with exchanging. The children have worked extremely hard to develop their accuracy and have shown great perseverance when tackling increasingly challenging calculations.

In PSHE, we have been exploring the important theme of friendship. This week, we focused particularly on what bullying means, considering how someone might feel if they were being bullied and the impact this can have on their wellbeing. We also explored different ways that someone can seek help and considered how we can support people who may be feeling isolated or less supported by their friends.

In History, we have continued to develop our understanding of chronology, this time focusing on the timeline of Ancient Greece. We began by exploring the five key periods within Ancient Greek history before looking more closely at some of the important events and developments that took place during each period. The children compared the different periods, identifying similarities and differences and considering the key changes that occurred over time. They also discussed which period they felt had been the most influential in world history, providing some interesting reasons to support their ideas.

In RE, we explored the concept of the Golden Rule. The children first had the opportunity to share their own ideas about what they thought the Golden Rule might mean. We then read a short picture book that helped us to explore the concept in more detail and investigated how the Golden Rule is expressed across different worldviews and religions. The children were fascinated to discover that, although the wording and traditions may differ, many focus on similar themes such as love, forgiveness, kindness and community. They then created their own versions of a Golden Rule before tackling some challenging questions about what it means to live well and how this might connect to the Golden Rule.

Finally, in Art, the children have been planning their very own mythological creatures, taking inspiration from the work and fables of Aesop. They have applied the sketching skills they developed last week to experiment with different ideas and carefully consider how their creatures might look. The children were encouraged to think carefully about the details of their designs and the choices they were making before annotating their plans to explain their ideas. We are looking forward to seeing these imaginative creatures develop into their final pieces over the coming weeks!



Year 6 (Pogson Class and Walker Class)

We've had another busy and exciting week in Year 6, with some fantastic learning and excellent effort across the curriculum!

In English, the children completed their diary entries in role as Eugene from *One Day*. They wrote about the difficult experience of digging a tunnel in search of freedom and reflected on what it would have felt like to be captured by the Nazis. We have been absolutely blown away by the quality of the writing produced. The children used ambitious vocabulary, powerful descriptions and emotive language to capture Eugene's fear, hope and determination. Many of them also successfully applied the grammar skills we have been focusing on throughout the half term.

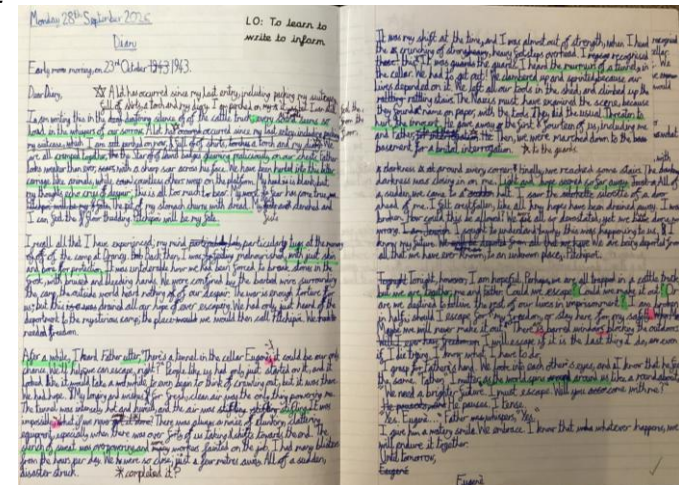
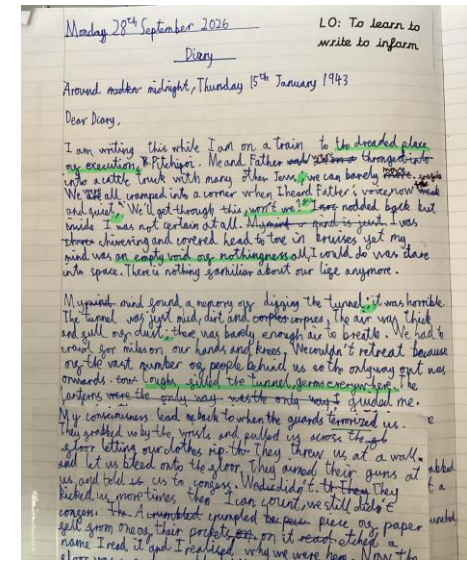
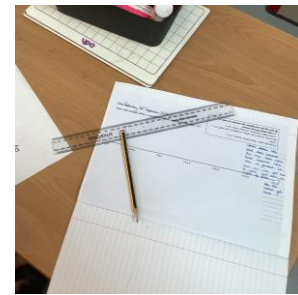
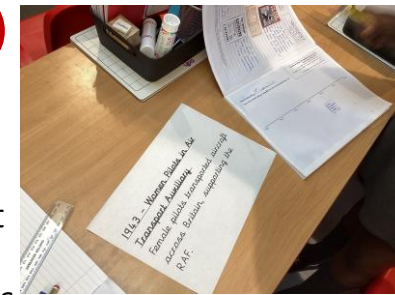
In Maths, we explored prime numbers, which are numbers greater than 1 that have exactly two factors: 1 and themselves. We also learned about square numbers, which are found by multiplying a number by itself, and cube numbers, which are found by multiplying a number by itself three times. The children enjoyed spotting patterns and using their mathematical reasoning skills to solve problems involving these number types.

In History, we learned about the important role of women during World War II. The children researched the wide range of jobs women undertook both at home and on the front line, before presenting their findings on timelines. We then answered our enquiry question: *How did women play a significant role in WWII?* The children concluded that women were vital to Britain's war effort, helping to keep the country running during a time of great challenge.

In Science, we planned our own investigation to answer the question: *How does the type of exercise affect our heart rate?* We explored the difference between independent and dependent variables and discussed how to make our investigation comparative and fair by carefully controlling other variables. We're looking forward to carrying out the investigation next week.

In RE, we explored Christian beliefs about climate change and caring for the world. We looked at passages from Genesis, identifying references to stewardship, responsibility and the belief that the Earth belongs to God. We also investigated a range of Christian charities and evaluated the work they are doing to tackle climate change, considering which approaches might be the most and least effective.

Well done, Year 6, for another fantastic week of learning, thoughtful discussions and hard work!



Signals Class

Another wonderful and joyous week with the children that put smiles on the adults faces everyday. What a dream they all are!

We are continuing to recap and embed our routines, as we really wanted these to become familiar, predictable, and meaningful for the children. Although we appreciate this takes time, we are already seeing many positive signs as the children become more confident within our provision.

The children have enjoyed a range of sensory experiences this week, particularly with the Play-Doh. They have loved manipulating the dough, squeezing, rolling, stretching and creating lots of different shapes and models. These activities help to develop fine motor skills, creativity and communication opportunities.

We have also been delighted to see children initiating nursery rhymes and familiar songs while using our sensory equipment. It has been lovely to watch them engage with activities that bring them joy and support their communication development.

Some of our children have started using our workstation area for more focused one-to-one learning. They have shown excellent engagement, concentration and perseverance and we are incredibly proud of the progress they are making.

The children have also really enjoyed our choice-making sessions, where they have been encouraged to make decisions, explore their interests and join in with activities alongside their peers and adults. It has been wonderful to see them growing in confidence and independence.

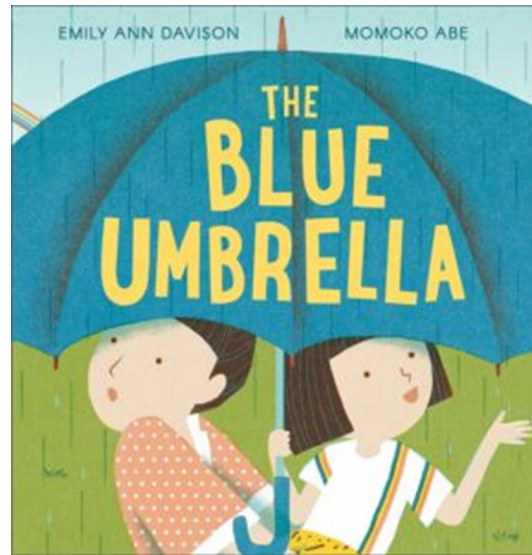
Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Have a lovely weekend!



Collective Worship

This week, we explored our school value of 'Community' through the story *The Blue Umbrella* by Emily Ann Davison and Momoko Abe. The children reflected on how one small act of kindness can have a positive impact on many people. We discussed how the little girl's decision to share her umbrella helped others and strengthened her community.



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



£45 per ticket, including all supplies, a welcome drink and festive treat!

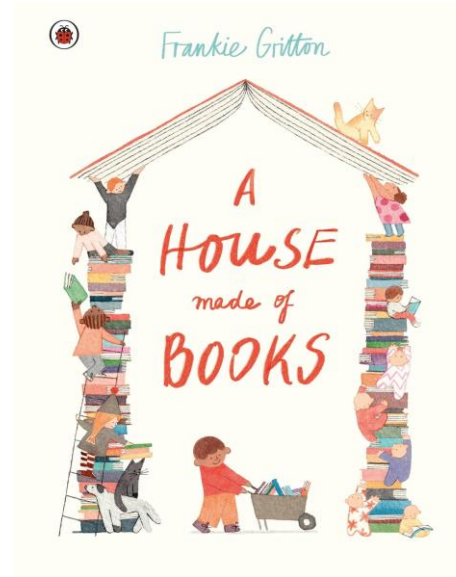
To secure your place, please contact
office@stgabrielscofeacademy.org

Recommended Read

A House Made of Books by Frankie Gritton

Simon loves books and decides to build a house made entirely from them. He works hard, stacking book after book until he creates the perfect cosy home, filled with poems, pictures, stories and songs. Simon is very happy in his new home. One day, a neighbour visits and asks to borrow a book. Soon, more and more people want to borrow books, and Simon's little house begins to look rather wobbly. Eventually, the house tumbles down, but Simon's friends and neighbours come together to help rebuild it, creating a home that is bigger and stronger than ever before.

This beautiful picture book celebrates the joy of reading, the importance of sharing stories and the power of community, showing how people can achieve wonderful things when they come together to help one another.



Online Safety

Children are accessing technology and the internet at a younger age than ever before. It's never too early to talk to your child about what they do online and who to tell if they come across anything online that makes them feel worried, scared or sad.

Jessie & Friends is a series of three animations that follow the adventures of Jessie, Tia and Mo as they begin to navigate the online world, watching videos, sharing pictures and playing games. There's also a storybook for each episode, to help you and your child keep the conversation going.



<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/jessie-and-friends-videos/>

Whole School Attendance

Attendance since September	97.4%
This week's attendance	98.4%
Latest Local Authority ranking	126 out of 192 schools
Latest National ranking	Top 40-50% 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

Friday Big Play

Each Friday the whole school attendance is 96% or above, children will earn an extra 5 minutes of playtime which will culminate in a Big Play on the final Friday of term.

This Friday's attendance was 98.4%!

This is the fifth Friday in a row where attendance has passed 96% which is great news!



[NHS guidance- Is my child too ill for school?](#)

Safeguarding and Family Support

The safety and wellbeing of our pupils is our highest priority. We encourage all parents and carers to visit the [safeguarding page](#) on our school website, where you can find information about our safeguarding team, key policies and sources of support for families. The page also explains the school's role in sharing information and making referrals when there are concerns about a child's safety, wellbeing or welfare, as well as providing guidance for parents and carers on how to report safeguarding concerns.

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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