

Weekly Learning Update

23rd October 2026



Nursery

What a fantastic final week before half term Nursery have had! The children have continued to show great enthusiasm for their learning and have worked hard in our focused English small group sessions. We have now completed our work based on the story *From Head to Toe* by Eric Carle and have been so impressed with the children's engagement throughout.

English: This week, we have been revisiting and celebrating our learning from *From Head to Toe*. The children have practised following one and two-part instructions, explored action words and discussed their favourite animals from the story. They have shown excellent listening skills and confidence when talking about their ideas.

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

Maths Area: The children have been developing their counting skills by matching pom-poms and pegs to different numbers, helping to strengthen their understanding of quantity and number recognition.

Writing and Fine Motor: In our mark-making area, the children have been using their fingers to create lines and patterns in coloured sand. Using pattern cards as a guide, they have been practising pre-writing shapes and developing control in a fun, sensory way.

Fine Motor Area: Jigsaws have been a popular challenge this week. The children have been developing their problem-solving skills, hand-eye coordination and perseverance as they carefully fitted the pieces together.

Role Play: Our supermarket has continued to be very popular, especially with the addition of some brand-new food items. The children have loved taking on the roles of shoppers and shopkeepers while developing their communication and imaginative play skills.

Sensory Area: The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring pumpkins. They have scooped out the insides, investigated the seeds and experienced the different textures, leading to lots of curiosity and discussion.

Investigation Area: The children have been creating beautiful autumn frames using sticky-back plastic and a variety of autumn leaves. They carefully selected and arranged their leaves to create colourful seasonal displays.

Creative Area: We have been creating autumn tree paintings using forks and cotton buds to print autumn-coloured leaves. The children enjoyed experimenting with different tools and techniques to create their artwork.

Outdoors: There has been lots of wonderful learning taking place outside this week. The children have been developing their mathematical skills through dice games and counting activities, as well as strengthening their fine motor skills through bead threading. Our mechanic car continues to be a firm favourite! We have also been developing our stage area by adding a stage sign and printed stage lights along with tickets and popcorn for the audience, inspiring lots of imaginative performances and role play.

Half-Term Home Learning Suggestion: We would love the children to practise putting on their coats independently using the "coat flip trick". See Tapestry for more info. This is a fantastic way to develop independence and confidence in everyday routines.

Thank you for your continued support this half term. We are so proud of everything the children have achieved and hope you all have a wonderful and restful break! Show us what you get up to during the week by sharing on Tapestry!



Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

It has been a fantastic final week within Reception. It feels in many ways as though the children have been within the Reception classes for at least a term already and this week it has been wonderful to celebrate their progress during parent consultations. We have shared the successes with the children as well.

Phonics:

We have continued to teach the children the remaining initial phonemes, so they have learnt the full alphabet this half term as well as phase 2 digraphs. The children will be going back to the beginning of phase 2 next half term as we go through a full recap with them, with a focus on blending for reading and segmenting for spelling.

English:

We have continued to focus on caption writing and focusing on the concept that a caption is a group of words that tells us something about an image. The children have enjoyed generating their own captions this week and had a lot of fun looking at the images.

Maths:

We have continued to develop the skill of number recognition this week and extended this to numbers within 20. The children have enjoyed being able to play games to develop their mathematical confidence. They especially enjoyed whole class games of Bingo!

We hope you have a fantastic half term; the children have certainly earned some rest and relaxation! We look forward to welcoming them back on Tuesday 3rd November.

Reader 6
Phase 2
go up



Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)



We have had another super week!

Phonics:

This week in Phonics, we have been revisiting the phonemes air, ear and ure. The children have been practising reading and spelling words such as hair, fear and cure. They have also applied their learning by writing dictated sentences, helping to develop both their spelling and sentence-writing skills.

English:

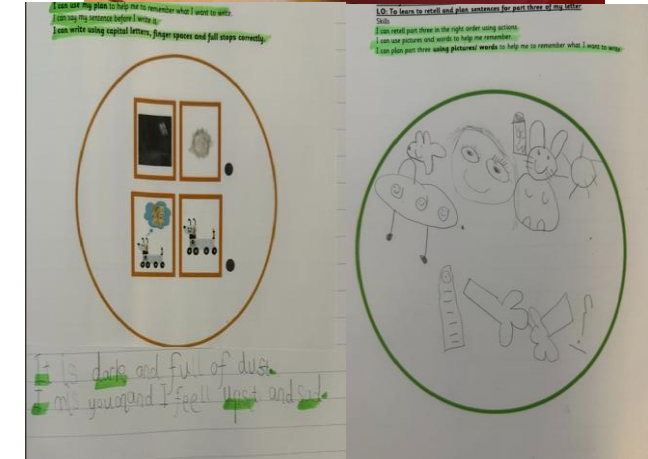
In English, we have continued learning how to write to inform. The children have been planning and writing different sections of their letters. They have been using adjectives to create vivid descriptions and help the reader to visualise their ideas. We are so proud of all the children's amazing work.

Maths:

This week in Maths, the children have continued developing their understanding of addition. They have been learning about fact families and number bonds to 10, exploring how different number sentences can be linked. The children have enjoyed finding related addition facts and using their knowledge of number bonds to solve problems with increasing confidence.

Geography:

In Geography, the children have been learning to name, locate and identify the key characteristics of Northern Ireland. They explored its capital city, famous landmarks and some of the features that make Northern Ireland unique. See if your child can share something they have learnt about this part of the United Kingdom!



Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

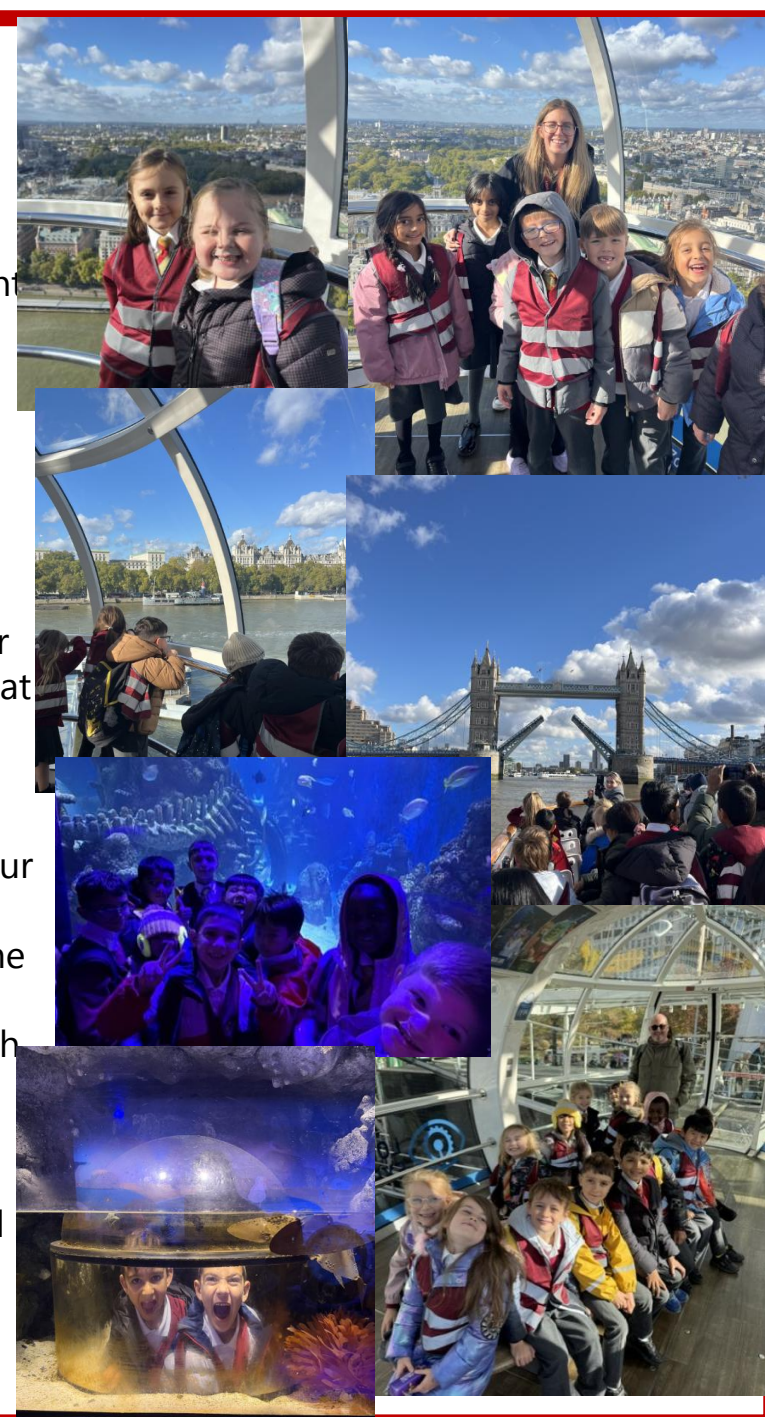
It is hard to believe that Autumn 1 has already come to an end! The weeks have flown by and what an exciting and busy half term it has been. We have loved welcoming the children back to school, building new friendships, developing positive relationships and embracing lots of new learning opportunities.

This week in English, we completed our letters to Tom, explaining the dangers he may face in the different settings from our class story. The children worked hard to use their knowledge of letter writing, whilst carefully considering the hazards and challenges that Tom might encounter. In Maths, we continued our learning on addition and subtraction, focusing on adding and subtracting across 10. We have been using our number bonds to support us and have shown growing confidence when solving calculations and explaining our reasoning.

In Geography, we revisited our learning about London in the past and present. The children sorted pictures into past and present categories and discussed how some aspects of London have changed over time, while others have remained the same. In RE, we concluded our unit, *Who is Jesus?*, by exploring what non-Christians may believe about Jesus. The children shared thoughtful ideas, engaged in insightful discussions and made links to a range of other worldviews.

Of course, the highlight of our week was our fantastic trip to London! We had the most incredible day. Our adventure began on the London Eye, where we enjoyed spectacular views of many of the landmarks we have been learning about in Geography. The weather was beautiful, allowing us to see for miles across the city. We then enjoyed lunch in the sunshine before boarding a boat on the River Thames. Along the way, we spotted even more famous landmarks, including the iconic Tower Bridge, which we were lucky enough to see opening. Back on dry land, we visited the Sea Life Centre, where we explored a variety of habitats and discovered fascinating animals linked to our Science learning.

It truly was a memorable day, and Year 2 represented St Gabriel's brilliantly throughout. Thank you for all of your support this half term. We hope you have a lovely and restful break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back for another exciting half term.



Year 3 (Malala Class and Anning Class)

What a lovely way to end the half term it has been! It was wonderful to spend time with you all during Parent Consultations, celebrating the children's many achievements and how well they have settled into Year 3. We have also enjoyed a busy and exciting week, with our Tudor Day on Wednesday and Malala's Celebration Worship today. The children did a super job of confidently sharing their learning about Diwali and it was lovely to celebrate with you all.

The children had an absolutely fantastic Tudor Day, bringing together all of their learning and making history come to life. Throughout the day, they re-enacted the War of the Roses, taking on different roles and seeing the sequence of events unfold, took part in a Tudor quiz, cracked codes, played Tudor games, explored Tudor artefacts and learned what they were used for, discovered some of the medicines used during Tudor times and even had a go at jousting! It was a truly memorable day and seeing the children's enthusiasm, smiles and excitement was wonderful.

Alongside this, the children have written some fantastic trap explanation texts to conclude our learning linked to The Iron Man. They worked incredibly hard to include many of the writing features we have been focusing on this half term, including conjunctions, expanded noun phrases, the correct use of a and an, commas in a list and ambitious vocabulary to engage the reader and suit the purpose of the text. In Maths, we have begun learning the formal written method for addition. The children have approached this new learning with great determination and are developing their confidence in using this method accurately.

It has been such a wonderful half term. We are so proud of all of the children and everything they have achieved. Thank you for your continued support and we hope you all have a happy, restful and well-deserved break. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Tuesday 3rd November.**



Year 4 (Tagore Class and Turing Class)

It's the end of the first half term of Year 4. It was wonderful to celebrate all the progress the children have made so far at our parent consultations this week – many thanks for your support in attending these!

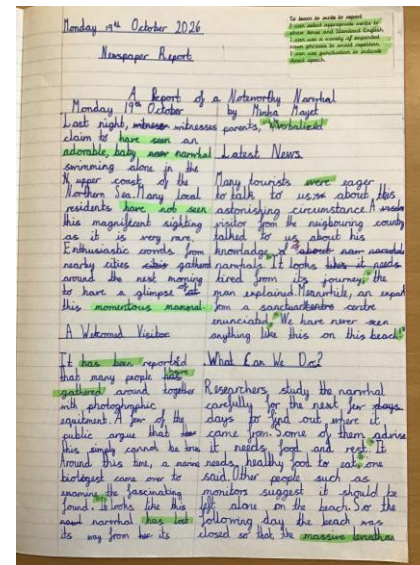
In English, we completed our newspaper reports about a marine creature that had been spotted off the coast of the UK. We worked hard to include key features of newspaper writing, such as speech from witnesses, alternative noun phrases to avoid repetition and the present perfect tense.

In Maths, we focused on checking strategies and estimating when adding and subtracting. We learned how estimation can help us decide whether our answers are reasonable and explored different ways to check our calculations. Towards the end of the week, we began learning about area and investigated what area is and how it can be measured.

In Geography, we continued our work on energy by discussing the advantages and disadvantages of renewable and non-renewable energy sources. We considered how different types of energy affect people and the environment and thought about the importance of making sustainable choices for the future.

In PSHE, we were very fortunate to receive a visit from the fire service. We learned about firework safety and discussed how to stay safe around fireworks and bonfires. We also enjoyed looking around the fire truck and finding out more about the important work firefighters do to keep our community safe.

In Art, we created our final interpretations of Albrecht Dürer's famous rhinoceros. We applied a range of sketching techniques, including shading, line work and texture, to produce detailed and impressive pieces of artwork.



Year 5 (Attenborough Class and Raúf Class)

It has been a very successful final week of term and we are amazed by how quickly the weeks have flown by!

In English, we finally had the opportunity to plan and write our own mission logs, imagining ourselves as the Curiosity rover reporting back to NASA about our exploration of Mars. The children had to think carefully about how to organise their ideas and communicate their findings in a formal and engaging way. They worked hard to incorporate a range of writing features, including relative clauses, parenthesis, technical vocabulary and adverbials, to enhance their reports and create a cohesive piece of writing.

In Maths, we have continued exploring multiplication and the relationships between different numbers, with a particular focus on factors. The children practised finding the factors of individual numbers and identifying common factors shared by multiple numbers. We then explored the differences between prime and composite numbers, alongside developing our understanding of square numbers.

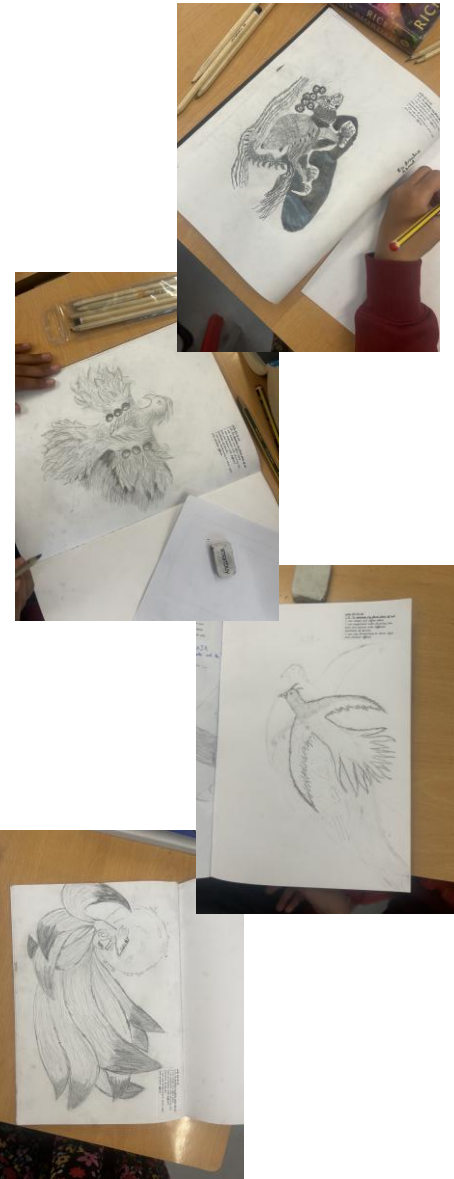
In Geography, we have been investigating the physical geography of Greece. The children explored the country's landscape and considered how its physical features may have influenced the lives of people living there during Ancient Greek times. We discussed some of the challenges that the landscape might have presented, including how mountains and the surrounding seas could affect travel, communication and trade. The children then considered how people might have adapted to these challenges, helping them to make connections between physical geography and the development of Ancient Greek communities.

In Science, we brought our learning about forces to a close by returning to the concept of mechanisms. The children used their understanding of gears, pulleys and levers to design and create their own contraptions to complete simple everyday tasks. These included some wonderfully imaginative ideas, such as machines designed to make a mocktail or help someone tie their shoelaces!

In Art, the children completed their mythological creature drawings using sketching pencils. They have worked incredibly hard throughout this project, taking their time to develop their designs and carefully consider how they could use sketching techniques to enhance their final pieces. Particular attention was given to shading, texture and the use of light and dark to create depth and bring their creatures to life.

Finally, in RE, we explored the Muslim worldview and investigated how the Hadith and Sunnah help Muslims understand how to live a good life. The children learned more about the Prophet Muhammad and his important role within Islam, before comparing his teachings and example with those of Guru Nanak from the Sikh faith. We then considered how the Hadith and Sunnah influence the beliefs, values and everyday actions of Muslims.

We hope your child has enjoyed their final week of term and that you and your family have a wonderful, well-earned break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back, refreshed and ready for another exciting term of learning!



Year 6 (Pogson Class and Walker Class)

Year 6 have had another fantastic week of learning and should be incredibly proud of the effort they have shown across all subjects.

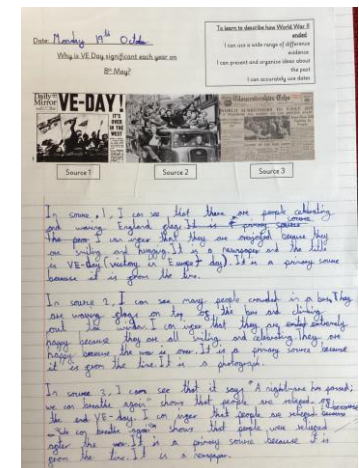
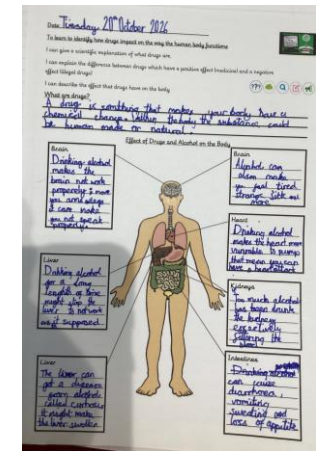
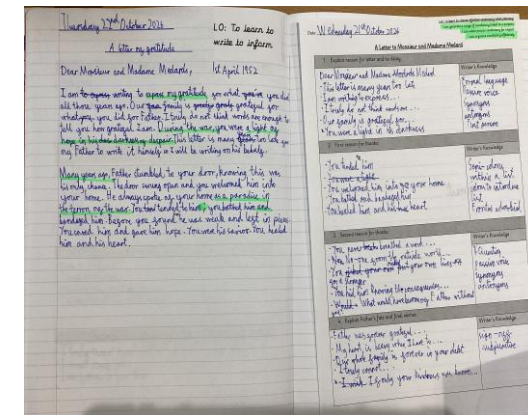
In English, we have been writing our formal letters of gratitude in role as Eugene, thanking Monsieur and Madame Médard for protecting him and shielding him from the Nazis during World War II. The children have worked hard to write with their audience in mind, carefully considering how to express Eugene's appreciation and emotions. Alongside this, we have been applying a range of grammar skills, including the use of passive voice, semicolons in lists and parenthesis, to create effective and sophisticated writing. The quality of the letters has been extremely impressive, with many children making thoughtful language choices to create a lasting impact on the reader.

In Maths, we have been learning about BIDMAS and developing our understanding of the order of operations. The children learned that when addition and subtraction appear together, they have equal importance and should be completed from left to right. The same rule applies to multiplication and division. We have practised solving calculations mentally, using estimation to check whether answers are reasonable and applying known number facts to help solve more complex problems efficiently.

In Science, we explored the impact of drugs on the body. The children learned that a drug is any substance that changes how the body or mind works. We discussed the difference between prescribed drugs, which are used to help treat illness and keep people healthy, and illegal drugs, which can cause significant harm. The children considered both the positive and negative effects drugs can have and engaged in some mature and thoughtful discussions.

In History, we investigated the significance of VE Day (Victory in Europe Day) and why it continues to be celebrated today. Using a range of historical sources, the children inferred what life may have been like in Britain on VE Day and explored the emotions people would have experienced as the war in Europe came to an end. We discussed how this important event is remembered and commemorated across the country today.

Well done, Year 6, for another excellent week of hard work and continued enthusiasm for learning! We hope you have a well-deserved rest over half term!



Signals Class

This week, the children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring all areas of the classroom and engaging in a range of exciting sensory and communication activities. Our autumn-themed water tray has been a particular highlight, with children exploring pumpkin seeds through play and sensory investigation. The reading area has also been very popular, with children independently looking through books, turning pages and exploring different pictures and stories.

We have continued to use Colourful Semantics to support the children's language development. The children have been practising building simple sentences such as:

- *The dog is chasing a ball.*
- *The girl is painting a picture.*
- *The woman is mixing a bowl.*

Many of our children are responding really well to this approach and are becoming more confident in understanding and using language.

We have had lots of fantastic Bucket Time activities this week. One of our favourites was our Pumpkin Explosion!

Before the activity, the children helped to prepare the pumpkin by scooping out and removing the seeds. While not everyone enjoyed the smell, the children were keen to explore and take part. We then added food colouring, glitter, bicarbonate of soda and vinegar to create a spectacular pumpkin eruption. There were lots of smiles, excitement and anticipation as the pumpkin fizzed and bubbled over! In PSHE, the children have been working hard to develop their independence skills, particularly when putting on their own socks. Using visual supports and verbal instructions, the children have been following the steps:

- Open sock.
- Toes in.
- Pull up.

We are incredibly proud of the progress they are making. Well done, everyone! Please continue practising this important life skill at home whenever possible.

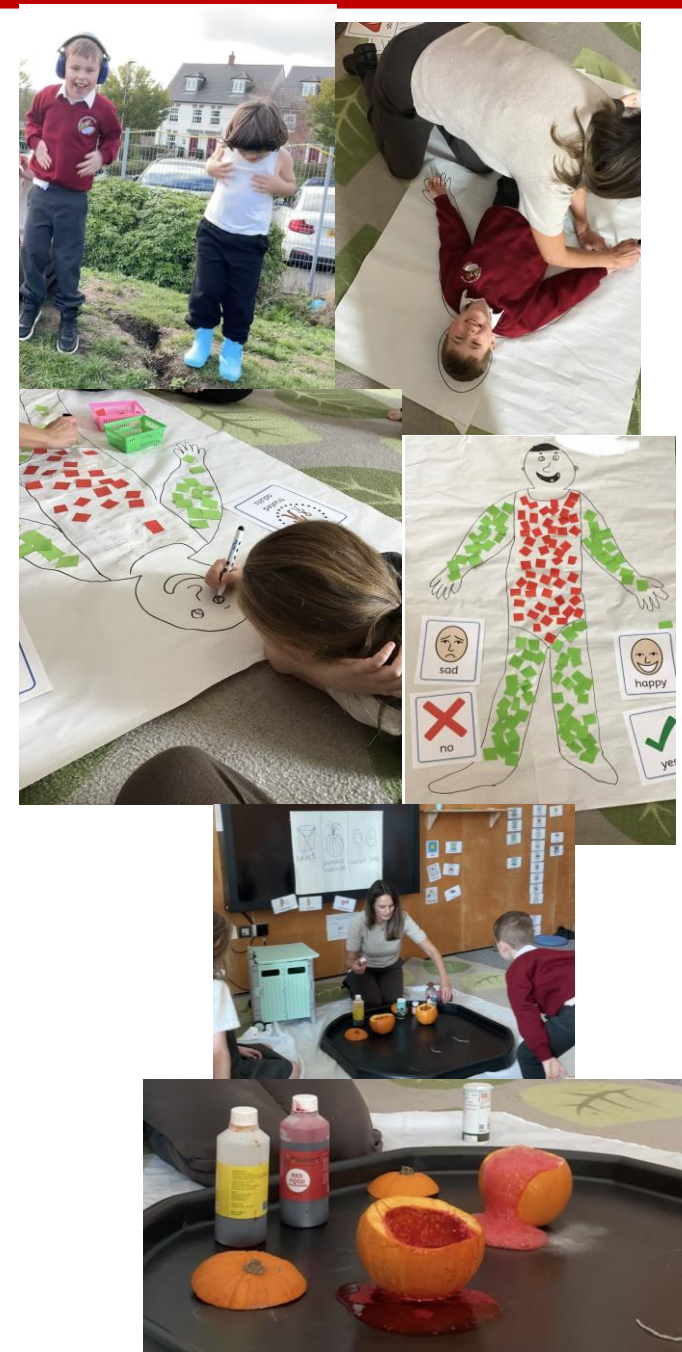
We feel it is very important to teach children about body safety. Building on our previous learning about trusted adults, we have been helping the children understand who they can go to if they need help or support.

The children listened to a social story about the importance of knowing that their body belongs to them. We then completed an activity where we drew around Owen and used colours to identify different areas of the body:

- Green for safe areas for touch.
- Red for private parts that should be kept private.

These activities have helped reinforce important safety messages in an age-appropriate way. We will continue to revisit and reinforce this learning throughout the year to help ensure all children feel safe and confident.

We are so proud of the children's enthusiasm, participation and growing independence this term. They have settled so beautifully and we've seen so many small steps of progress! Have a lovely half term holiday! See you on Tuesday 3rd November.



Recommended Read

Tomorrow Bright Before Us by Victoria Ball

Packed with inspiring quotes from writers, scientists, artists, leaders and many other remarkable people, *Tomorrow Bright Before Us* is a beautiful book to dip into every day.

Paired with warm and uplifting illustrations by Victoria Ball, it encourages children to think, dream and see the world in new ways.

A lovely book to share together and one that children can return to again and again as they grow.



Online Safety

If you are celebrating Halloween during the half term break, then the following platforms provide safe, fun, and free online games for primary-aged children (ages 5–11):

- **PrimaryGames Halloween Collection:** Features gentle, kid-friendly activities like *Jack-O-Lantern Jigsaw Puzzle*, *Halloween Match Game*, *Spooky Pancakes*, and math-based games.
<https://www.primarygames.com/holidays/halloween/games/>
- **PBS KIDS Halloween Games:** Offers light-hearted, non-scary interactive choices like *Arthur's Tricks and Treats* and creative art-making.
<https://pbskids.org/games/halloween>
- **CBBC Halloween Activities:** Provides fun virtual monster design, CBBC character quizzes, and light mystery games built for ages 6–12.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/collections/cbbc-halloween>
- **Twinkl Interactive Halloween:** Includes digital puzzle strips, matching pairs, and interactive activities.
<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/collection/halloween-game-interactive>



Whole School Attendance

Attendance since September	97.3%
This week's attendance	96.5%
Latest Local Authority ranking	34 th 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?](#)

Collective Worship

This week, we discussed the importance of staying safe during upcoming celebrations involving fireworks or bonfires.



During Worship Through Song, we continued singing *Love is Something*. This joyful song helps children reflect on the importance of showing love, kindness and care towards others. Acts of love not only make a positive difference to those around us but can also bring happiness and warmth into our own lives, helping love to grow within our school 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

Key Dates

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)

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)

Wednesday 16th December – Christmas Dinner Day

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:

- Half-term activities
- Wellbeing walks
- Free child car seat and vehicle checks

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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