

# RISE



THE  
DIOCESE OF  
SHEFFIELD  
ACADEMIES  
TRUST

## The St Mary's CE Academy School Newsletter

16th January 2026

**“ Rise up, take courage and do it ”**

Ezra 10:4

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a start to the new year we've had!

Despite the snow and icy conditions in our first week back, school has been full of smiles, determination and a real sense of togetherness.

A huge thank you to our staff team for making sure everything stayed safe and ran smoothly, and to our families for your patience and commitment in getting children into school whenever possible, it's really appreciated.

Once inside, the learning has been in full swing. Children have been busy experimenting with ice, investigating forces and friction, exploring place value in maths, and building hands-on timelines in history. The enthusiasm and curiosity across school has been fantastic to see, and our strong attendance shows just how keen the children are to learn.

There's lots to look forward to this term, including the **Young Voice choir event at the Arena on Tues 10 Feb.**

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We're excited for what the rest of the term has in store!

Mrs Burgess x



### Dates for your Diary

- Tues 10th Feb - Young Voice choir event at the arena
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb - School closed for staff INSET training
- School closed for half-term - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Feb.
- School re-opens for children on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb.

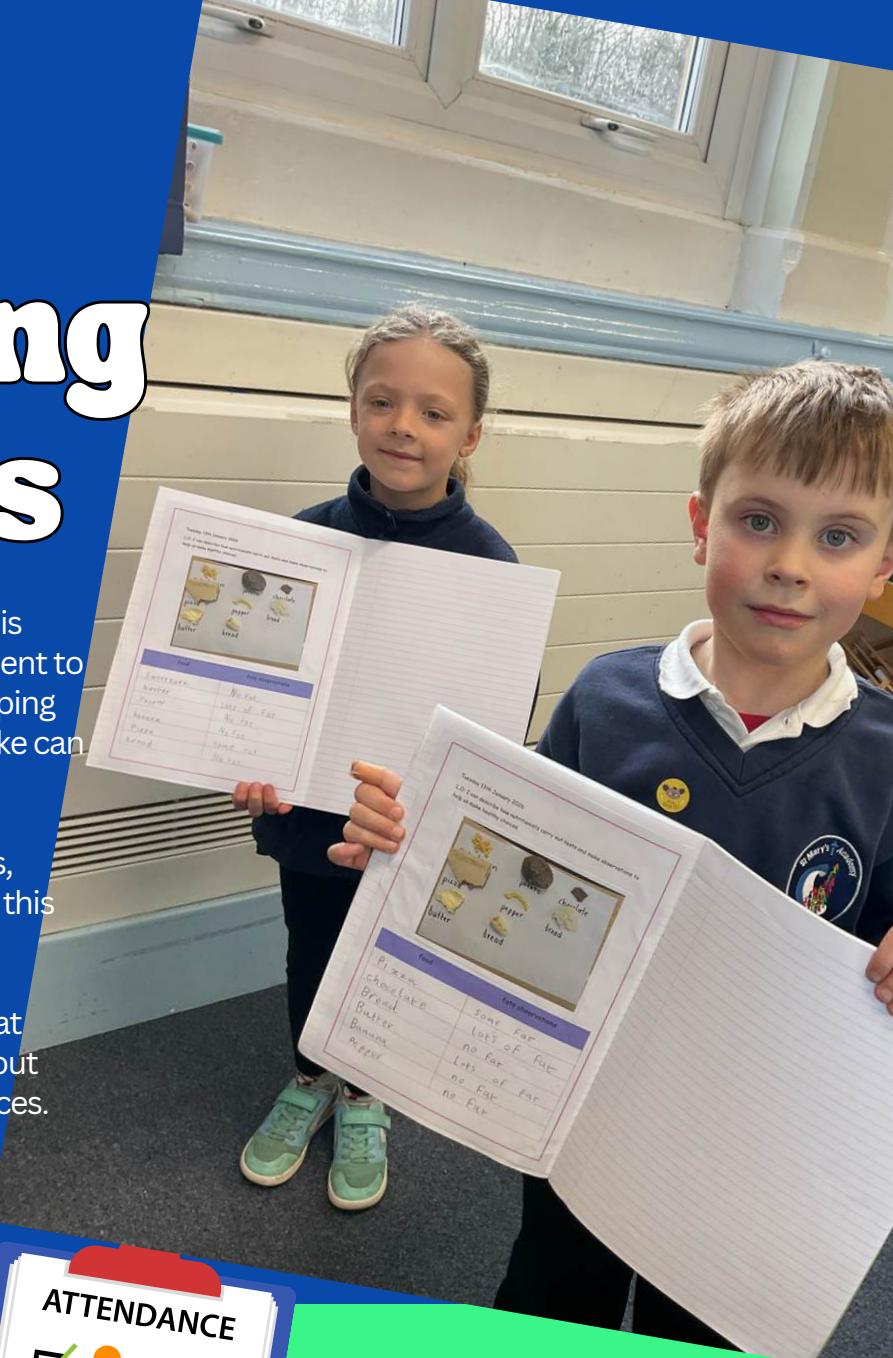
Year 2

# Busy being scientists

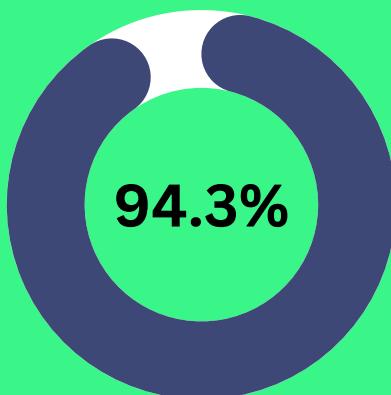
Year 2 have been busy young scientists this week. The children carried out an experiment to test the fat content in different foods, helping them understand how the choices we make can affect our bodies.

They compared a range of everyday items, observed the results, and discussed what this means for living a healthy lifestyle.

It was a hands-on, eye-opening activity that encouraged thoughtful conversations about balanced diets and making informed choices. The class showed fantastic curiosity and teamwork throughout.



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

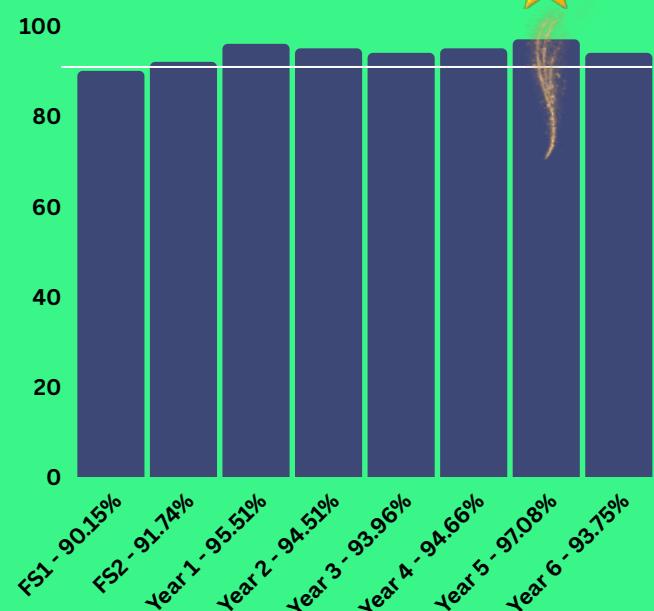


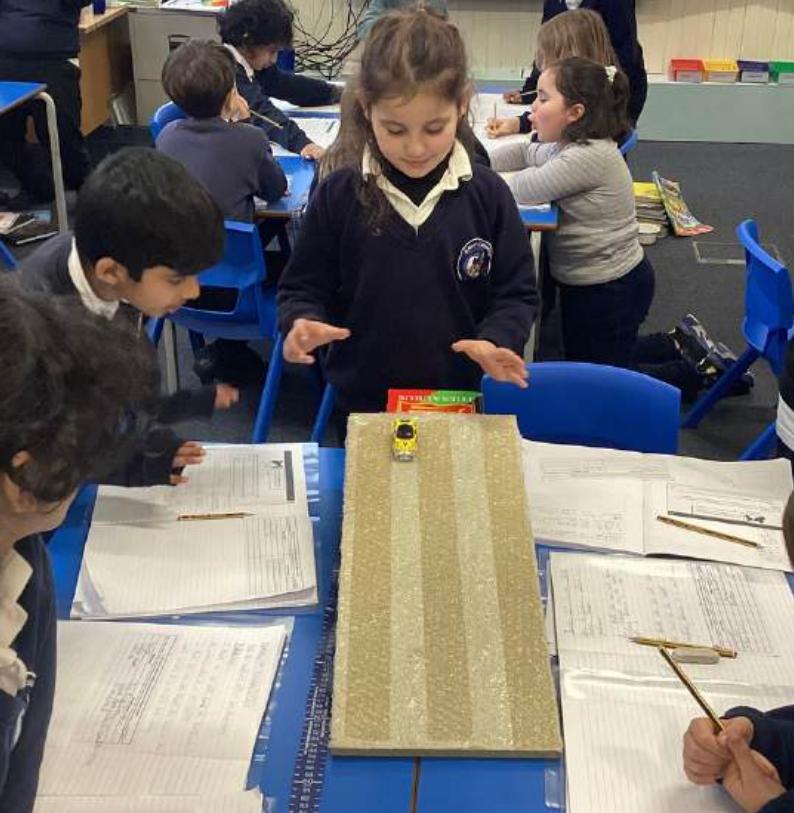
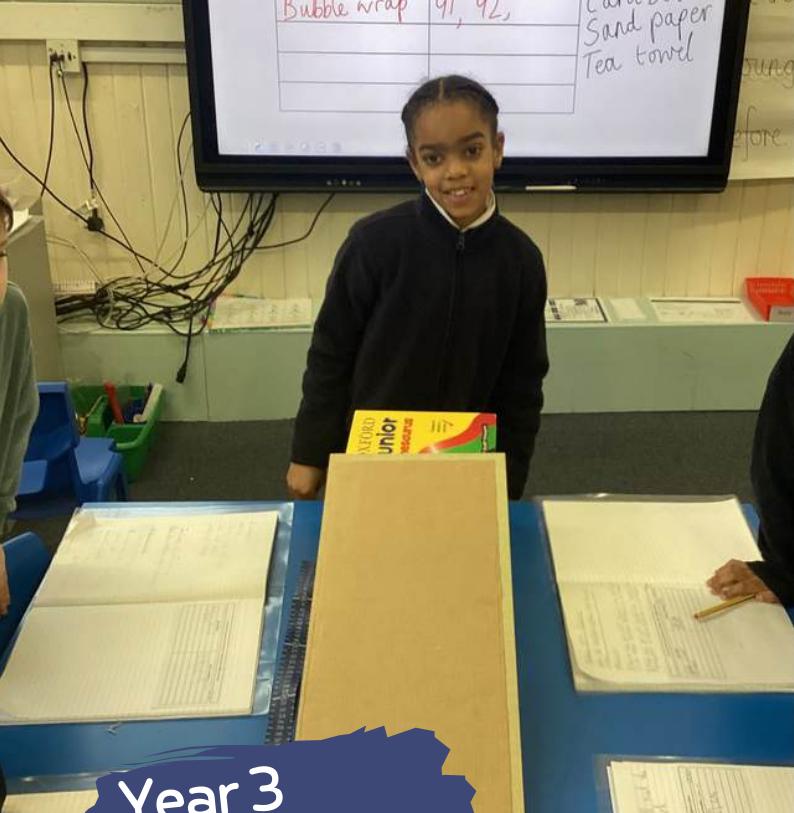
Our whole school attendance for the week 94.26%

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

Y5 are class winners this week with 97.08%  
**WELL DONE!**

**WELL DONE 5**



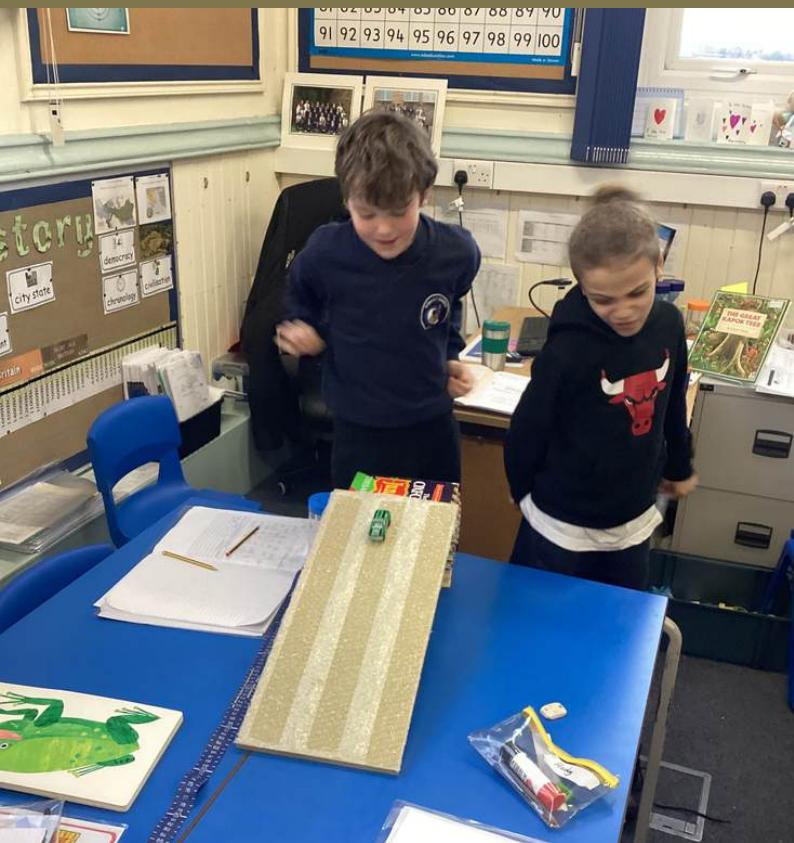


# Science Friction

Year 3 have started a new science unit about forces.

This week, we conducted an investigation and tested the affect of different surfaces on the distance a toy car can travel.

We discovered that rougher surfaces had more friction and the children made some great conclusions in their groups.



Foundation

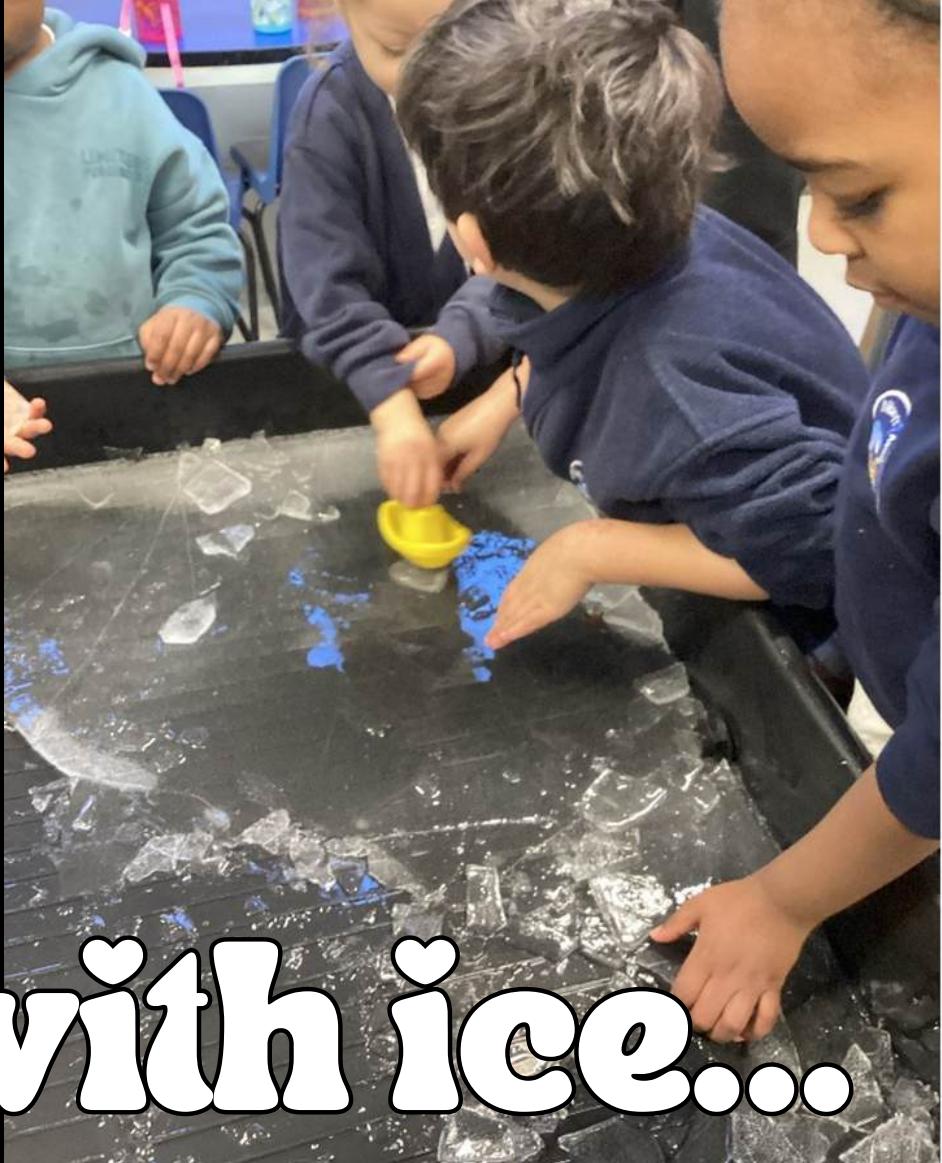
# Fun with ice...

The children in Foundation Stage are thoroughly enjoying our new topic.

They had fun experimenting with the ice and watching it melt as they played with it.

This week, we also had a little visitor on our playground! A Hedgehog!

The children enjoyed looking at the hedgehog and learning new facts.



# and a little visitor...



Year 1



# Place value and numbers up to 20!

In Year 1 Maths, the children have been learning all about place value as we explore numbers up to 20.

We have been focusing on understanding tens and ones, helping the children see that numbers are made up of groups of ten and extra ones. For example, children are learning that 14 is made from one ten and four ones, and 20 is made from two tens.

To support this learning, the children have been using practical resources such as cubes, tens frames, and part-whole models. This hands-on approach helps them build a strong understanding of how numbers are structured, rather than just memorising them. We have also been practising counting, grouping, and representing numbers in different ways.

You can help at home by encouraging your child to spot numbers around them and talk about how many tens and ones they can see, for example using objects, toys, or even food items! Well done to Year 1 for working so hard with their place value learning – we are very proud of their progress.



# The chronology of the Anglo-Saxons

Year 4 had a lively lesson plotting the chronology of the Anglo-Saxons.

Using multi-link blocks, students created engaging timelines that helped them visualise historical events.

This hands-on approach fostered collaboration and deepened their understanding of this fascinating period in British history.

