

Weekly Learning Update

9th October 2026



Nursery

What a fantastic week Nursery have had! The children have continued to engage enthusiastically in our focused learning sessions. This week, our focused small group sessions have continued to explore the story *From Head to Toe* by Eric Carle. The children have been working hard to remember the sequence of events in the story and recall what each character can do. We have been very impressed with their fantastic memory skills and confidence when retelling parts of the story.

The children have been busy exploring all areas of our Nursery provision!

Maths Area: This week, the children have been developing their counting skills using Numicon and counters, matching quantities and exploring numbers through practical play.

Writing: The writing table has been full of excitement as the children used toy cars dipped in paint to create marks and patterns across large sheets of paper. This encouraged mark making in a fun and engaging way.

Fine Motor Area: The children have been strengthening their finger muscles by matching coloured pegs to coloured sections on paper plates.

Role Play: Our Healthy Eating Café has continued to be a popular area. The children have enjoyed taking on different roles, including customer, waiter and chef, developing their communication, imagination and social skills.

Small World Area: The children have been exploring a range of sea creatures through imaginative small world play, creating their own underwater adventures and stories.

Sensory Area: We have enjoyed an autumn-themed sensory tray filled with coloured rice, bowls, spoons, pumpkins, conkers and pinecones. The children have loved scooping, pouring, mixing and exploring the different textures and natural materials.

Investigation Area: The children have been learning how to use pipettes to move coloured watery paint. They explored how liquids can be transferred and discovered what happens when different colours are mixed together.

Creative Area: The children have been creating hedgehogs using glue, sticks and brown tissue paper.

Outdoors: Outdoors, the children have continued to enjoy riding bikes, building with large construction materials and engaging in imaginative play. Our outdoor dinosaur play area has also been a firm favourite, inspiring lots of imaginative adventures and storytelling.

This week's home learning suggestion: Collect some autumn materials like leaves or conkers, for example, and bring them back into school to be used for lots of autumn fun next week!



Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

It has been another fantastic week in Reception!

English:

Our focus this week has been to encourage effective pencil grip and the children have been practising our 'frog on a log' method. Alongside this, the children have been developing how to sit effectively at a table to enable their best presentation of work. This proved really useful when, on Friday, the children helped Mr McCormick list his favourite animals. Reception were very proud of being able to showcase their skills.

Phonics:

We have learnt the following phonemes in phonics this week: b, f, ff, l, ll and ss. If your child hasn't received the latest phonics book, please use the QR code to access the e-book. Phonics books are to be returned Thursday morning, to ensure the new book can be provided on Friday.

Maths:

Children have been practising their subitising skills, being able to recognise a quantity without counting. There have been plenty of concrete resources used and real world items to develop this skill.



Reader 5
Phase 2
get off



Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

We have had another brilliant week.

Phonics:

This week in phonics, we have been revisiting the phonemes ur, ow, oi, ll, ff and ss. We practised reading and spelling words such as turn, cow, coin, full, huff and fuss. The children have been working hard to apply their phonics knowledge when reading and spelling new words.

English:

In English, we have been learning how to write to inform. The children were introduced to Tin Dog and explored his character alongside Old Bear. They wrote informative messages from Tin Dog's perspective, imagining that he is also trapped in the attic and eager to escape.

Maths:

In Maths this week, we have been learning all about ordinal numbers. The children had great fun taking part in running races and identifying who finished first, second, third and beyond. We also used cubes arranged in different sequences, and the children practised describing and labelling the position of each cube using the correct ordinal language.

Geography:

This week, we have been learning about the capital cities of the UK, with a special focus on Cardiff, the capital city of Wales. The children enjoyed exploring some of the features that make Wales unique and learning more about its national symbols. Why not ask your child if they can remember the colours on the Welsh flag and what special animal appears on it?

Science:

In Science this week, the children explored how we use our senses to investigate the world around us. They carried out an exciting experiment to find out whether two eyes are better than one, completing a range of practical activities and challenges to test their ideas.



Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

It has been a wonderful week in Year 2!

In English, we have continued using *A River* as our focus text, but this week with a very exciting twist. On Monday, the children discovered a surprise letter folded into the shape of a boat. It was from Tom, who needed our help and advice. Later in the week, we read a letter from Toby, who shared some thoughtful suggestions about how Tom could stay safe on his journey. We carefully explored the different dangers that Tom might face in each setting and began discussing possible solutions to these problems. The children have had some fantastic ideas and are now preparing to write their own letters to Tom. Stay tuned to see the wonderful advice they come up with!

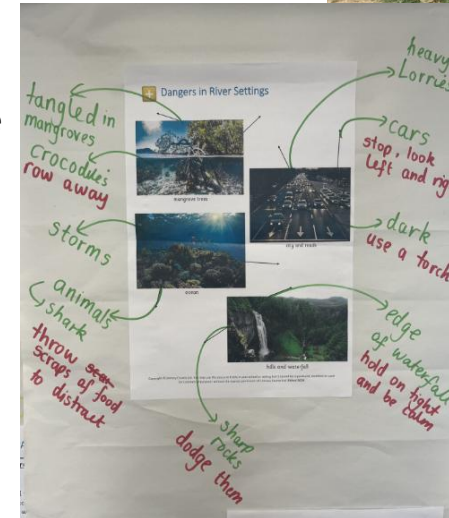
In Maths, we have started our new learning on addition and subtraction. We revisited our number bonds to 10 and explored fact families, helping us to see connections between addition and subtraction facts. The children have been working hard to explain their mathematical thinking and spot patterns.

In Science, we learned about microhabitats and the different environments where living things can be found. Once we understood the various types of microhabitats, we became scientists and conducted a search around the school grounds to identify real-life examples. The children enjoyed investigating and discovering what creatures might live in each habitat.

In Art, we completed our final pieces inspired by Claude Monet's famous *Bridge and Water Lilies* paintings. The children reflected on their starting points and carefully used a range of media to create texture and detail in their work. Their final pieces look absolutely amazing and we are very proud of them!

In RE, we discussed miracles and explored what a miracle is. We learned about some of the miracles Jesus performed and then watched a video from the lovely Steve, who explained what Jesus' miracles mean to him personally. To finish our learning, we held a class vote on whether we believe miracles can happen today. The children shared their ideas thoughtfully and respectfully, leading to some fantastic discussions.

We hope you have a lovely weekend and look forward to another exciting week of learning ahead!



Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

It has been another busy and engaging week in Year 3! In English, we have continued reading *The Iron Man*. After discovering that the plan to trap the Iron Man did not work, we began thinking of our own creative ways to catch him. The children designed their own traps and wrote explanation sentences describing how they would work. They worked hard to include adverbs, conjunctions and ambitious vocabulary to make their writing more detailed and exciting.

We have also started reading *The Street Beneath Our Feet* by Charlotte Guillain and Yuval Zommer. The children were fascinated by the book's unique fold-out format, which opens up to reveal beautiful illustrations showing what lies beneath the ground. We enjoyed using our reading skills to learn more about fossils, asking thoughtful questions, discussing new vocabulary and drawing upon our prior knowledge from our Science lessons to deepen our understanding.

In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of place value by adding and subtracting ones, tens and hundreds.

In Science, we have been learning about fossils and how they are formed. To help us understand this process, we used slices of bread to represent layers of sediment and sweets to represent animals that had died. As we peeled the bread layers apart, we observed the indentations and colour imprints left behind by the sweets, helping us to understand how mould fossils can form in soft layers of rock over millions of years. We also found out more about Mary Anning using books and fact files to carry out our research.

In RE, we learned about the religious festivals of Eid and Passover and explored how they link to nature. We discussed how the cycles of the moon help determine when these festivals take place and reflected on the importance of the natural world within different faith traditions.



Year 4 (Tagore Class and Turing Class)

This week, we enjoyed another exciting week of learning across the curriculum.

In English, we continued exploring *The Whale* and used the story to develop our reading and writing skills. We researched a new marine animal and gathered facts ready to write our own newspaper reports. We also practised using direct speech by interviewing witnesses, thinking carefully about the questions we would ask and how to record responses accurately using speech punctuation.

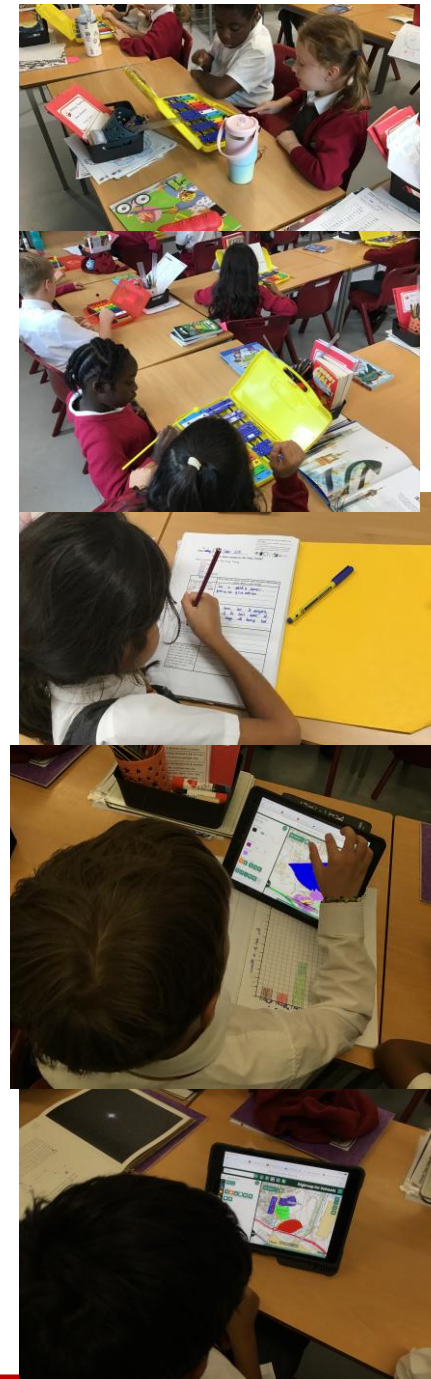
In Maths, we began our new unit on addition and subtraction. We focused on using the column method to add numbers, making sure that digits were lined up correctly according to place value. We developed our confidence in carrying numbers and explaining our mathematical reasoning.

In Geography, we used digital mapping tools to investigate land use in our local area. We labelled different types of land use and compared how Houlton looks today with what it was like in the 1850s. This helped us understand how places change over time and how people shape the environment around them.

In RE, we explored Jesus' role within the Holy Trinity. We analysed passages from the Bible to deepen our understanding of who Jesus was and why Christians believe he is an important part of God's nature.

In Music, we used glockenspiels to learn the bass line of *This Little Light of Mine*. We practised playing in time with others and developed our confidence in reading and performing musical patterns.

Year 4 have worked very hard this week and it is really pleasing to see the progress they are making already. Well done, Year 4!



Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Raúf Class)

It has been another wonderful week of learning in Year 5!

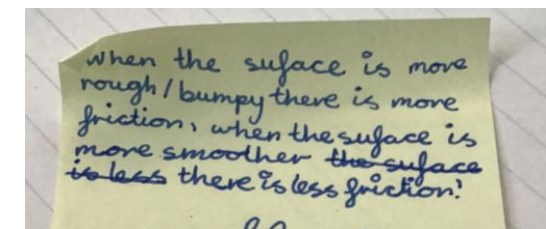
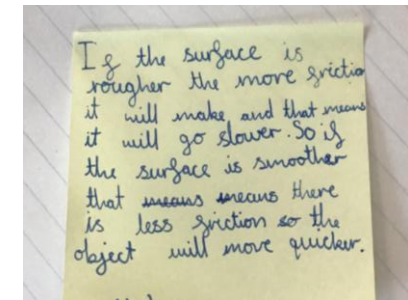
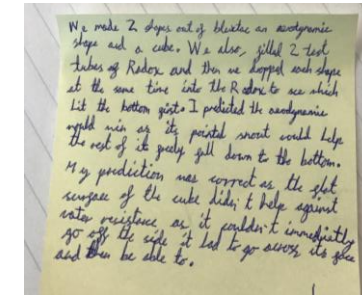
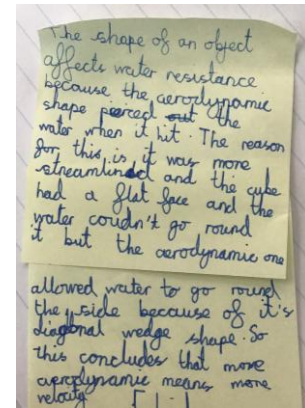
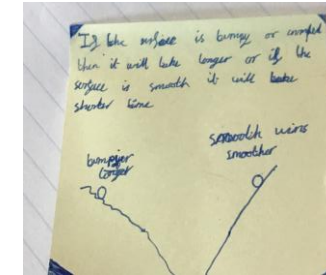
In English, we have shifted our focus from narrative writing and have now begun exploring how to write effectively for a report. The children have been learning about different vocabulary and word choices that can help us to create a formal and technical report, imagining that they are reporting back to Mission Control from Curiosity's journey on Mars. Next week, we will begin exploring some specific grammatical features that will help us to make our reports even more effective before planning our very own mission logs.

In Maths, we have continued our learning about addition and subtraction, focusing on different strategies we can use to check and improve the accuracy of our answers. The children have explored rounding, estimating and using the inverse operation to check their calculations. They then applied these strategies to a range of increasingly challenging multi-step problems.

In Science, we have explored friction and water resistance. We considered how water resistance works in a similar way to friction, slowing down the movement of objects as they travel through water or on surfaces. The children explored a range of real-life scenarios involving water resistance and friction before applying their ideas to a small investigation. We discovered that objects with more streamlined, aerodynamic shapes were able to move through the liquid more quickly than objects with flatter shapes.

In Geography, we have been learning more about the Greek city-states that made up Ancient Greece around 2,000 years ago. The children first used maps to locate and plot ten different Greek city-states, developing their understanding of their geographical locations. They then used relief maps to investigate the physical geography surrounding each city-state. This allowed the children to consider how features such as mountains, coastlines and other physical features may have influenced where people settled and how different communities developed.

In RE, the children have continued to develop their understanding of embodied worldviews, this time exploring the concept within a Sikh context. We learned about the important role of the Gurus in guiding Sikhs in how they should live their lives and explored some of the values that are important within Sikhi communities. The children then carried out their own research to investigate how a Sikh person might demonstrate these values and live life well, including ideas around giving to others, showing kindness and respecting themselves. This provided some thoughtful opportunities for the children to make connections between beliefs, values and actions.



Year 6 (Pogson Class and Walker Class)

In English, we finished reading *One Day* and reflected on the important role that Monsieur and Madame Médard played in helping Eugene and his father. The children explored the rich vocabulary used throughout the text and discussed the bravery, kindness and sacrifice shown by the couple. To prepare for our next writing outcome, the children wrote notes of thanks in role as Eugene, expressing their gratitude for the support given to his family. These ideas will help us as we move on to writing formal letters of gratitude.

In Maths, we have been developing our division skills. The children have practised short division, explored division using factors and have begun learning long division using the DMSB (Divide, Multiply, Subtract, Bring Down) method. A secure knowledge of times tables is vital for success with these methods, as it helps children work more fluently and accurately. Please continue to encourage regular times tables practice at home to help build confidence and speed with calculations.

In Science, we carried out the investigation we planned last week, exploring how different types of exercise affect our heart rate. The children discovered that exercise does increase heart rate because our muscles need more oxygen and nutrients when they are working harder. To meet this demand, the heart pumps blood around the body more quickly, delivering oxygen to the muscles and removing waste products such as carbon dioxide. The children enjoyed collecting and analysing their results and were able to draw thoughtful conclusions from their findings.

In RE, we explored how Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims view climate change and environmental responsibility. The children then chose one faith to study in more depth and created informative and engaging posters to showcase their learning.

Our highlight this week was undoubtedly our trip to Holdenby House. The children were respectful, enthusiastic and fully engaged throughout the day. They were transported back to World War II as evacuees and took part in a range of activities, including wartime cooking, learning about air raid precautions, exploring clothes rationing and even singing songs from the era. It was a fantastic day that brought our history learning to life, and the children represented the school brilliantly.

Well done, Year 6, for another fantastic week of learning!



Signals Class

What a fantastic week we have had in our classroom!

This week's learning focused on the NSPCC 'Speak Out Stay Safe' message, helping children understand their feelings and identify the trusted adults who can support them. The children explored emotions such as sad, scared, worried and hurt, learning that trusted adults can help in many different ways when we need support. The children were very confident when creating their own Trusted Adult Posters, carefully choosing the adults they trust both at home and at school. We were so impressed with their thoughtful contributions and engagement throughout the activities.

This week, our Makaton sign has been "Help". The children have enjoyed learning and practising this sign throughout a range of activities and daily routines. It has linked really nicely with our recent NSPCC learning about trusted adults, helping children understand that it is okay to ask for help when they are feeling worried, hurt, scared or unsure. We have been encouraging the children to use the sign, alongside any verbal communication, to express when they need support from a trusted adult.

As part of our learning, the children also practised recognising and matching emotions to pictures and different scenarios. They worked hard to identify how someone might be feeling and discussed what could help in each situation. Well done, everyone!

We also had lots of fun during our Bucket Time sessions. A particular favourite was our exciting volcano experiment, where we dropped Mentos into fizzy lemonade and watched it erupt! The children were amazed by the reaction and practised great looking, listening and waiting skills.

The children have continued to engage brilliantly in their independent learning activities. They particularly enjoyed sensory exploration with spaghetti, listening carefully to the sounds it made when snapping and investigating its texture. We have also enjoyed exploring our classroom environment and developing our early number skills through a variety of practical and engaging activities.

We are incredibly proud of all the children for their enthusiasm, hard work and growing confidence this week. Keep up the fantastic work!

Have a wonderful weekend!

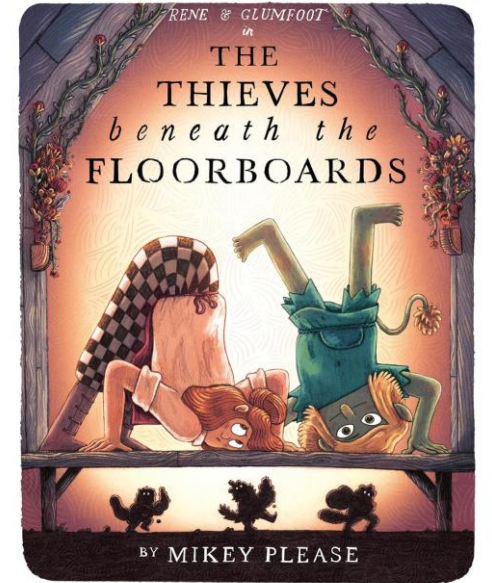


Recommended Read

The Thieves Beneath the Floorboards by Mikey Please

When Rene hears scratching and scurrying beneath the café floorboards, she is determined to discover what is causing it. After setting a clever trap, she uncovers some unexpected visitors whose arrival could change everything. Alongside her friend Glumfoot, Rene must decide what to do as chaos and adventure unfold.

Full of humour, rhyme, magical woodland creatures and imaginative storytelling, this story is a charming follow-up for children who enjoyed *The Café at the Edge of the Woods*. It explores themes of friendship, community, love and welcoming others, all wrapped up in a fun and engaging adventure.



Online Safety

CEOP Education's '**The Band Runner**' is a fun and engaging game for KS2 children to support their understanding of online safety. To access this, follow the link: <https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/band-runner/>

Featuring characters and safety messages from the CEOP Education *Play Like Share* films, *Band Runner* is a fun game that puts children's knowledge about online safety to the test by asking them to help characters make safer choices.

Players can choose to play the game as characters Ellie or Sam who use their guitars to eliminate all obstacles in their path as they run through school in order to make it to their next gig. If players miss a jump or take a tumble they then need to help Alfie solve an online safety dilemma to be able to continue play. As players pass to the next level, the running gets faster!



Whole School Attendance

Attendance since September	97.4%
This week's attendance	97.3%
Latest Local Authority ranking	56 out of 194 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

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 96.9%!

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



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

Speak Out, Stay Safe

We took part in NSPCC's Speak out. Stay safe programme this week. This child-friendly programme is aligned with the curriculum and consists of age-appropriate virtual assemblies, which we have reviewed.

The content is delivered in an engaging and interactive way with the help of the NSPCC mascot Buddy. If you would like to know more about the 'Speak out. Stay safe.' programme, visit www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout



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

Key Dates

Friday 16th October – Anning Class Celebration Worship (10.15am-10.45am)

Week beginning Monday 19th October – Parent and Carer Consultations (dates vary by teacher).

Friday 23rd October – Non-Uniform Day (please bring a bottle donation for our Christmas Fair tombola and raffle)

Friday 23rd October – Malala Class Celebration Worship (10.15am-10.45am)

Monday 2nd November – INSET Day

Friday 6th November – Pogson Class Celebration Worship (10.15am-10.45am)

Monday 9th November – Reception Phonics Parent Information Session (3.30pm-4.30pm)

Friday 13th November – Walker Class Celebration Worship (10.15am-10.45am)

Friday 13th November – Non-Uniform Day in support of Zoe's Place children's hospice (Children in Need)

Friday 13th November – RSHE Parent Information Session (2.45pm-3.15pm). Come and find out more about our RSHE curriculum and ask any questions you may have.

Friday 20th November – Turing Class Celebration Worship (10.15am-10.45am)

Thursday 26th November – Wreath Making Workshop (6.00pm)

Friday 27th November – Attenborough Class Celebration Worship (10.15am-10.45am)

Friday 27th November – Christmas Fair (3.30pm-5.00pm)

Monday 30th November – Beauty and the Beast Christmas Panto

Thursday 3rd December to Tuesday 8th December – Book Fair (3.30pm-4.00pm daily)

Thursday 10th December – Christmas Jumper Day

Tuesday 15th December – EYFS Nativity (10.00am and 2.00pm)

Thursday 17th December – KS1 Nativity (2.00pm and 5.30pm)

Friday 18th December – Children finish at 2pm. No Angels afterschool club.

Family Support

This week's Family Information Service [newsletter](#) includes information about:

- Warwickshire Libraries What's On Guide
- Baby sleeping bag safety
- Supporting vaccination for SEND children and young people

and much more!



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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