George White Junior School Newsletter

Friday 24th October 2025

As we come to the end of a busy and productive eight-week half term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a fantastic and positive first half term. The children have worked incredibly hard, showing great enthusiasm, confidence and creativity.

This week, we held our first partnership event of the year – **Pink Day** – which was a wonderful success. It was fantastic to see the whole school community come together to support such an important cause, with pupils and staff all joining in the spirit of the day.







We were also delighted to welcome so many parents to our two parents' evenings this week. Thank you for taking the time to meet with teachers and share in how your child has settled into their class and year group and their achievements so far – your continued support is greatly appreciated.

This week the Art Room has been a buzz of activity at lunchtimes as the children across the school enjoyed our second-hand book sale throughout the week. It was lovely to see them browsing and buying books with such enthusiasm, and we're pleased to share that we have raised £180, all of which will go towards purchasing new books for our school library. Thank you for your support.

Finally, we wish all our families a happy, safe, and restful half term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for another exciting term ahead! School reopens on Monday 3rd November at 8:30am.

This Week's Attendance

We hold a celebration assembly every Friday morning to share and celebrate the children's achievements. During this assembly, we also recognise the class with the highest overall attendance for the week. Each individual child's attendance counts towards this.

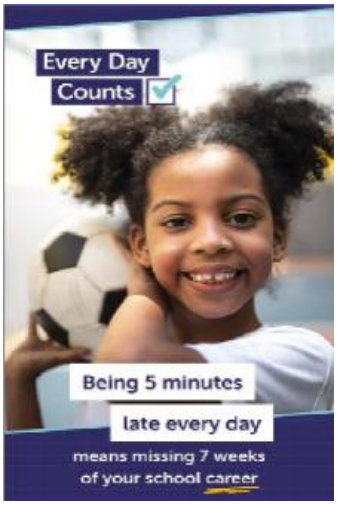
Well-done to 6E this week, for having the highest attendance.

6E: 97%
6W: 96%
5W: 88%
5D: 93%
4T: 95%
4B: 83%
3C: 92%
3L: 90%

Whole school attendance for this week: 92%

School Target: 96%

This week you will have received the 'Attendance Quick Guide for Parents'. This includes details of how to report pupil absence and key timings of the school day. Please remember the gates open at 8:30am and close at 8:50.



Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leads

Mrs. Petchey, Mrs. Stolworthy, Mrs. Greenwood, Miss Derer, Mrs Thorpe, Miss Whing, Mrs Burman and Miss Alderton.

These members of staff monitor and manage all safeguarding practices and ensure staff are supported and have the training they need. Please ask to see one of these adults if you are worried about the safety of a child at school.

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child out of school hours, then the number to ring is:

CADS – Children's Advice and Duty Service – 0344 800 8020



Look at what we're learning

Year 3

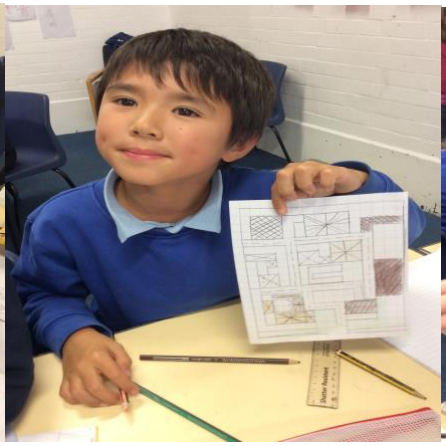
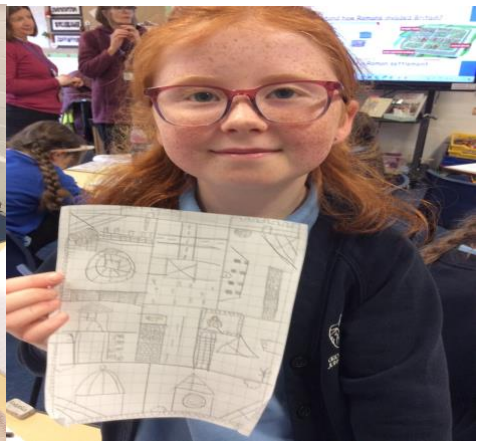
We have been learning to subtract with an exchange across the 10s. We must be VERY careful about making the exchange using Base10 and then recording it in our column subtraction. It has been wonderful to see how confident the children are with these new concepts!





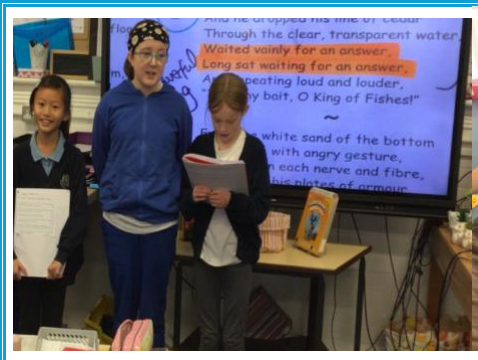
Year 4

This week in Year 4 we have been studying the Romans in our History lessons, we have focused on when the Romans Invaded Britian. We studied Roman Settlements; the children then were able to create a map of their own Roman settlements, displaying all the knowledge they had learnt about roads, stone and brick houses and things we would find inside a Roman town.

Year 5

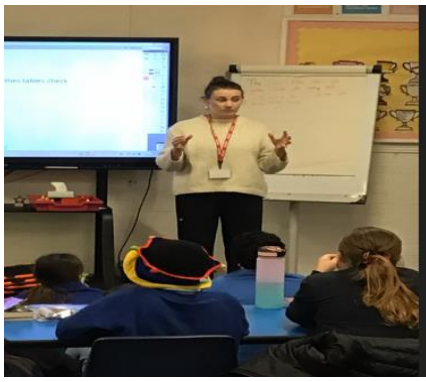
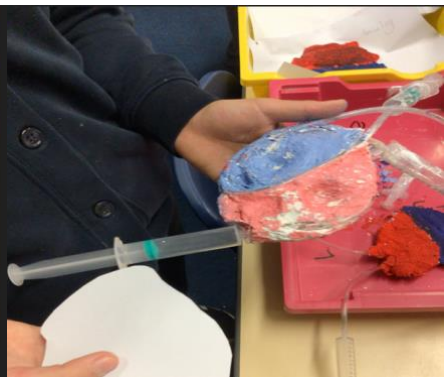
The week Year 5 have been working hard on our oracy skills by learning and reciting verses from a poem called 'The Song of Hiawatha.' The children have shown wonderful expression, confidence and teamwork while performing — we are so proud of their efforts. In DT, we have continued to create our own Anglo-Saxon style tunics. Although some found sewing a little challenging at first, they persevered brilliantly and should feel very proud of their finished work. It's been wonderful to see their creativity and resilience shine through. A big well done to Year 5 for all their hard work and enthusiasm!





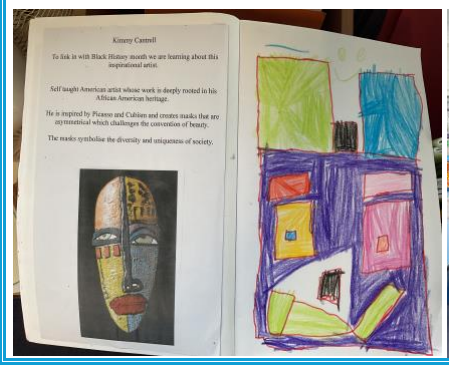

Year 6

It's been another fantastic week in Year 6 to round off an amazing first half term. On Thursday, we were lucky to have Miss Whing's sister join us to share her knowledge and expertise about her job as a cardiovascular surgeon. Our Year 6 children asked some fantastic questions, showing their understanding of the circulatory system. Our D&T has also been connected to our science topic – this week we were painting and labelling our educational models to show our Year 3 friends. Year 6 have also been exploring shape, angles and nets of 3D shapes, as well as writing some fantastic story settings that build suspense. Well done for all your hard work, Year 6; we are proud of you all!


SRB

To link with Black History Month, children in the SRB learned about Kimmy Cantrell, an American artist who creates amazing artworks which are sculptures or pieces of art that resemble masks. He uses materials like clay, wood, metal, and found objects to create these artworks. Kimmy's masks are known for their vibrant colours, interesting shapes, and intricate details. Each mask tells a story and expresses different emotions.





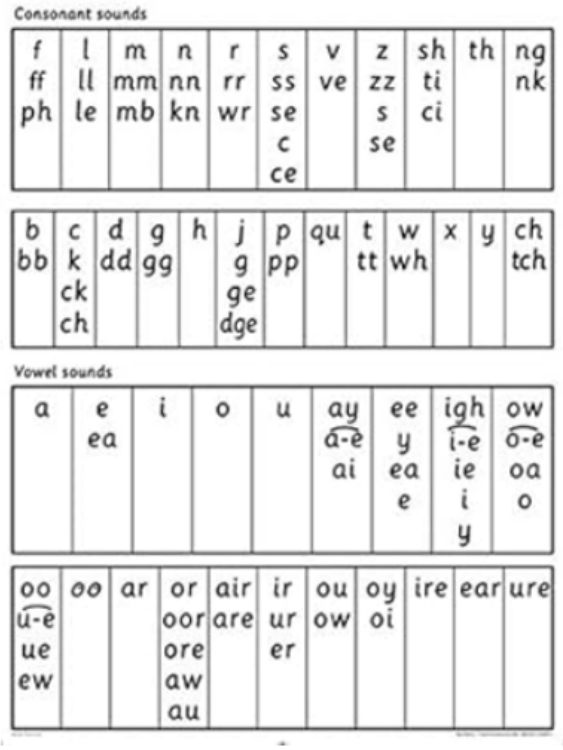

SEND news



At the end of each half term, we include an article about supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities. This half term, we have included some information about supporting your child with spelling at home.

Encourage your child to use their phonics knowledge to spell a word. Split the word into sounds ('shop' becomes 'sh' 'o' 'p') so they can try to spell each part of the word.

At GWJS, we use Read Write Inc to support with phonics. Children may be familiar with this chart and could use it to help themselves work out a likely spelling.



Writing the word in different ways also helps to embed it in the memory. For example, writing the word in highlighter, with 4 different colours, in bubble writing, even with their eyes closed! They can also make the word using magnetic letters or shape the letters in the word from playdough. They could write it in chalk in the garden or trace it in the air. Some children find the whole word easier to remember than each individual part. Repetition is key – the more they write it, the more likely they are to remember it.

You can also play games, for example hiding their spelling words inside other words and asking them to find it – sklhwhentwi has the word 'when' within it, so children are looking for the string of letters. Anything you can do to make learning fun will help children to enjoy the activity and mean they are more likely to remember the word when it comes to using it in their writing.

If you have any other ideas for fun spelling activities, please let us know!

Dates for the Diary 2025/2026

Friday 24th October	End of term at 3.20pm
Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October	Half term holiday
Monday 3rd November	Back to school – gates open at 8:30am
Friday 7th November	Year 5 Trip to West Stow Anglo Saxon Village
Monday 10th November	Odd Socks Day – wear odd socks to school to mark the start of anti-bullying week.
Wednesday 12th November	New year 3 Open Morning 9-10am
Thursday 13th November	SEND Cafe 9-10am
Friday 14th November	Children in Need – the theme this year is the number '25'.
Tuesday 18th November	Open Classrooms for all year groups 3.20pm
Wednesday 19th November	New year 3 Open Morning 9-10am
Thursday 20th November	Flu Vaccination team in follow up
Friday 5th December	Non School Uniform – Pay in chocolate or donate a prize to go towards our raffle/tombola, these can be biscuits, soap, bottle of wine, bubble bath, toys, games, puzzles, soft toys and vouchers.
Thursday 11th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 11th December	Christmas lunch
Thursday 11th December	George White Christmas Fair 3.30 -5pm
Wednesday 17th December	Carols round the Tree 2.30pm
Friday 19th December	End of Term at 3.20pm
Tuesday 6th January 2026	Start of the Spring Term – gates open at 8:30am