

Nursery

It has been a fun week in Nursery! In our literacy session the children have loved retelling the story of *Each Peach Pear Plum*. We were blown away with their acting out skills! They then drew pictures and wrote labels to rewrite the story for our reading area. The children have been so excited to read the book they have written!



For Valentine's day, the children were immersed in lots of wonderful activities. We used our fine motor skills to create playdough heart shapes and had a go threading heart shaped pasta onto string. The children also loved giving out their

Valentine's cards to their families! We then enjoyed making fairy bread to have for our snack.



On STEAM day, we also explored what happens when we mix vinegar and bicarbonate of soda as we created fizzy hearts! The children were fascinated by this experiment.



For next term, we will be looking at a new book! We will focus some of our learning to look at different types of houses and number recognition. *Please could you upload a photo of your child outside your home with the house number visible on to Tapestry.* This will support us with some of our learning opportunities next term!

Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

What another busy week we have had in Reception!

On Tuesday we had our STEAM day, where the children discovering how things worked, connected and moved. We looked into how toys have changed over time and how to create structures.



In Maths, we consolidated our learning of addition and subtraction as we worked out mixed calculations. The children remembered to look out for our sneaky Subtract snake and that they needed 'more' when seeing our add symbol. It was great to see some children had completed the mixed number sentences uploaded on to Tapestry.

In English this week, we have been changing the main characters and events from 'Where the wild things are' to create our own stories. We had some great ideas, Max was changed to Pam, Meg, Sparkle, a giraffe and a baby. We also had the wild things changed to aliens and superheroes. Not to mention the boat to an aeroplane and rocket ship.

In RE, we made thank you cards to show appreciation and gratitude to the special people in our lives.

This week we have also enjoyed our new Numberblocks and Alphablocks resources along with old wooden games, Shut the box and Snakes and Ladders.

Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

We have had a fantastic week in Year 1 to conclude our half term.

In Phonics, we have been consolidating our Phase 5 phonemes and practising identifying these in words and blending the phonemes together.

In English, we have been working hard finalising our non-fiction books on castles. The children have been adding contents pages, designing the pictures in their books as well as creating a front cover.

In Maths, we have begun our measures unit focusing on length and height. The children have been using the language of long and short to compare lengths and tall and short to compare heights. The children have been learning to measure accurately length with non-standard units of measure (cubes) and rulers.

In Science, we were focusing on seasonal changes and looked at the signs to spot in Winter. We spoke about the weather change in Winter, the change in the length of day and how humans and other animals adapt to the temperature change.

In RE, the children were focusing on creating their own pledges for how we can look after the world.

Year 2 (Braille Class)

In phonics the children have learnt that:

-Our makes the phoneme **or** in words like **course, fourth** and **court**

-Our makes the phoneme **er** in words like **journey, journal** and **rumour**

-Or makes the phoneme **er** in words like **work, worth** and **worm**

In English, the children used iPads to find out facts about orang-utans and then started writing their own non-chronological reports.

What do orang-utans look like?

A Bornean male
~~no~~ ~~Orang-utan~~ ~~has~~ ~~much~~ ~~larger~~ ~~flanges~~
than a female and both sorts have
long flowing redish hair. Also ~~they~~ ~~don't~~ ~~have~~
tails and they have arms ~~that~~ ~~are~~
longer than their legs because it helps them to swing
through the trees. As well as this a Sumatran orang-
utan's hair is longer than a Bornean's. Did you know
an orang-utan has grey ~~hair~~ skin?

In Maths, we concluded our topic of multiplication, we learnt to multiply by 5 and understood that multiplication is commutative. This means you can change the position of the factors but the product is still the same. We also started learning about division and learnt to divide by sharing equally.

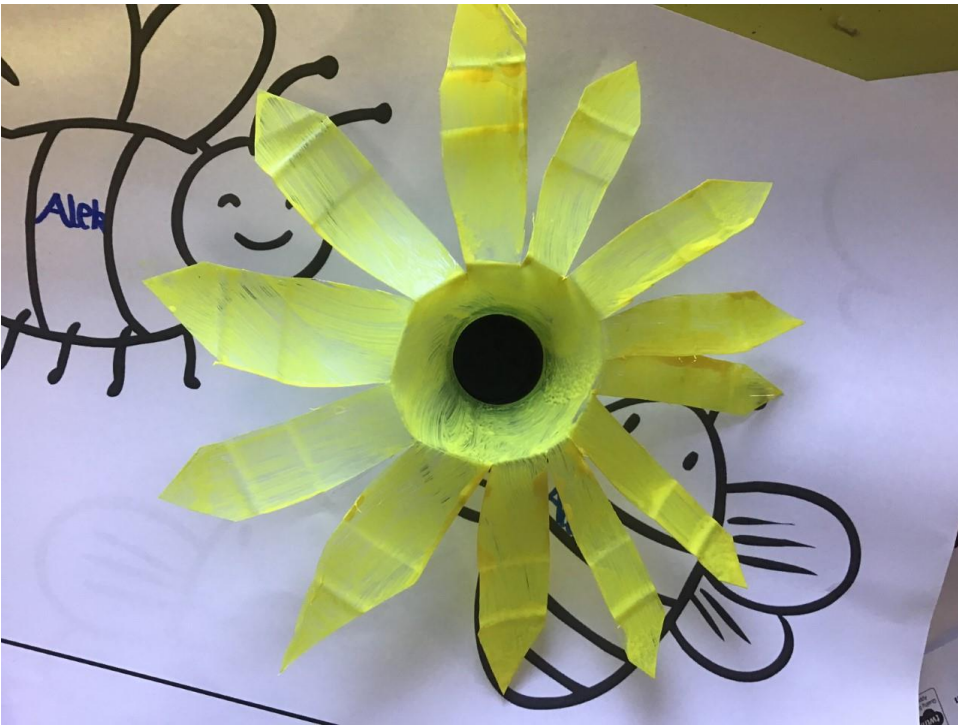
In Science the children learnt about different animals that live in the Savannah and learnt about the way that they have adapted to suit their environment. ***Can the children remind themselves of the different features of the animals by watching this video?*** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfSCwUU2txc>



For STEAM day the children had lots of fun being engineers and created a protective cage to stop Jack from cracking his golden egg, as he climbed down the beanstalk. We had lots of fun designing and creating our cages and then dropping them from a height. 2/5 survived!



We also learnt about the process of pollination and had lots of fun creating our own flowers out of water bottles and painting them.



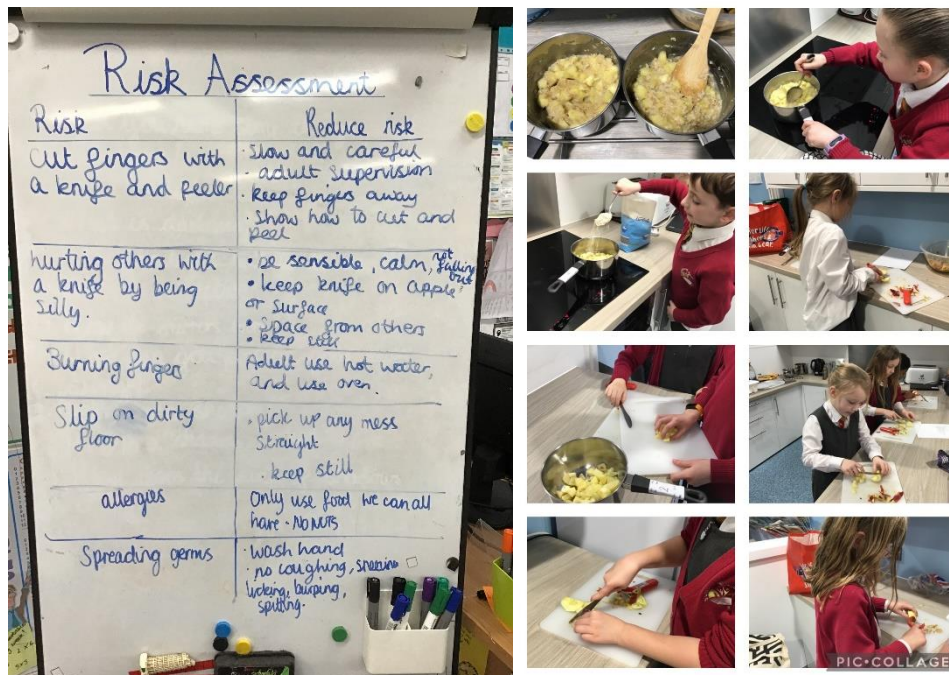
Year 3 (Berners-Lee Class)

Throughout this term, Berners-Lee have worked incredibly hard and they continue to make excellent progress in their learning.

In English, the pupils have written their own versions of the BFG story. They created their own friendly giant like the Massive Idea Giant or the Enormous Kind Giant. They then created fantastic story openings using expanded noun phrases and time and place adverbials. The pupils then used speech punctuation and adverbs throughout their stories.

In Maths, we have begun learning about Length and Perimeter. The pupils have learnt to measure in meters, centimetres and millimetres; they showed lots of perseverance with this!

In DT this week, the pupils have created a Stone Age apple stew. They had to follow a recipe, think of the risks involved as well as learning how to peel and chop apples.

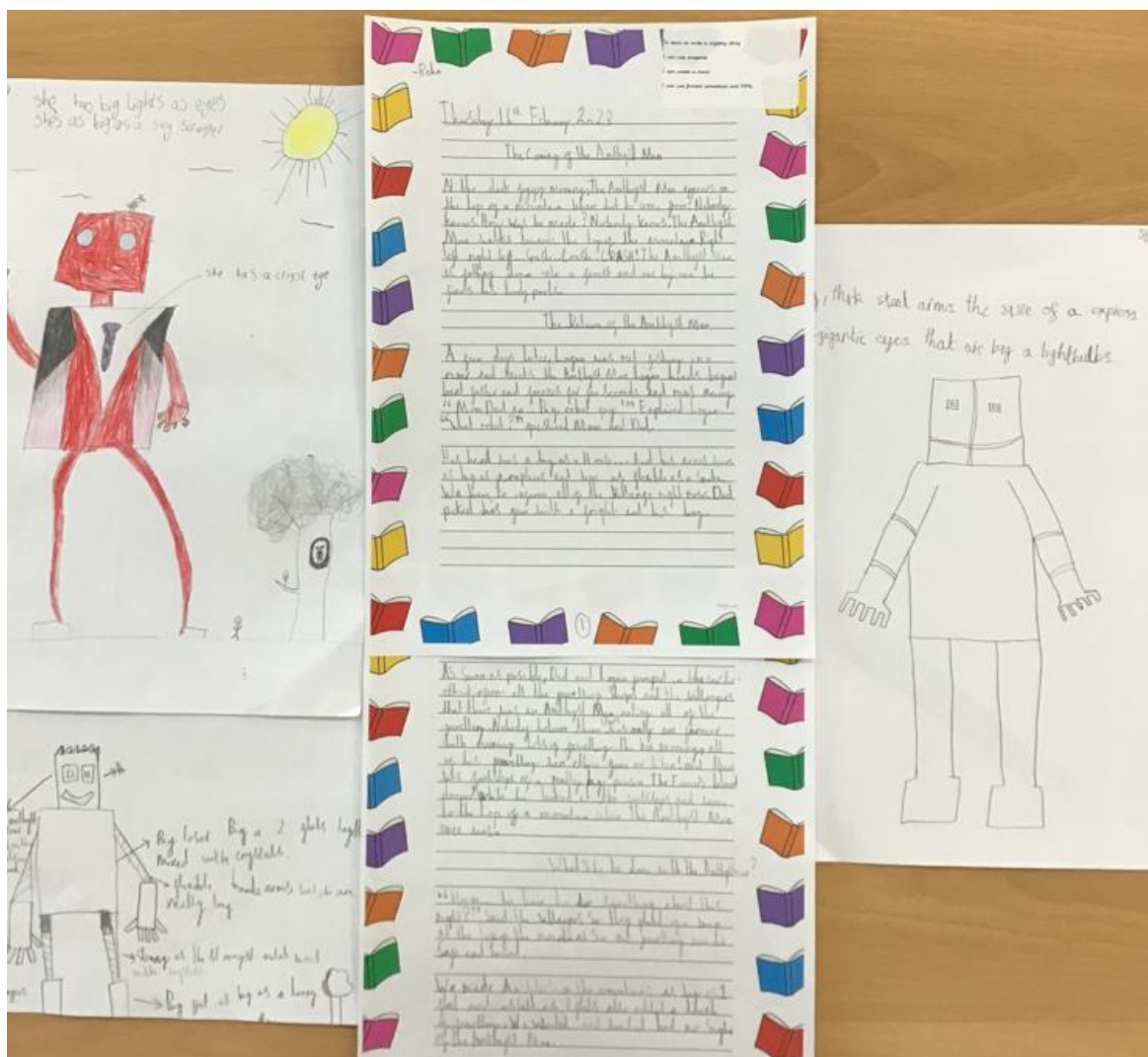


On Tuesday, the pupils really enjoyed participating in STEAM day. In our first session, the pupils were challenged to make the tallest tower using only pegs and lollypop sticks. The pupils used their science, engineering, art and maths skills to complete the challenge. The winners for Year 3 were Jaya, Cass and Amelija as their tower was 47cm tall.



Year 4 (Hopper Class)

We were fortunate enough to be able watch 'The Iron Giant' on Monday to compare the movie with the book it was based on. We also then planned and drafted our very own mystery story with our own unique and interesting characters! The children will be bringing their own copies home that they can finish or extend and illustrate which would be lovely to see on SeeSaw.

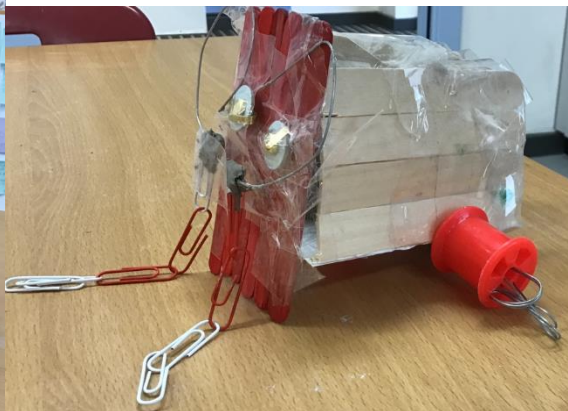
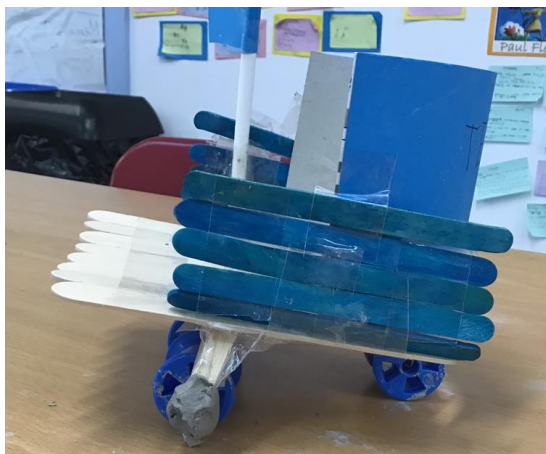


On Tuesday, we were able to use a multidisciplinary approach to building bridges that could span the width of 25cm and hold the weight of as many thousand cubes as possible (Our class record was 10). We were also able to learn a little bit more about coding and algorithms when our visitor challenged us to build and programme a robot that could navigate a given course.



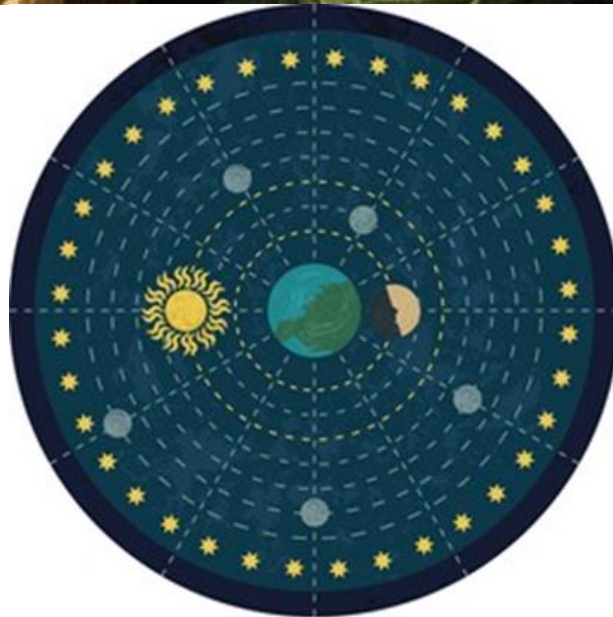
Our topic of 'What kind of world did Jesus want?' came to its conclusion this week and we discussed how a Christian might act in certain scenarios such as seeing a homeless person on the street based on the teachings the bible offers.

In our Design lesson this week, we finished off our Roman Chariots after our evaluating our initial attempts and creating them. We came away and implemented some design improvements and we accomplished some very accomplished results!



Year 5 (Jackson Class)

The last week of this half-term has been another productive week in Jackson class. In Science, we have been studying changes in ideas related to Earth and Space focussing on the 'big ideas' of Alhazen, Galileo, Copernicus and Ptolemy. The class reflected on the evidence each great thinker used to support their findings.



In English, we have been researching and preparing evidence to answer the question: Is artificial intelligence more useful or damaging for the human race? The class have planned their arguments and will write them up after half-term. In Maths, we have continued learning about fractions, most recently calculating fractions of amounts. I hope all of the children have a wonderful half-term.

Year 6 (Gutenberg Class)

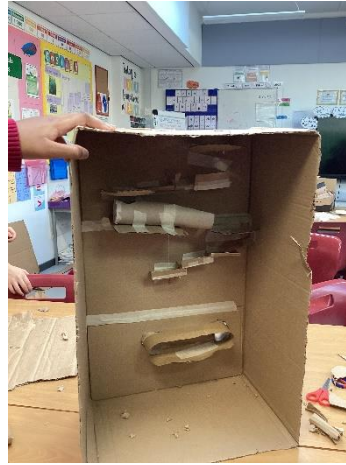
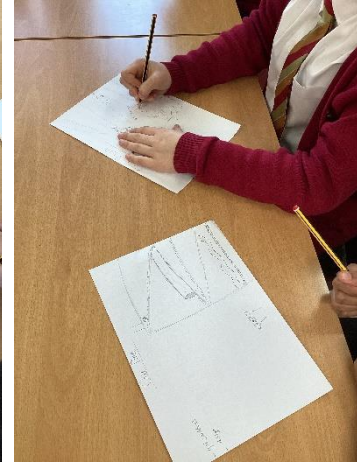
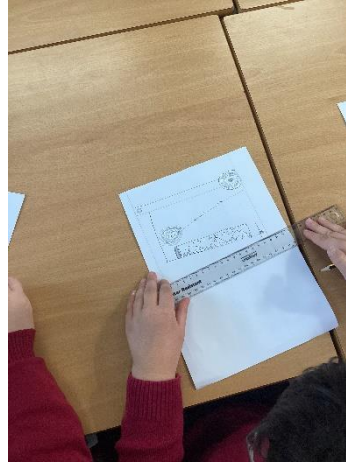
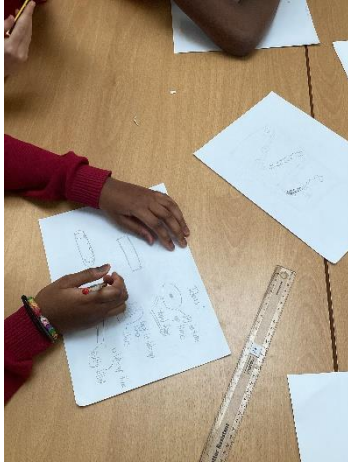
It has been a great final week of Spring 1 in Gutenberg! In English, we completed our learning around 'The Hidden Forest' as the children planned, wrote and proofread their own essays based around the topic on whether or not the Giant Sea Kelp forests should be saved. It has been great to see how they have grown in independence and confidence in refining their writing skills over the last few months.

In Maths, we finalised our topic based on decimals as we applied all of our learning to a real-world context and used our skills to effectively break down and answer a range of problem solving and reasoning questions. Next, we will be moving onto the topic of 'Fractions, Decimals and Percentages' where we continue to recognise the link between these three different representations of parts of a whole. You might want to explore this connection with your child at home over the half term break as they exist almost everywhere in our day-to-day lives.

Tuesday was a very exciting day at St Gabriel's as we celebrated our STEAM day. Gutenberg was very lucky to spend their morning in a robotics workshop where they worked together to build a Lego robot and create algorithms and sequences that determined how it moved. The children thoroughly enjoyed programming different movements into their robots and even got them to follow a specific route across a 'map'.



However, the STEAM based excitement did not stop there as the children were faced with a new challenge that afternoon when they took part in completing one of the James Dyson Foundation's challenge cards: building their very own Marble Run! After talking about how gravity, friction and mass might impact their marble and looking at a few examples from other schools the children were very excited to get started on planning and making their designs. It definitely was a tricky task – filled with lots of trial and error and requiring a great deal of resilience but it was great to see what the children were able to produce in just one afternoon!



Finally, in Art this week, we moved onto photography as a different medium that is commonly used for a greater purpose. The children were introduced to a well-known Australian underwater photographer, Darren Jew. After looking at some of his photos, they discussed what they thought his vision might be and how his pictures may be used to spread a message. They were then asked to plan their own

artistic poster, project or message through the use of media that has been explored over the last few weeks. Their campaign needed to be complete with a key theme and messages which focused around an important global issue.

Other News

RISE Webinar



Parents and carers are invited to join a free webinar to understand how to access emotional and mental wellbeing support for their child or young person.

Taking place on Tuesday 28 February 2023

from 12pm to 1pm and hosted by Warwickshire County Council in partnership with Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice and Coventry and Warwickshire RISE, the webinar aims to raise awareness of the support available through RISE.

RISE is the family of NHS services led by mental health specialists and aims to build resilience and empower children, young people, and the adults in their lives, so they know where to go for support and advice when the going can get tough.

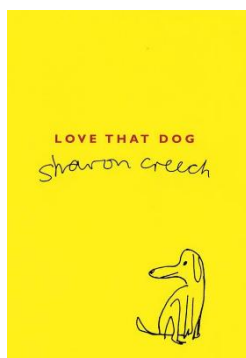
Change Makers: Healthy Lifestyles Workshop

9am, Tuesday 14th March in the Hall



Connect for Health (Our School Nursing Team) will be running a workshop for parents and carers on Tuesday 14th March at 9am. The session will cover information about healthy living, including useful tips and a Q&A session.

Recommended Read



At St. Gabriel's, one of our core values is 'Love' and it feels like an appropriate time of year to celebrate this! 'Love That Dog' by Sharon Creech is a chapter book suitable for our Year 5 and 6 children. It tells the story of how Jack slowly learns the pleasures of writing poetry as Miss Stretchberry encourages him to express himself through his writing. What emerges is a moving and memorable story about a boy and his dog and his growing passion for poetry.

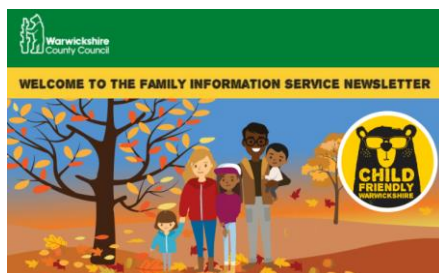
Online Safety

It is really important to chat with your children on an ongoing basis about staying safe online. Stuck on how to start the conversation? [Internet Matters](#) have some great guides and conversation starters to check in on how safe your child feels as an online citizen.

Family Information Service Newsletter

The Family Information Service supports families across Warwickshire with advice and information. You can get in touch with the team by [emailing fis@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:emailing_fis@warwickshire.gov.uk), calling 0800 408 1558 or finding support on www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies.

Each week, the Family Information Service produce a newsletter with useful information for families. Click [here](#) to read this week's newsletter.



Celebration Assembly – Friday 3rd March

Come join us next week to see work from Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5.



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