



Weekly Learning Update 16 June 2023

Nursery

In Nursery this week the children have been brilliant and enjoyed the warm conditions.

We have been making the most of the weather, going out first thing in the morning and then again late afternoon. The children have been engrossed in lots of water play and were challenged to solve problems: they had to try and work out how to make the boats move from one tray to another. Did they need to make the guttering and tubes higher or lower and how much water does it take to make them move faster or slower?



Our Maths focus this week has included counting legs on different animals/insects from 0-10; there were some tricky ones to try and challenge the children. It was good to see children helping each other out if they were a bit unsure. There has also been a giraffe neck counting activity where the children had to count the correct number of cubes by matching the number on the giraffe's head and then try to balance them on the its body.

Playdough has been used to create cages and structures for the animals at the zoo. We have observed some wonderful fine motor and manipulative skills being used.

The children have shown great teamwork, helping to move things around the garden and especially when building with the Duplo.

On Tuesday we had a visitor come to Nursery. It was a post person and they came to collect all our zoo letters to deliver for us. We can't wait to see if we get a reply!



The children have also been doing lots of independent writing and drawing; creating lion and elephant face masks. They were showing great scissor control, threading and creating repeating patterns from the zoo pasta.



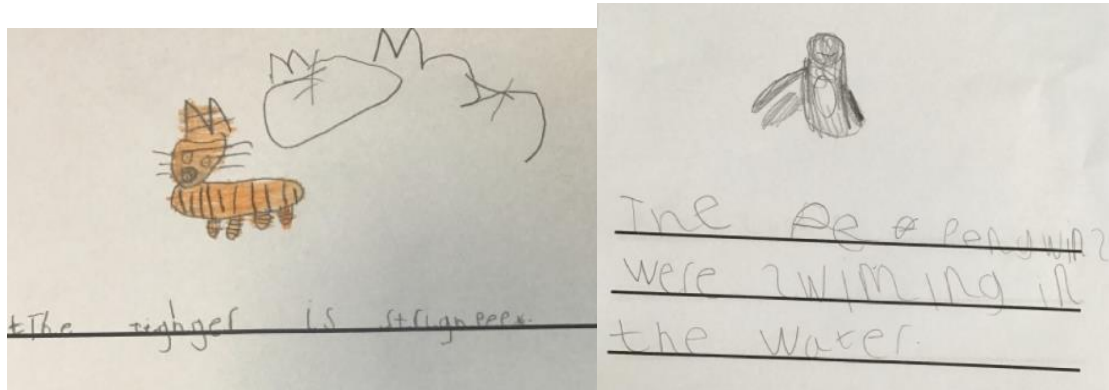
To finish the week, we held our Father's Day stay-and-play sessions. It was wonderful to see dads and grandads spend time in the nursery, the children were so excited. Thank you for joining us today!

Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

We have had a super week! The highlight of our week was our trip to Twycross Zoo on Wednesday.



The trip has inspired lots of fantastic writing.



Can your child tell you their favourite part of the trip?

In PSHE, we learnt about resilience, cooperation and concentration. The children had a challenge to try, and they showed resilience by not giving up when it was tricky; they showed cooperation by taking it in turns and displayed concentration by focussing on their learning even though there were other children learning around them. Well done Reception!

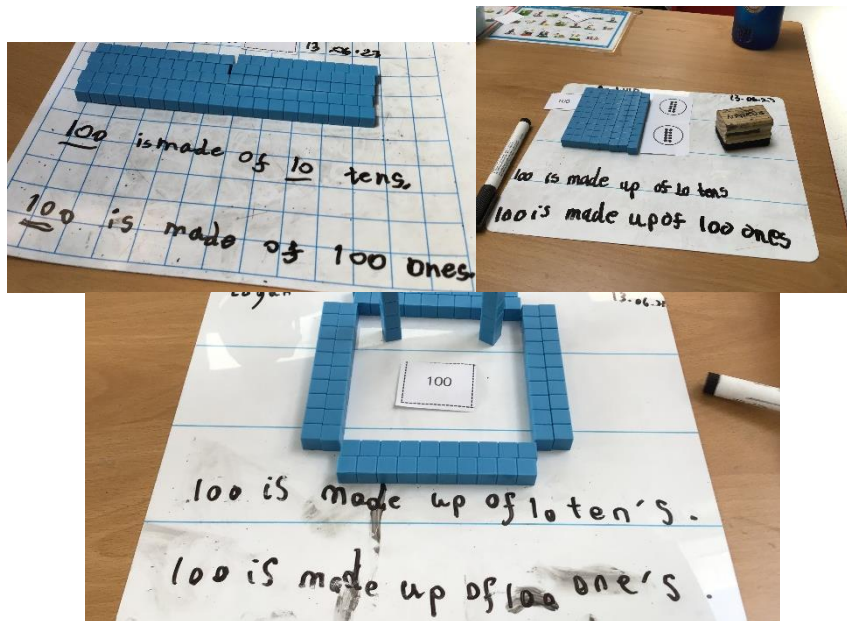
Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

We have had such a busy week in Year 1!

We have been enjoying the wonderful weather and REALLY enjoyed the ice lollies on Tuesday. Thank you very much to the PFTA for organising them for the school.

The children have completed their Phonics Screening Checks this week. Whilst the results will be available later date, the children have worked incredibly hard, and we are so proud of their achievements!

In Maths, the children have been looking at place value within 100. Throughout the week the children have been focusing on accurately counting on and back within 100, counting up to 100 by making 10s and partitioning numbers within 100. The children have worked hard focusing on place value and thinking about the value of ones, tens and even hundreds!



In Science, we continued learning about plants and looked at the differences between deciduous and evergreen trees during the four seasons.

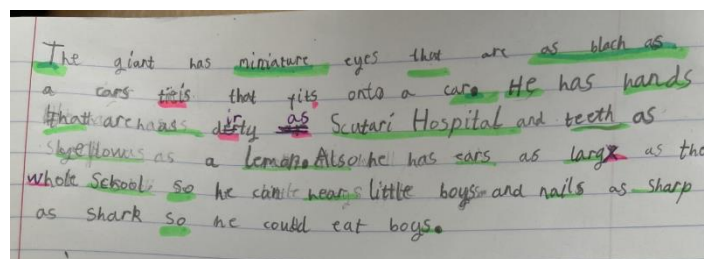
In PE, both classes went outside and consolidated their ball handling skills. The children created their own obstacle courses in groups and were challenged to add an element in their course to travel with the ball and throwing and catching. The children created some sensational courses!

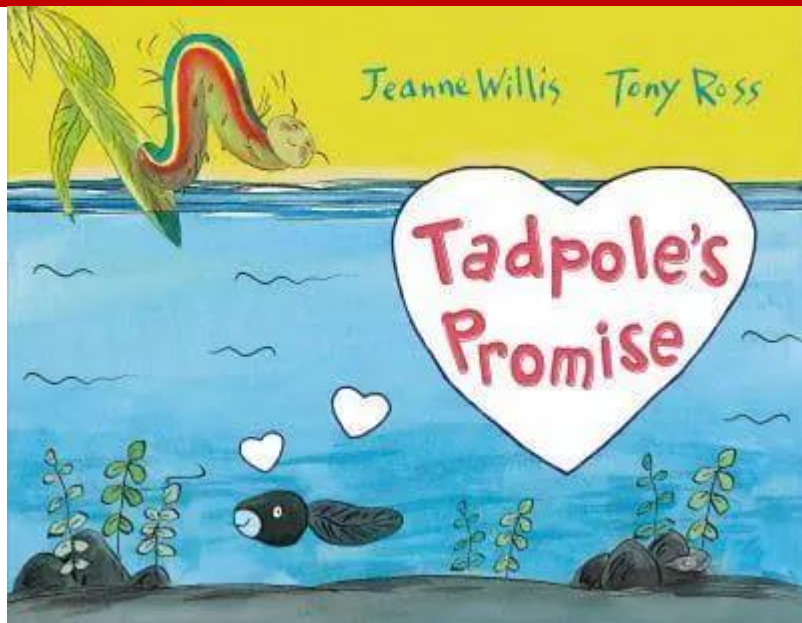


Year 2 (Braille Class)

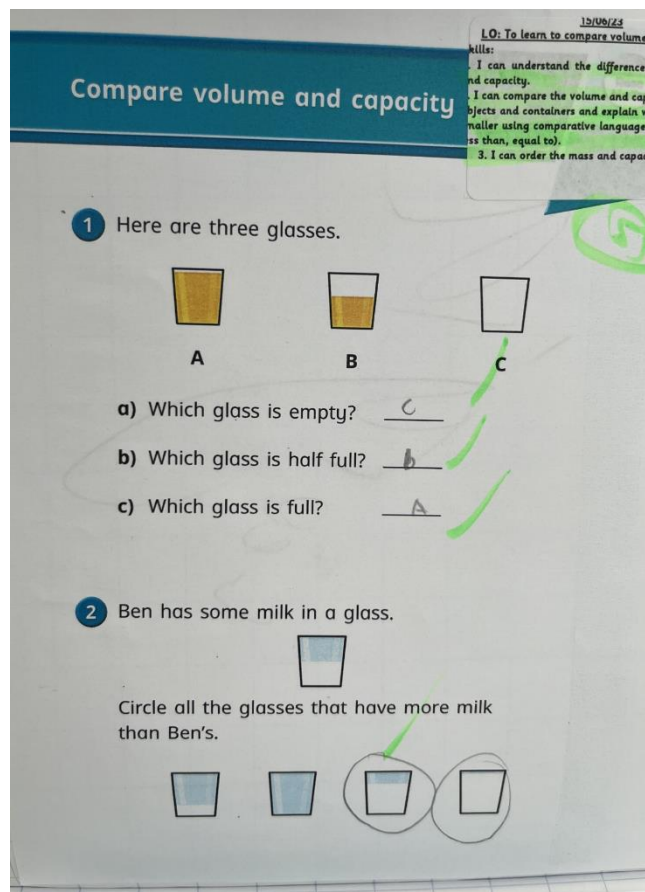
We have had another fabulous week.

In English we used expanded noun phrases and similes to describe the giant from 'Jim and the Beanstalk,' and we also started our new book 'The Tadpole's Promise.' We used the front cover and title to make predictions about what we thought the book could be about.

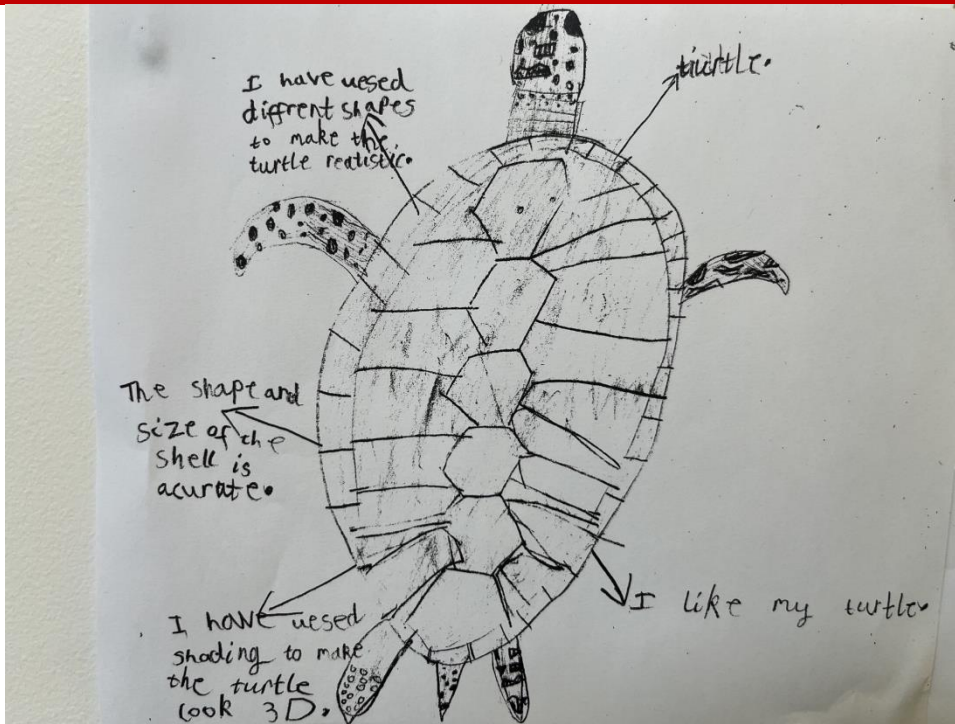




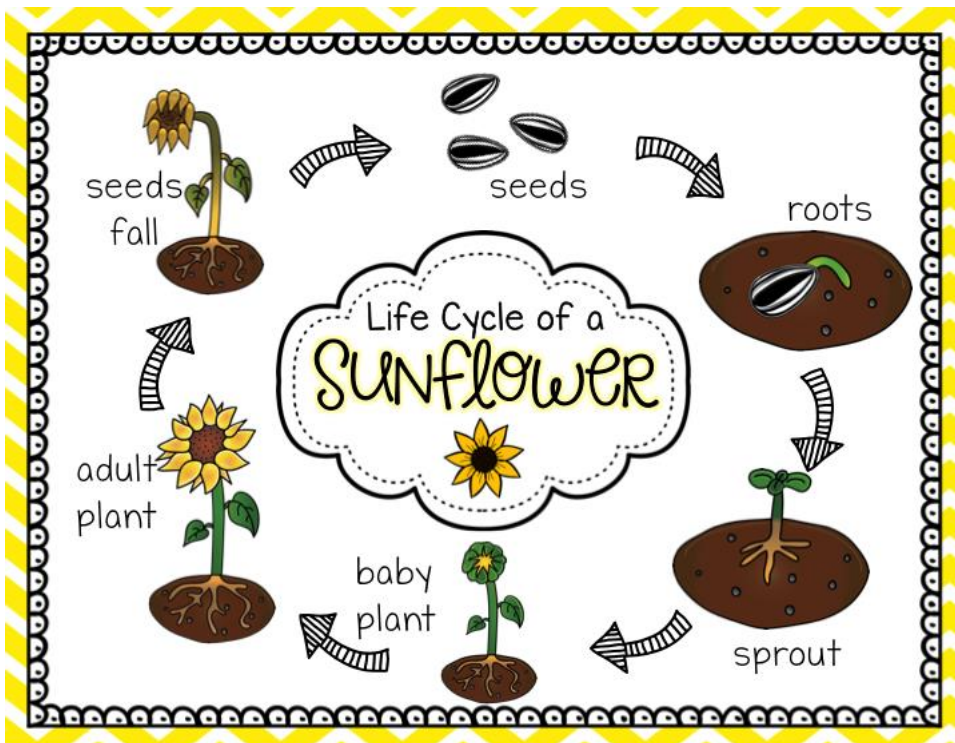
In Maths, we have been continuing our work on mass. The children have been using the four operations to solve worded problems within the context of Maths.



In Art, the children completed observational drawings of turtles. They learnt about the importance of making their drawings detailed so they are realistic.



In Science, the children learnt about the 5 stages of the plant life cycle. The seed, germination, growth, reproduction, pollination, and seed spreading stages. See if your child can tell you about what happens in each stage.



Year 3 (Berners-Lee Class)

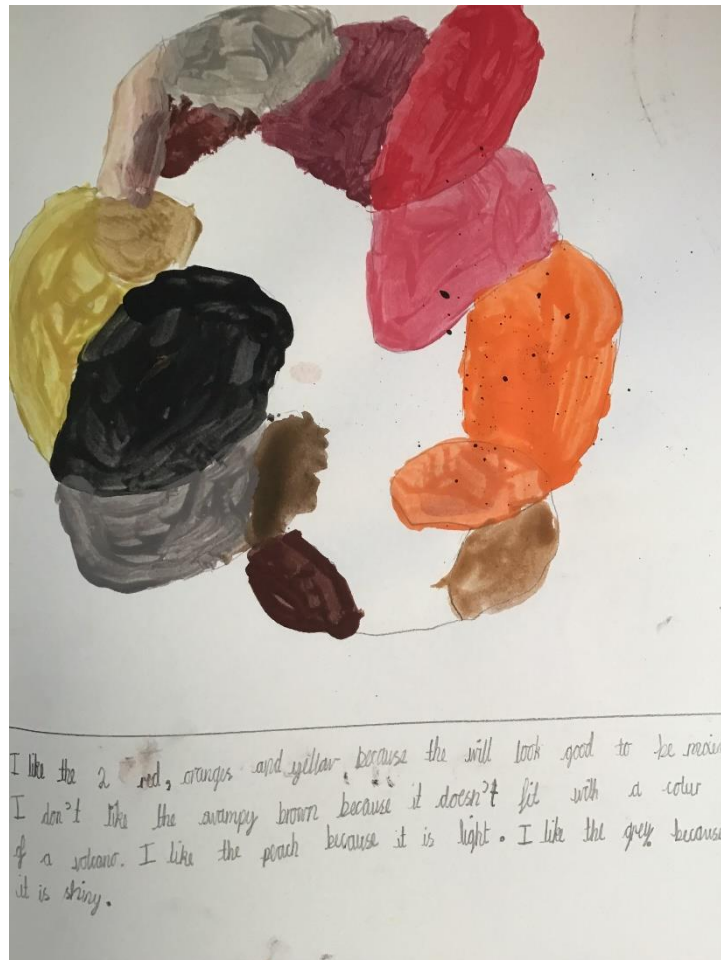
We have had another brilliant week in Year 3 and we are getting more excited for our Conkers trip!

In English, we have learnt to re-tell the story of 'The Heart and the Bottle' as well as learning to use multi-clause sentences in addition to learning how to form verbs in a range of tenses. The children have also planned their own versions of the story linked to an emotion and it being put in a container; the pupils showed fantastic imagination and I am excited to see their final ideas next week!

In Maths, we have completed our learning on Time by applying it to solve various word problems. We then began to learn about our topic 'Shape'. In the first lesson, the children learnt about angles and turns where they had lots of fun making a whole, half, quarter turn in both a clockwise and anti-clockwise direction.

In Geography, we continued learning about natural disasters. The pupils learnt how a tsunami is formed and the consequences these can cause.

In Art, the pupils have explored how to mix colours which they will then use when they paint their Modroc volcanoes. The pupils had to evaluate which colours they would like to use and explain why had made those decisions.



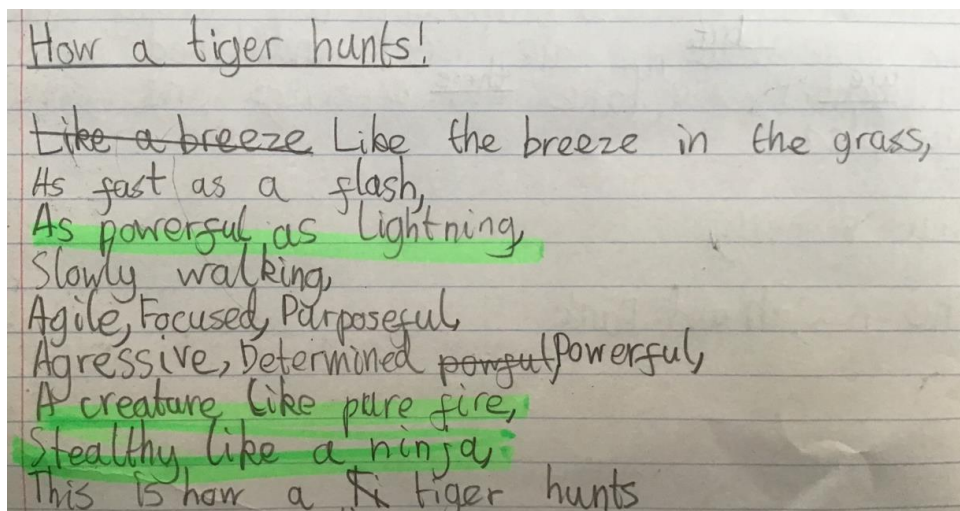
In Science, we have planned and set up an investigation to find out whether the conditions a plant grows in will affect its growth. This links to our learning about what a plant needs in order to grow. We have placed two plants in the sunlight and two in a dark space. In each of the environments, we are only watering one plant to discover if the plants need water or sunlight more to grow.

In RE, we have begun our unit 'Why do people pray?'. We initially considered who we turn to in times of need and then learnt what prayer is and why some people choose to pray. The pupils then drew pictures to show the reasons individuals may pray.

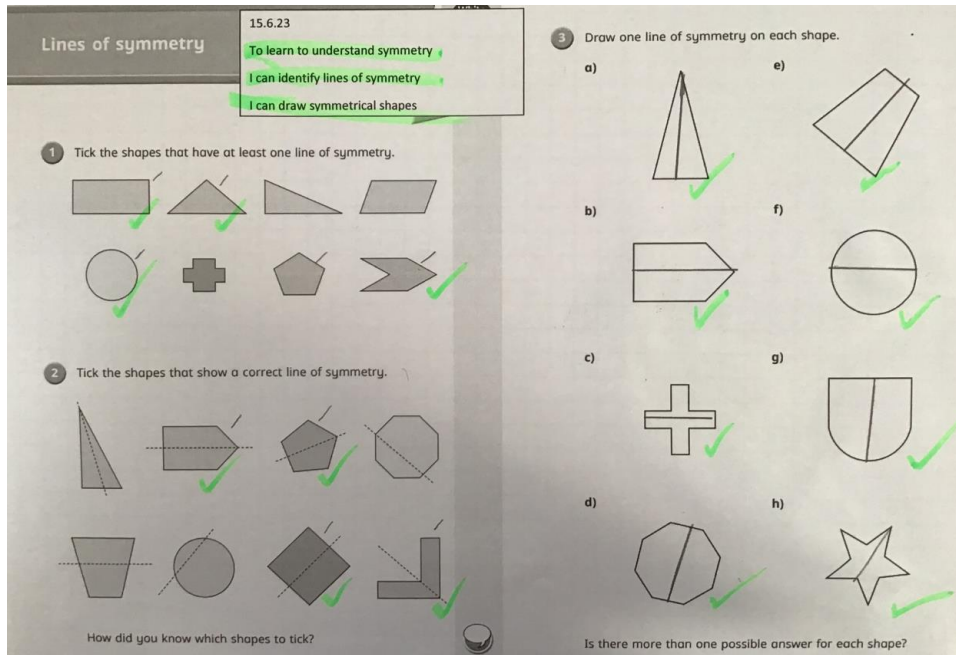


Year 4 (Hopper Class)

We have continued with the story of our silent princess Cinnamon in this week's English lessons. The story has helped to inspire a letter of apology using emotive language from a prospective healer, a poem about the unique traits of a tiger that has come to help and a deeper understanding of literary language to create mirrored images.



To conclude our learning on properties of shape, we have worked on developing our understanding of triangles, quadrilaterals, other polygons and lines of symmetry. We were able to establish rules for how to categorise shapes, the names of the shapes and use mirrors to help our symmetry work.



We started our new topic 'States of Matter' and our initial scientific investigation saw us dig deep into the material properties of each state as well as the particles of the state and their behaviours. We even acted out how these particles would behave to help us visualise them.



Our STEM workshop looked at the affect different shapes can have on the aerodynamics of an object. We put together different paper 'helicopters' and looked at the distinctive flight paths they had, based on the shape they had, and had lots of fun in the process.



During our Computing lessons, we revisited how to programme loops in order to create desired shapes. This whole process included lots of blocks of code being used whilst also debugging issues as they arose.

Year 5 (Jackson Class)

The week seems to have flashed past in Year 5 and we have been very busy with lots of learning and getting together some songs and parts for our upcoming production. I wanted to say a massive well done to all the children who took on the challenge of acting and singing auditions on Wednesday. Mr Healey and I were blown away by the amazing talent Year 5 have shown and it has been very difficult to decide the cast list. Congratulations to everyone on getting a role in our wonderful play, we cannot wait to get started!

In English, we have been generating ideas linked to immigrants that may have been on the same boat from our story, 'The Arrival'. We thought hard about their backgrounds, their struggles and their reasons for seeking refuge in a new city. We then collated these ideas into a plan ready to write a biography next week.

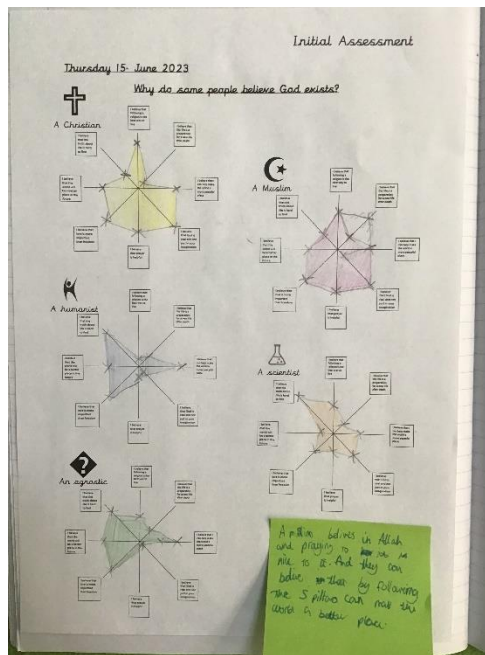
In Maths, we have blasted through a shorter topic on Volume this week. We learnt that volume is the amount of space an object takes up and we then learnt that

capacity was how much a container can hold. We have been busy calculating, comparing and estimating volume and capacity.

In History, we learnt about how the Anglo-Saxons tried to resist the invasion of the Vikings in their territory. We focused on two particular kings who did this – King Alfred the Great and King Athelstan. We then held a class debate on which king had the biggest impact on the Vikings and why. It was a very heated debate and it was wonderful to see the passion the class had in delivering their arguments as part of the discussion.



In RE, we have started our new topic, exploring the question: 'Why do some people believe God exists?' We learnt about different types of beliefs that people can hold, including being a theist, an atheist and an agnostic. The children used worldview snowflakes to compare the views of different groups of people based on their prior RE knowledge and the results were really interesting.



We finished the week with a visit to the Alive festival with the rest of Key Stage 2 – we had a great time and enjoyed having a picnic lunch altogether!

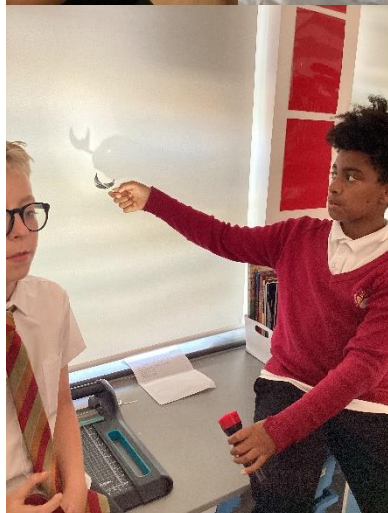
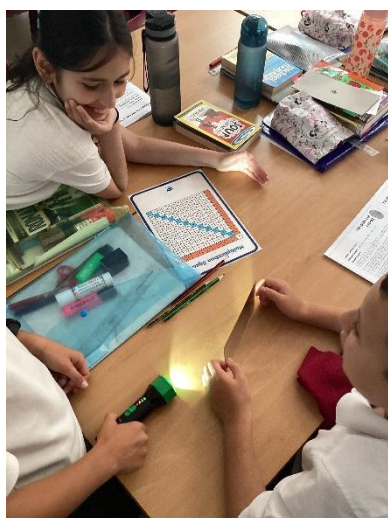
Year 6 (Gutenberg Class)

It has been a lovely week this week in Gutenberg! In Maths, we revisited Algebra and deepened our understanding of substitution and applied this skill to solve equations to break a secret code. The children blew us away with their algebraic thinking and we are very sure they will impress their future schools with this outstanding knowledge!

In History, we kick-started our topic on WW2 by finding out more about when the war happened, who was involved and what key events led up to it. The children had to use their comprehension skills to locate key information and create their own accurate timeline of events that took place before the war. We also took the time to look at a map of the countries involved in the war and whether they fit into the Allies or Axis groups. The children were so engaged with their learning and were filled with lots of interesting and thoughtful questions about the topic!

In Science, we began our final topic based on Light. The children were faced with a crime scene where a thief had stolen a laptop and password from a nearby secondary school. They had to solve several clues to try and determine who the key suspect was. Each clue was based around a specific concept concerning light

and the children had to plan their own investigations to try and demonstrate or investigate whether these concepts were true or not.



Finally, to top off our week, we took part in the Alive 2023 festival with the rest of Key Stage 2. It was a great event filled with lots of singing, dancing and a lovely picnic at the end!

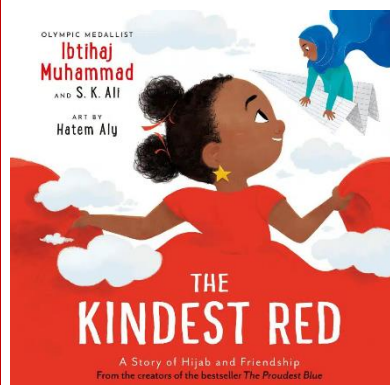
Other News

On Saturday 10th June the PFTA attended the Houlton Family Fun Day. Mrs Bay, Mrs Chute and Mrs Huddlestone manned a stall, which offered a hook a duck game, lollipop game and glitter tattoos.

They made a profit of about £137!



Recommended Read



Our book this week is the highly-anticipated sequel to *The Proudest Blue* from Olympic medallist Ibtihaj Muhammad. When Faizah’s teacher asks her class to imagine what kind of world they want to live in Faizah imagines a world where everyone is kind to one another, and tries to create that world in the school playground. But what Faizah wants most is to be like her big sister, Asiya. Will Faizah’s classmates repay her kindness and find a way for her to match Asiya in time for school photo day? An important and uplifting story about celebrating each other’s differences and similarities which is suitable for our Key Stage 1 children.

Online Safety

This week's helpful website is all about opening the conversation to online safety with children. The [NSPCC](#) have some helpful advice about the risks children may face and tips on the conversation topics you may wish to discuss with them.

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 \[fis@warwickshire.gov.uk\]\(mailto:emailing_fis@warwickshire.gov.uk\)](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 23rd June

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



St Gabriel's CofE Academy, Houlton Way, Houlton, Rugby, CV23 1AN

✉ office@stgabrielscofeacademy.org ☎ 01788 222405