

RISE



THE
DIOCESE OF
SHEFFIELD
ACADEMIES
TRUST

The St Mary's CE Academy School Newsletter

10th October 2026

“ Rise up, take courage and do it ”

Ezra 10:4

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very pleased to share that the supply teacher coming in to cover for Miss Esmes when she goes on maternity leave, after half-term, is a very experienced teacher called Mrs Licuco.

Mrs Licuco is a dedicated primary teacher with over 22 years of experience delivering the UK national curriculum both in the UK and in a range of international settings. She establishes and maintains clear behaviour expectations, creating a safe and inclusive environment where collaboration, exploration and pupil wellbeing is prioritised. Mrs Licuco is passionate about enquiry-based learning, fostering a growth mindset and amplifying pupil voice. She is continually promoting oracy skills and championing inclusive classroom practises and is a strong believer in the importance of continuous professional development to enhance teaching practice and improve pupil engagement and outcomes.

She has already started to spend some time in school getting to know the children and staff. She will be spending more time in school getting to know the children on Friday 23rd October and if you would like to meet her, at the end of the day on Friday, please come and say goodbye and good luck to Miss Esmes and hello to Mrs Licuco.

Mrs Burgess x



Dates for your Diary

Friday 16th October - INSET day - school closed for all children.

Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th October - Parent Evening

Friday 23rd October - Break up for half-term. Return on Mon November 2nd





Year 3

Y3's Stone Age History Day

Year 3 had a fantastic Stone Age history day.

We learnt all about the Old Stone Age and how they lived. We even had a go at some of their activities ourselves!

We created our own natural paints using berries and spices and produced Stone Age inspired cave paintings.





London Trip

What a fantastic day we all had in London. We had a long day but the children had a fantastic workshop at the tower, were able to see the Crown Jewels and visited the White Tower, the Bloody Tower and Torture at the Tower.

We then did a bus tour of London led by our fantastic Madam Roux to see the London Eye, Houses of Parliament and Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, Downing Street and Trafalgar Square.





Year 5

Year 5 Science - Exploring Friction

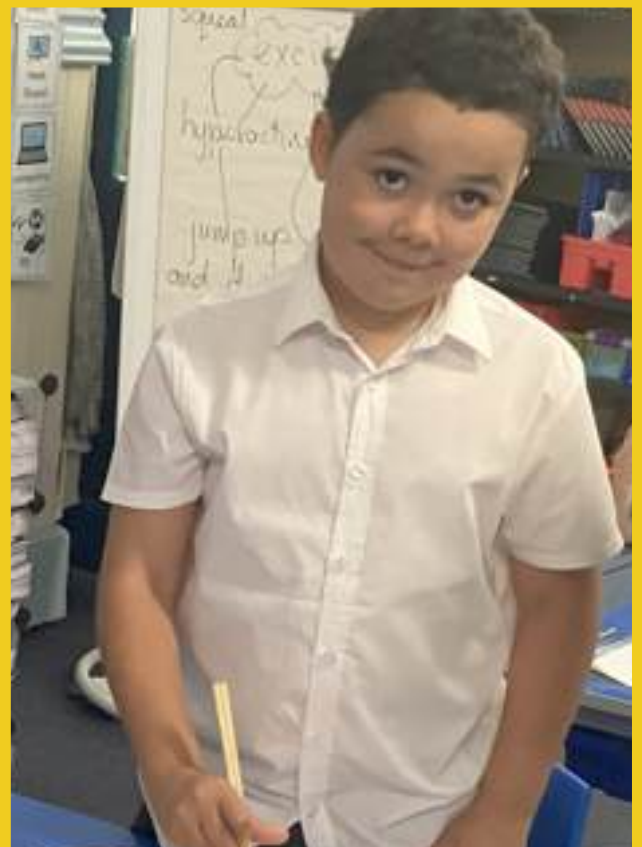
In Science, Year 5 have been learning all about forces. This week, we focused on friction and explored how friction can be helpful in everyday life.

To demonstrate this, we used chopsticks to pick up cubes of jelly and tested how many cubes we could pick up in 30 seconds. We discovered that friction was helping us to grip the jelly – without it, the jelly would simply slip from the chopsticks!

We then repeated the experiment, but this time we added oil to the jelly. We wondered: Would the oil increase or decrease the friction? Would it become harder or easier to move the jelly?

Most of us found that it was much harder to pick up the jelly once it was covered in oil. The oil reduced the friction between the chopsticks and the jelly, making it more difficult to grip and move.

It was a fun and messy way to see how friction works in action!





Harvest Festival at St. Mary's Church

The whole school attended the Harvest Festival service at St. Mary's Church this week. Led by Dr. Beth Keith, the service brought our school children and the St. Mary's congregation together to give thanks for the gifts around us.

The singing was joyous, and the school prayers from FS to Y6 were moving and beautiful. It was lovely to see everyone taking part and sharing this special time together.



**LOOK WHAT WE'VE
BEEN AWARDED!...**

RHS School Gardening Awards



Congratulations

**St Mary's Church of England Primary
School**

- You understand the benefits of gardening
- Your growing space is accessible
- You have started gardening

Date: 7 September 2026

Alana Cama

Alana Cama
Schools and Groups
Programme Manager, RHS

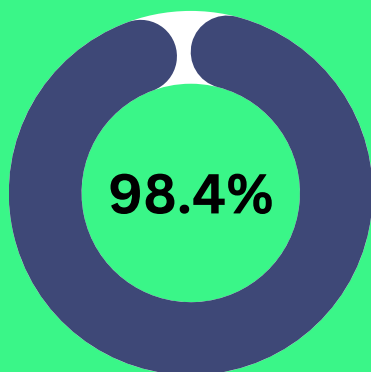
Clare Matterson

Clare Matterson CBE
Director General, RHS

THE CAMPAIGN FOR
**SCHOOL
GARDENING**



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

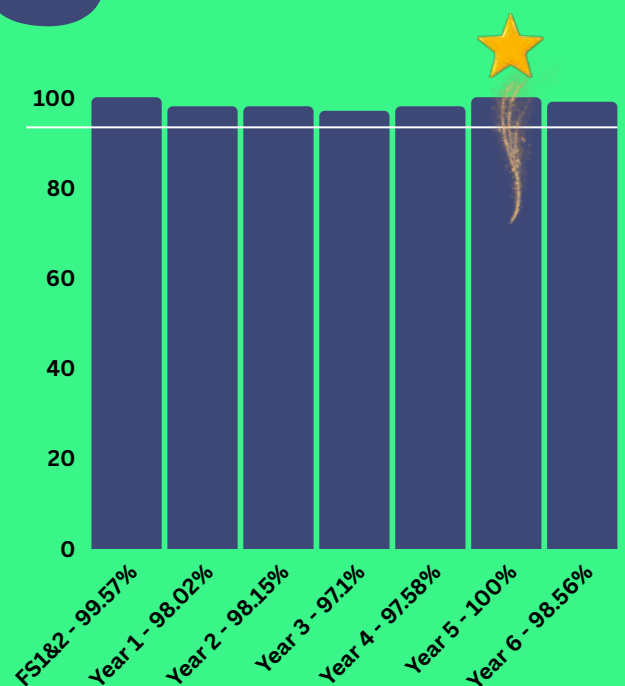


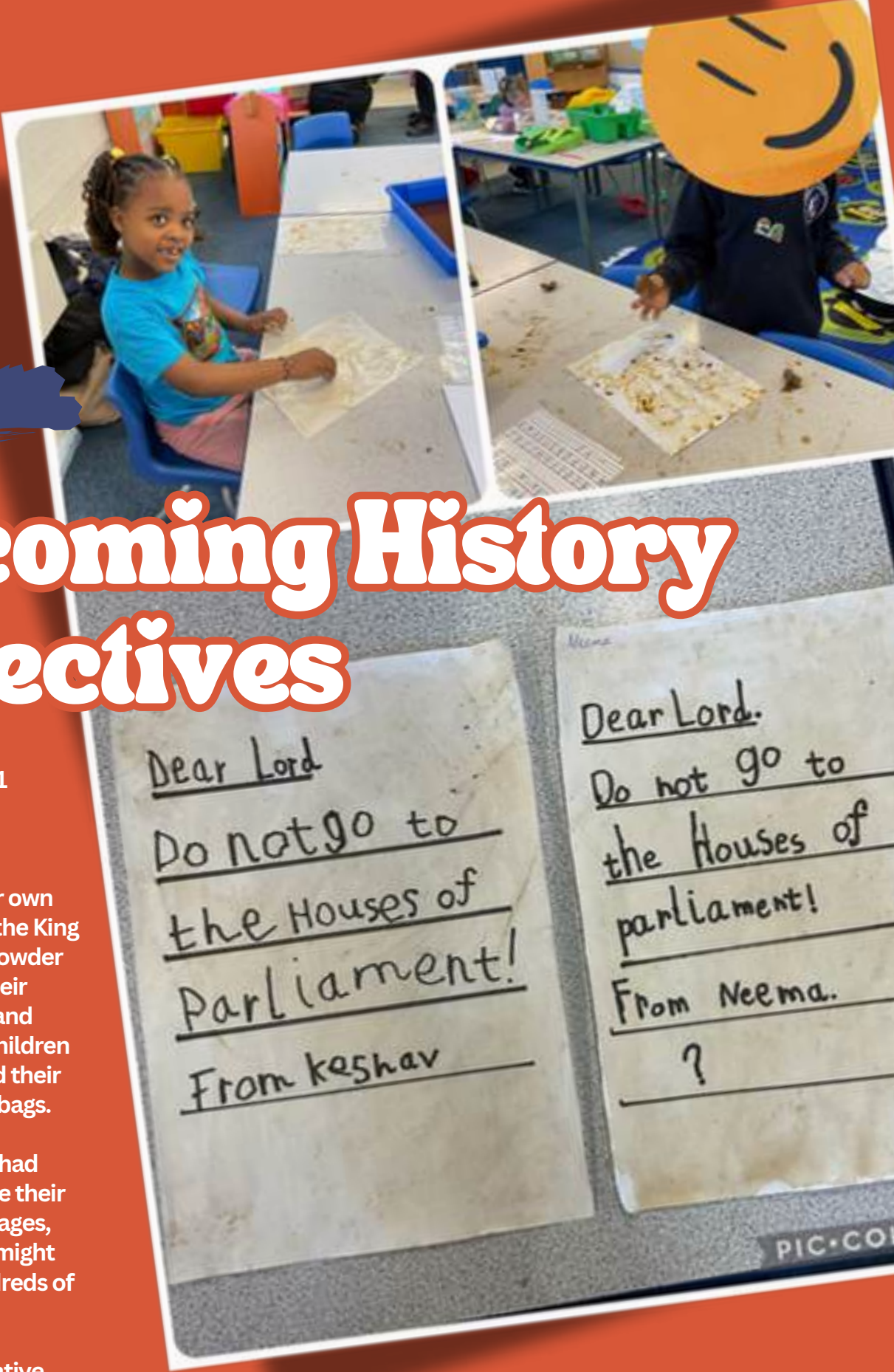
Our whole school attendance for the week is 98.42%

All classes that achieved 97% and above will get an extra 10 minute break.

Y5 are class winners with an amazing 100%! They have an extra break and can also choose an extra attendance treat... **WELL DONE!**

WELL DONE Y5





Year 1

Becoming History Detectives

This week, Year 1 became history detectives!

They wrote their own letters warning the King about the Gunpowder Plot. To make their letters look old and authentic, the children carefully stained their paper using tea bags.

Once the paper had dried, they wrote their important messages, just like people might have done hundreds of years ago.

It was a fun, creative way to bring history to life!

Dear Lord
Do not go to
the Houses of
Parliament!
From keshav

Dear Lord.
Do not go to
the Houses of
parliament!
From Neema.
?

PIC.CO

Year 2

French Skipping Fun

Y2 Have Had a Fantastic Time
French Skipping in PE!

Y2 have had a fantastic time in PE this week, developing their skipping skills through French skipping!

The children have been working together in small groups, learning different skipping patterns, practising their coordination and challenging themselves to keep the rhythm going. There has been lots of teamwork, laughter and determination as everyone has had a go and encouraged their friends.

It has been wonderful to see the children supporting one another, persevering when things have been tricky and celebrating their successes. Y2 have certainly shown that PE can be great fun while helping us to develop our balance, coordination and teamwork skills!

Well done, Y2 — what a fantastic week!

