



Weekly Learning Update 15 September 2023

Nursery

This week we have welcomed all our new friends to nursery! We have had a lovely time playing with each other and making new friends.



We have looked at our emotions and how we felt starting nursery as well as making fabulous superhero masks and crowns!



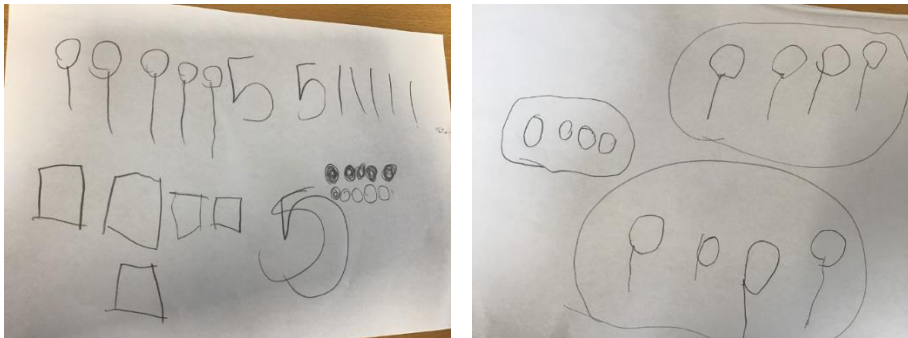
Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

Our first full week in Reception has been amazing! The children have had a full timetable which included Maths, English, Phonics, PE, PSHE, RE and Expressive Art and Design.

In PSHE, we introduced the children to what the subject relates to. We explained what PSHE is and why it is important. We discussed how it helps to keep us **safe** and helps us to become **responsible citizens** of the world **now** and in the **future**.

In English, we have been writing labels for tins, boxes and things around the classroom. The children enjoyed labelling using the post-it-notes!

In Maths, we have practised counting to 20 in many different ways. We have also looked at how we can represent numbers using pictorials.



We started Phonics this week, learning the phonemes 's', 'a', 't' and 'p'. We have been practising writing, segmenting and blending words using these phonemes.

Our PE lesson took place in the hall, where the children moved around pretending to drive their cars as they negotiated space. They played the Dragon's Nest game, working in teams to collect bean bags.

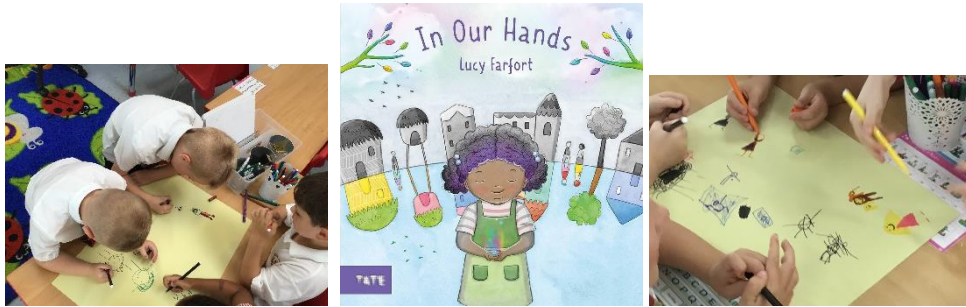
We have also been planning and constructing using the magnetic shapes. The children have created houses, swimming pools and even an elf's foot!



Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

It's been another amazing week in Year 1! It's been our first full week, getting used to our new routines, and the children have been absolute superstars! They have worked so hard, and we have been so proud of all they have achieved already.

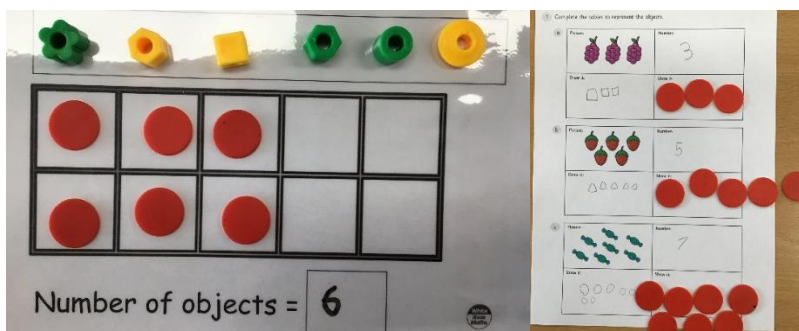
In English, we were introduced to our new text 'In Our Hands' by Lucy Farfort.



It is a lovely text that explores themes of community and inspires us to come together to build a better future. Before reading the book, we spent lots of time studying the illustrations and discussing the meaning of the title, before the front cover was slowly revealed to us, and we shared the story together. Throughout the week, we have discussed our own communities and thought about how it feels to belong to a community.

In Phonics this week, we have been recapping Phase 3 sounds, focusing on qu, ch, sh and th. The children have all worked really hard to segment and blend different words and we have been really impressed with their letter formation when writing words and sentences in their books.

In Maths, we have started our unit on Place Value. We have been focusing on our knowledge of numbers to 10 and representing them in different ways. The children have used drawings, counters, cubes and beads to show the value of numbers.



In Science, the children were introduced to the different types of enquiries and we carried out our first experiment, making slime. It was lots of fun and the children said it was the "best day ever!".



In PE, we started our unit 'Fundamental Motor Skills' and had lots of fun working on our balancing and hopping skills. We played lots of games and learnt key skills that help us when trying to balance in different ways.



Year 2 (Braille Class and Kerr Class)

We have had another super week!

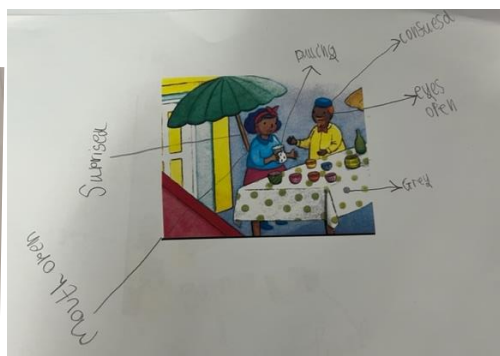
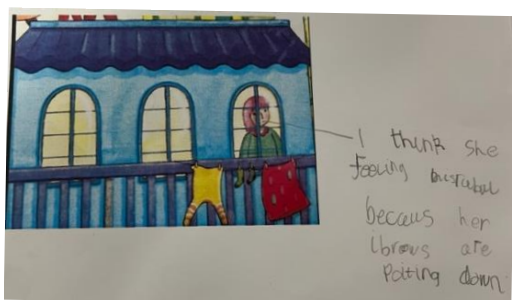
In Phonics we learnt:

- i makes the phoneme igh, in words such as mind, find and kind.
- o makes the phoneme oa in words such as no, go and both.
- ou, au and a make the phoneme o in words such as cough, wasp and Australia.
- c makes the phoneme s in words such as city, circus and circle.

In Reading, we then focused on developing our accuracy and automaticity.

In English, we started our learning linked to our whole school text 'In our Hands.'

First, we predicted what we thought the story might be about by using the clues in the picture and the title. We then inferred what certain characters were feeling and why we thought that using clues from the text. Then we wrote our own character descriptions and used expanded noun phrases and similes to describe the main character from the story.



In Maths, we started our topic of Place Value. We learnt to count to 100 and recognise tens and ones using different representations. We also learnt to write numbers to 100 in words and numbers.

Place value charts

1 Describe or draw the numbers represented on the place value chart.

a

Tens	Ones
3	1

Number: 31
Word form: thirty one

b

Tens	Ones
2	6

Number: 26
Word form: twenty six

c

Tens	Ones
4	2

Number: 42
Word form: forty two

d

Tens	Ones
3	0

Number: 30
Word form: thirty

e

Tens	Ones
9	8

Number: 98
Word form: ninety eight

f

Tens	Ones
6	5

Number: 65
Word form: sixty five

numbers

a

Tens	Ones
7	3

seventy three
 $70 + 3 = 73$
 $73 = 3 + 70$

b

Tens	Ones
4	8

forty eight
 $40 + 8 = 48$
 $48 = 8 + 40$

c

Tens	Ones
9	2

ninety two
 $90 + 2 = 92$
 $92 = 2 + 90$

d

Tens	Ones
6	5

sixty five
 $60 + 5 = 65$
 $65 = 5 + 60$

e

Tens	Ones
8	2

eighty two
 $80 + 2 = 82$
 $82 = 2 + 80$

f

Tens	Ones
3	9

thirty nine
 $30 + 9 = 39$
 $39 = 9 + 30$

© Primary 1/2

In Science, we learnt to compare seeds and bulbs. We identified the similarities and differences between seeds and bulbs and learnt some actions to help us to remember key facts about each of them. We then had fun sorting seeds and bulbs under the correct criteria.

1.1 To be able to identify seeds and bulbs.

1.2 To be able to compare seeds and bulbs.

1.3 To be able to identify the differences between a seed and a bulb.

1.4 To be able to identify the similarities between a seed and a bulb.

Cut out the pictures and write the statements under the correct category.

Seed	Bulb
Once the plant grows, the roots and leaves can make its own food. It is smaller. They are a product of fertilisation. They have a little coat that provides them with food.	They have a tunic. There is enough food for it to grow for a year. They are bigger. They are formed underground.

Year 3 (Berners-Lee Class and Ahmad Class)

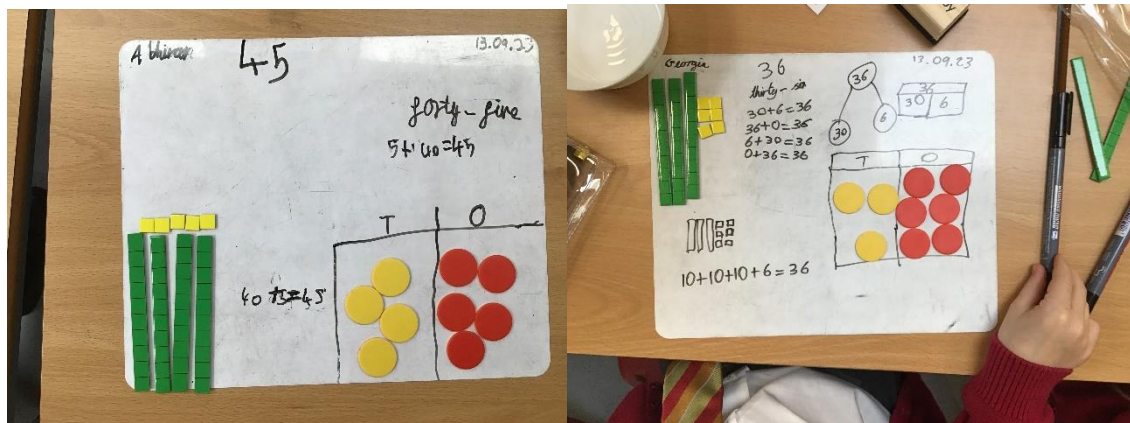
We have had another brilliant week in Year 3.

In English, we have been focusing on our whole school unit of the book 'In Our Hands' by Lucy Farfort. We have enjoyed making predictions about what we think was going to happen based on the front cover and well as looking closer at illustrations in a story and how they can help us make sense of the text as readers. We were also able to identify the main message of the story and we were able to communicate this through imagery and writing.



Lucy Farfort

In Maths this week, we have recapped our learning from Year 2 as we have learnt how to identify the amount of tens and ones in a number as well as how to partition two-digit numbers in several ways. We have also learnt to how to identify numbers on a number line.



In Science, we learnt to describe the properties of rocks and then we have used this to classify rocks into a range of different groups. We learnt the names and properties of common rocks such as slate, marble, granite and sandstone.



In Humanities, we have learned about Houlton and its past. We discussed Rugby Radio Station and the importance that it had in our local history. We enjoyed creating a timeline, placing key events from 1926 when the Rugby Radio Station opened to 2018 and the opening of St Gabriel's CofE Academy.

The children have also been super engaged with their 'Free Reading' times this week, where they shared stories with their peers. The children have loved finding out books that interest others in their class as well as suggesting recommendations to their friends.



Year 4 (Hopper Class and Turing Class)

The week has absolutely flown past in Year 4 as the children have settled into a more regular learning routine. In English, we have started our exploration of Lucy Farfort's thought-provoking text, *'In our Hands'*. This week we focused on our use of visual literacy skills to help us make meaning from the text. We explored the concepts of 'community' and 'empathy' and considered how the book mirrors some of our experiences in the real world. We look forward to applying our learning further next week!



In Maths, we have started our very first topic based on Place Value as the children have broadened their understanding of representing, partitioning and counting forwards and backwards with numbers up to 10,000.

In RE, we have started our learning about our first topic based around Hinduism. The children were tasked with looking at some pictures of significant places, objects and buildings that are linked with the religion and had to use their skills of observation to suggest what the picture might be of and why it might be important. We then finished off the session with asking lots of different questions we want to find out about Hinduism.



In Science, Year 4 have been extremely lucky to be invited to take part in the ROAR2023 competition where they have been tasked to use their skills of creativity and innovation to design a product that could help solve a global problem! This week we began by learning about what an entrepreneur is and what specific skills and attributes they have in order to be successful. We were then tasked with using our entrepreneurial skills in an Ice Age context. The children are all so excited to begin their world-changing project!

Year 5 (Jackson Class)

We have really enjoyed getting stuck into our curriculum learning in Year 5. In English, we have been exploring 'In Our Hands' By Lucy Farfort as part of our whole school English unit. We have loved investigating the dulling and empathising with the characters that experience it. On Thursday, we read the whole story and learnt about what it means to pledge something as part of a campaign. We then listened to the speech given by HM Queen Elizabeth II on her 21st Birthday in which she pledged her devotion and support for her subjects. We discussed together the significance of her words and strength behind her voice that shared her promise to the world.

We have begun our topic on Place Value in Maths this week. We began by looking at Roman Numerals up to 1000 and then dived straight into learning numbers all the way to 1 million. We have been able to identify the value of each digit up to the hundred thousands column and some of us have started to apply our learning to complex reasoning problems.

In RE this week, we learnt what it means to be an effective RE learner and also the value in studying RE in the first place. We then used the Big Frieze that we have displayed in our classroom to help us to understand the Big Story of the Bible that is told from its beginning to its end. We were so intrigued by all the minute details we could see within the panels that made reference to famous Bible stories we are familiar with.

In Science, we have started our topic on Properties of Materials and we have started learning a range of new vocabulary to help us to describe materials using the correct scientific terminology, for example, malleable and durable.

In Art with Miss Shinner, we were challenged to draw a Greek mythical creature using our observation and sketching skills. It was really fun to take our imaginations into the ancient mythical world and Miss Shinner was really impressed with the care and effort the children took in their work.

A fantastic start to the school year, Year 5 – well done!

Year 6 (Gutenberg Class)

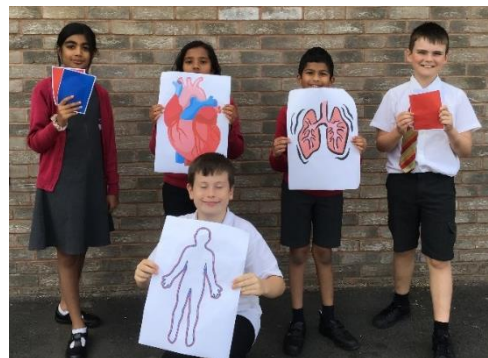
This week, I have continued to be blown away by Gutenberg's determination and work ethic as they take this year in their stride!

In Maths, we have been consolidating their understanding of place value by working with numbers up to 10,000,000 – including reading, writing, comparing and ordering them. We have particularly enjoyed taking part in the Maths challenges each day and we have developed resilience when completing them.



Miss Shinner and I have enjoyed listening to the children read this week, as they have now chosen books to take home each day. We certainly have a talented group of readers in our class this year! In English, we have started our new whole school unit: In Our Hands. We learnt about the features of a pledge and analysed speeches made by Sir David Attenborough and Greta Thunberg to consider what makes an effective pledge before writing our own next week.

In Science, we used secondary sources of information to learn the parts of the human circulatory system. To investigate the function of blood in our bodies, we acted as oxygenated and deoxygenated blood, moving from the heart, to the lungs, then to the rest of the body before beginning the cycle all over again! It was tiring work – we could feel our own hearts beating faster after the exercise!



In Geography, Year 6 impressed me with their understanding of OS map symbols and used them to find physical and human features on an OS map of Rugby. Next week, we will refine our fieldwork skills further as we investigate Stratford-upon-Avon.

Well done to Gutenberg Class for a fantastic second week!

Angels

This week in Angels, we have completed our first task for our Challenge Mountain! We have also been enjoying self-serving our breakfasts, trying a variety of flavoured yoghurts and a selection of fruits! Angels sat beautifully for our first story share with 'Bonnie Bunny', our new communication tool that goes home with a child for a weekend full of adventures! Bonnie then returns with a story to share with all of us here at Angels the following week.



Other News

PFTA



On the 9th of September, Houlton hosted their very first Garage Sale!!!

Our amazing **Liz Campbell-Smyth** coordinated the whole event for the PFTA!!!

Thank you so much to all our garage sellers and buyers of course.

We have raised over £350 which will be matched by Liz's employer to make the total over £750.



We know that is only September but we are so excited as we have secured a fabulous local Wreath Maker for a Christmas Wreath Making Workshop.

Book this in your calendar and be quick to book.

23rd of November at 19.30 in the Community Hall at St Gabriel's CofE Academy

2 hour workshop

Bubbly on arrival and light refreshments

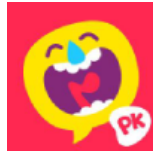
£40 per person

To book and pay follow the link below

<https://friends-of-st-gabriels-pfta.sumupstore.com>

Online Safety

Statistics show that 47% of children between the ages of 3 and 10 own a mobile device. Internetmatters.org has a useful guide for age-appropriate social media apps that can provide safe environments for your children to communicate and share experiences with each other.



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.



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