

RISE



THE
DIOCESE OF
SHEFFIELD
ACADEMIES
TRUST

The St Mary's CE Academy School Newsletter

23rd January 2026

“ Rise up, take courage and do it ”

Ezra 10:4

Dear Parents and Carers,

There's been a really special feeling around school this week, a sense of children growing in confidence, curiosity and courage as they take on new challenges in their learning.

From the careful fine motor work in Foundation Stage and the excitement of exploring shapes in maths, to thoughtful artwork, creative drawing and ambitious problem-solving in science, computing and algebra, it's been inspiring to see how much effort and pride our pupils are showing.

What stands out most is the way children are supporting one another, asking questions and persevering when things feel tricky. Our strong attendance this week reflects that enthusiasm to be in school, to learn, and to belong, something we're incredibly grateful for.

With exciting events ahead, including the Young Voice choir event on Tues 10 Feb, we're reminded of how many opportunities our children have to shine, both in and beyond the classroom.

Thank you, as always, for your support in this journey. Your encouragement at home makes a real difference every single day.

Mrs Burgess x



• Dates for your Diary

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

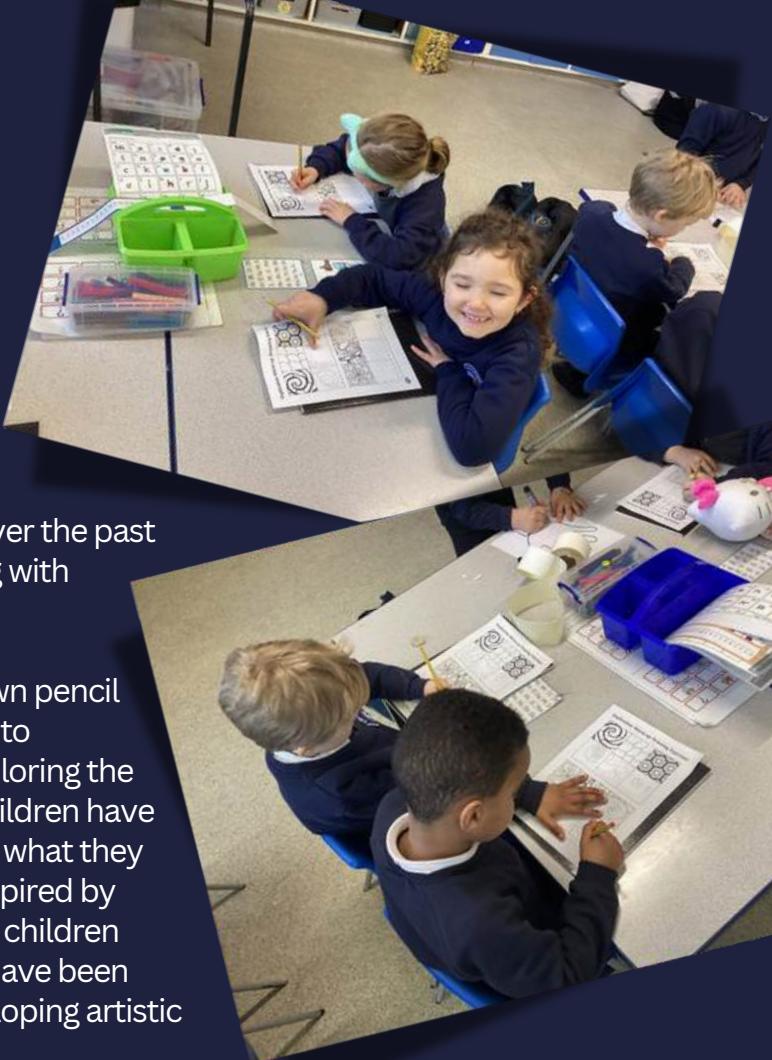
Year 1

Learning Highlights

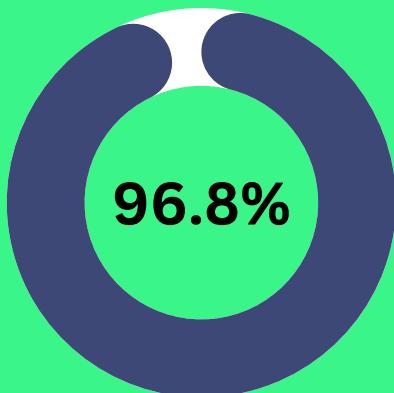
Year 1 have been having a fabulous time in class over the past few weeks, throwing themselves into their learning with enthusiasm and creativity.

The children have been busy creating their very own pencil dictionaries. This has been a fun and practical way to develop their art skills. In Art, Year 1 have been exploring the work of the famous British artist L.S. Lowry. The children have enjoyed looking closely at his paintings, discussing what they can see and learning about his distinctive style. Inspired by Lowry's use of simple figures and busy scenes, the children have discussed Lowry's use of shape. The results have been fantastic and really show their creativity and developing artistic skills.

We are incredibly proud of the children's effort and enthusiasm. Thank you, as always, for your continued support at home – it really makes a difference!



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

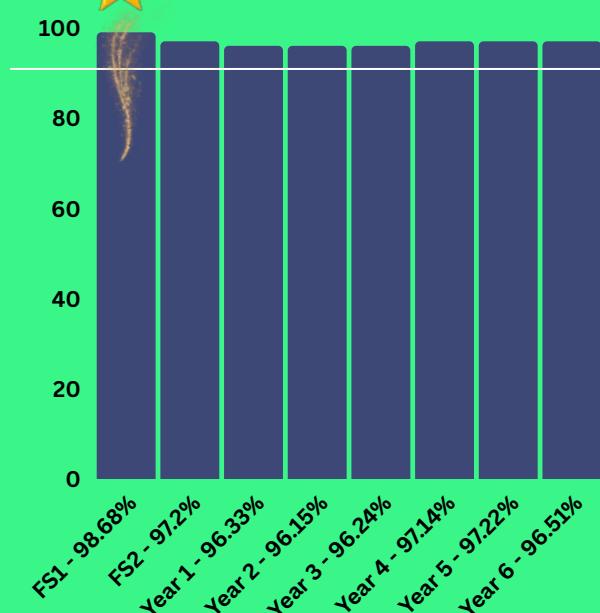


Our whole school attendance for the week 96.8%

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

WELL DONE FS1

FS1 are class winners this week with 98.68%
WELL DONE!





Foundation

Busy Fingers in Foundation Stage

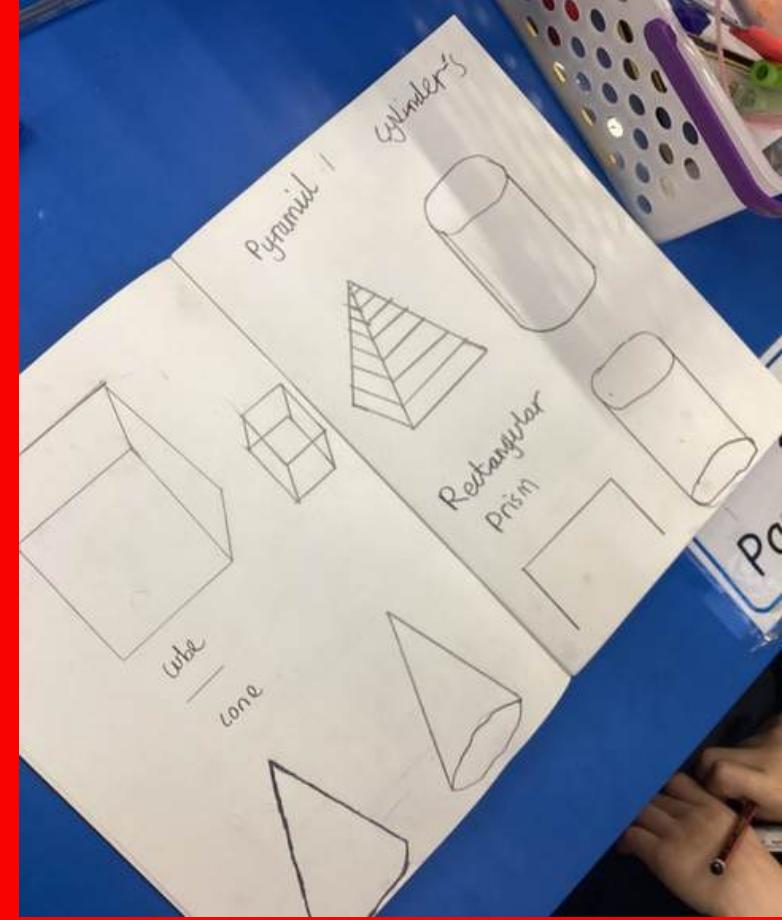
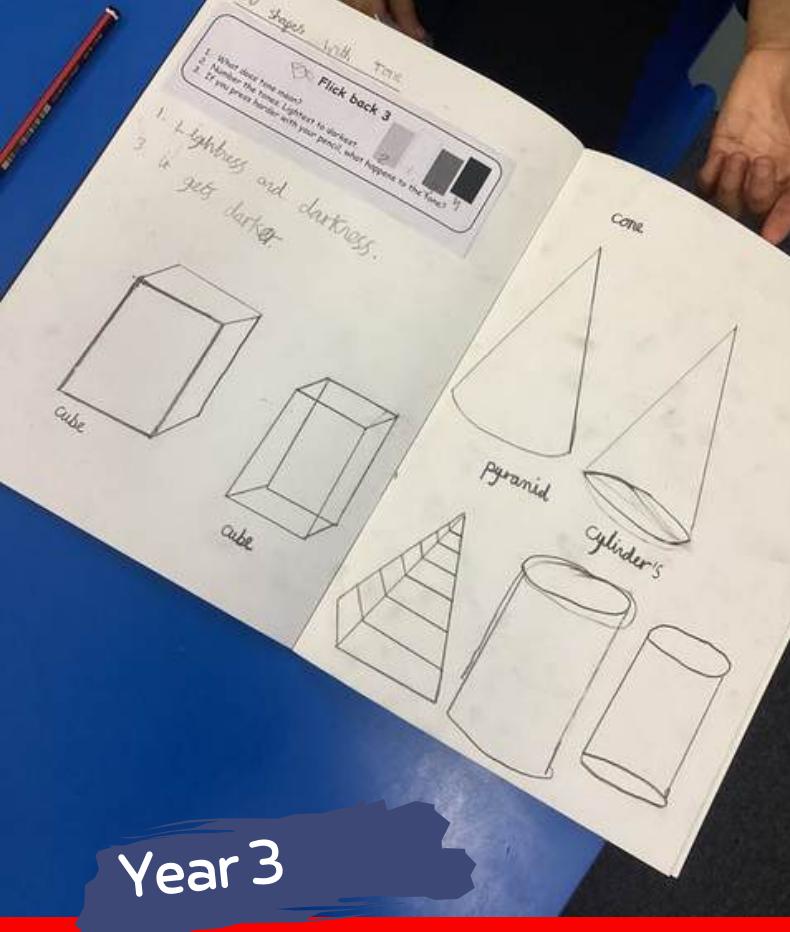
The children in Foundation Stage have been developing their fine motor skills this week.

They have enjoyed using the animals to make footprints in the flour and the playdough.

They have also used the tongs in the water area to collect the 'ice'.

Well done!





Year 3

Exploring Tone and 3D Drawing

Year 3 are doing an amazing job in their new Art unit.

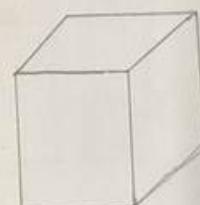
This half-term, we are looking at tone and drawing skills.

This week, we practised drawing a range of 3D shapes.

The outcomes were amazing.

Well done, Year 3!

1. It's the type of brightness of a pencil
2. The tone gets darker
3. 1, 2, 3, 4,



Cube 1



Cube 2



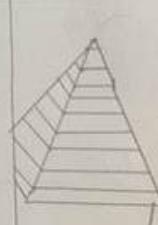
Cylinder



Cone 1



Cone 2



Pyramid



Cylinder

Year 2

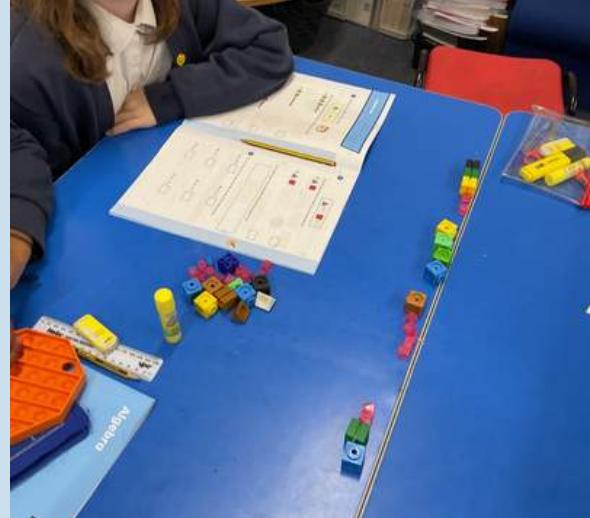
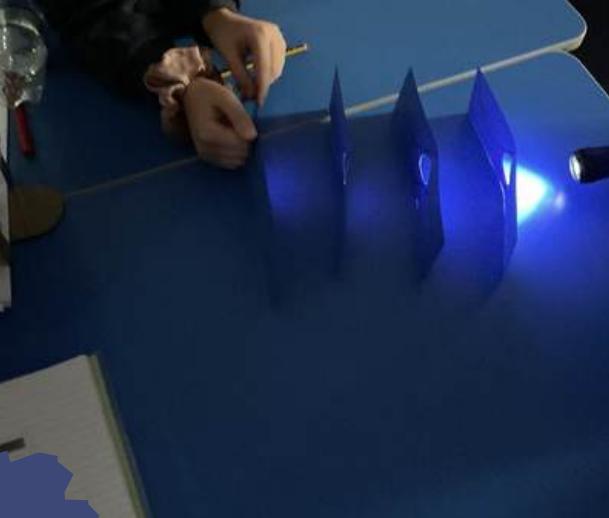
Geoboard Geometry in Action

Year 2 explored polygons using geoboards this week.

The children created a range of shapes, including squares, rectangles, triangles, pentagons and hexagons, and enjoyed investigating how each one is formed. They experimented with stretching elastic bands into different arrangements, compared the properties of each shape, and challenged themselves to see how many variations they could make.

It was a brilliant hands-on session that strengthened their understanding of geometry and encouraged lots of great mathematical talk and teamwork.





Year 6

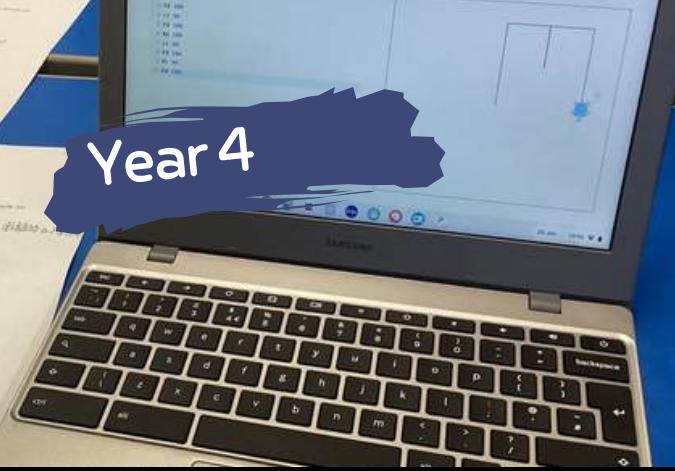
Bright Ideas and Brilliant Algebra

Y6 have had a fun week.

In science, we have been investigating light and how it travels and, in maths, we started our unit on algebra looking at forming expressions, substituting and creating formulae.



Year 4



Year 4's Exciting Computing Adventure!

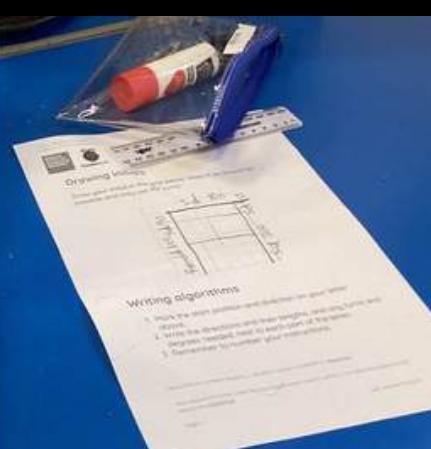
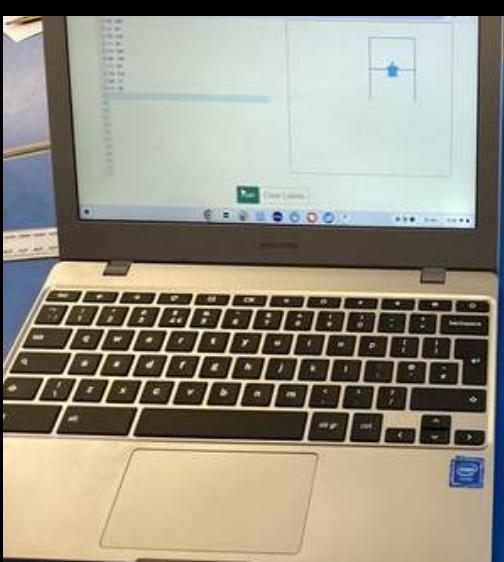
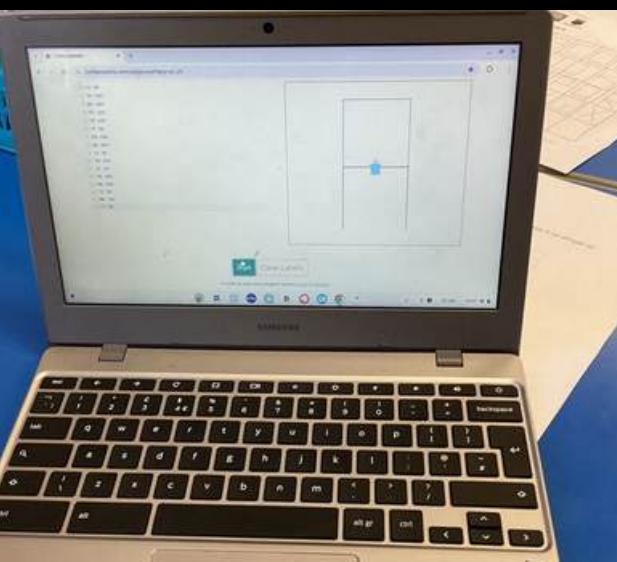
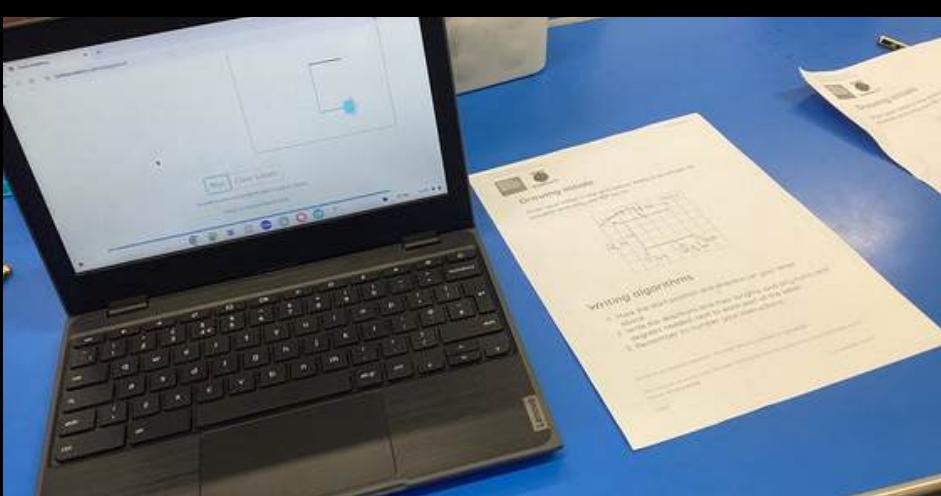
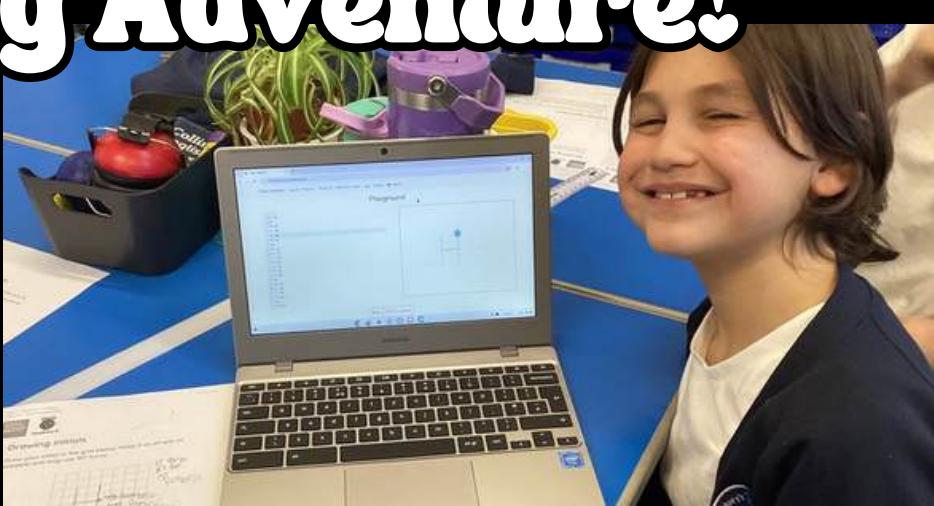
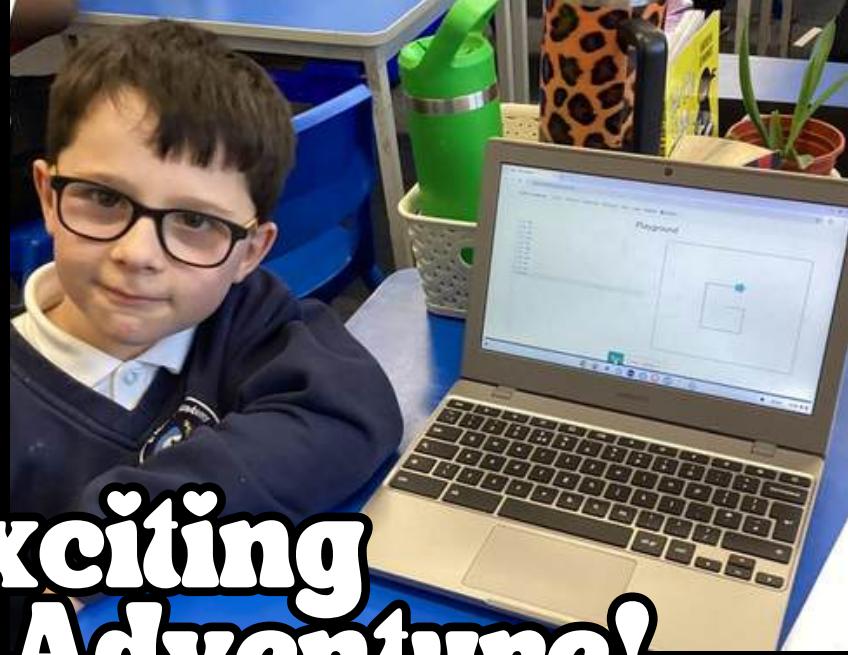
This week, our Year 4 students had a fantastic time in their computing lesson!

They learned how to create letters using the programming code Logo.

Each student designed their own letter and wrote an algorithm to make a screen turtle move across the screen.

It was amazing to see their creativity and problem-solving skills in action as they brought their letters to life!

Well done, Year 4!



Year 5

Explorers of the Ancient Maya

Year 5 had a fantastic history lesson this week, imagining that they were archaeologists who had discovered some Maya artefacts amongst the ruins.

The children had to carefully study the artefacts to try to work out what they were, who might have used them and why they were so important to the Ancient Maya.

The children made some really thoughtful observations and were able to work out that the statue showed the Maya God of Maize.

Maize was particularly significant to the Ancient Maya as they believed the Gods made the first humans from Maize dough.

