

# RISE



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DIOCESE OF  
SHEFFIELD  
ACADEMIES  
TRUST

## The St Mary's CE Academy School Newsletter

28th November 2025

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

Ezra 10:4

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had such an exciting week in school, with children getting involved in a whole range of creative and hands-on learning.

From experimenting with colour in Foundation Stage and exploring maps in Year 1, to owl report writing, graphic design projects and a brilliant Fab Finish on bones. The buzz around classrooms has been amazing.

We've also enjoyed some wonderful experiences beyond the classroom, including ice curling at Ice Sheffield and Year 4's fantastic takeover day at the National Videogame Museum. It was lovely to come together for our Safer Streets celebration too, and great to see families joining in with our Parent Forum Coffee Mornings.

A huge well done to our sports teams and to everyone who continues to show our RISE values each day.

Plus this week, we have some wonderful news to share. See page 3 to find out more.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Burgess x



### Dates for your Diary

**9<sup>th</sup> Dec** FS2, Y1 and Y2 Theatre trip

**10<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Christmas lunch - wear Christmas jumper if you want to...

**11<sup>th</sup> Dec** NSPCC Christmas Jumper Day - bring £1

**15<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Christmas Service at St. Mary's Church - 9.30 a.m.

**15<sup>th</sup> Dec** - FS singing at 9.00 a.m. followed by Christmas activities or, 2.00 p.m. followed by FS singing at 2.45 p.m.

**16<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas Jumper Day

**16<sup>th</sup> Dec** - KS1 Nativity 2 p.m.

**17<sup>th</sup> Dec** KS1 nativity 9.30 a.m.

**18<sup>th</sup> Dec** KS2 carols 9 -10 a.m.

**18<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Christmas Parties and DISCO

**19<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Break up for Christmas holidays until **4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026**

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# Safer Streets Project

We had a special assembly to celebrate the Safer Streets Project and to say thank you to the children who took part.

The assembly was attended by the Parking Services and by local councillors Tom Hunt and Laura McClean.

The scheme has made a big difference to the parking situation outside school.

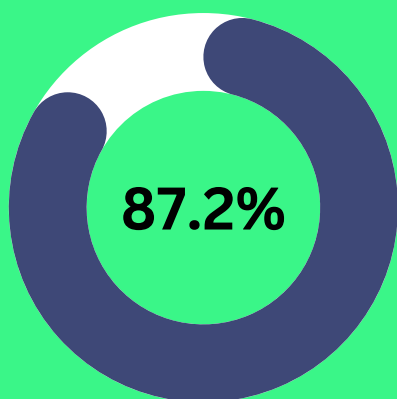
We are very grateful to all the families who engaged with the project and continue to support us in keeping the school gates free from traffic.



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS



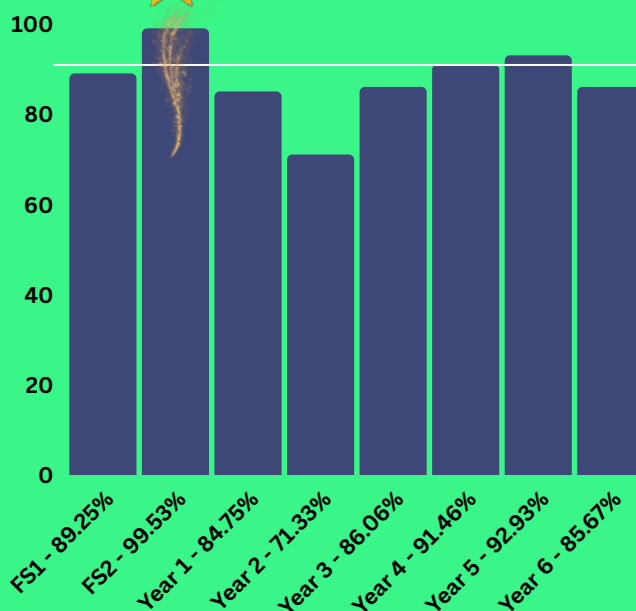
WELL DONE FS2



Our whole school attendance for the week 87.19%

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

FS2 are class winners this week with 99.53%  
**WELL DONE!**







## A great time at the Ice Sheffield ice curling event

A group of KS2 children represented St Mary's in an ice-curling event at Ice Sheffield. They had a great time sliding the stones and sweeping the ice.

## Wonderful News to Share!



We're delighted to share some lovely news... **Congratulations to Mrs Aspin in FS2**, who has found out that she is expecting her second child next year!

We're all so happy for her and wish her and her family the very best as they prepare for this exciting new chapter.

As soon as we know what the teaching arrangements will be in FS2 during Mrs Aspin's maternity leave, we'll be sure to let you know.



Year 1

# Exploring the wonderful world of maps

We have had a fantastic week in Year 1 exploring the wonderful world of maps!

The children have been busy learning how to use keys on a map and have impressed us with how confidently they can talk about what is to the left of them and what is to the right.

To put their new skills into practice, the class worked together to create their very own map of our classroom. They carefully chose and designed landmarks—such as the carpet and their tables—and added them to the map using simple symbols in a key.

The teamwork, creativity, and geographical thinking they showed were brilliant! We are so proud of how engaged and enthusiastic Year 1 have been throughout this learning. Well done, everyone!



**WELL  
DONE**

Well done to the Y5 basketball team who finished 4<sup>th</sup> in their heat.

Amazing skills and teamwork!





Foundation

# Experimenting with colour

This half term, the topic in Foundation Stage is 'Dark Nights and Sparkly Lights'.

As part of this topic, the children have been taking part in scientific experiments around colour.

They observed what happened to the colours from the skittles when water was added.

The children have also enjoyed exploring our investigation area, where they have been adding coloured counters to our light box.







Year 3

# A lovely Fab Finish learning about bones

Year 3 had a lovely Fab Finish this week. We used different shapes and sizes of pasta to represent the different bones we have in our body.

The children were then able to name the bones the pasta represented and why they had chosen that shape.

Thank you to all the parents that came!







Year 4



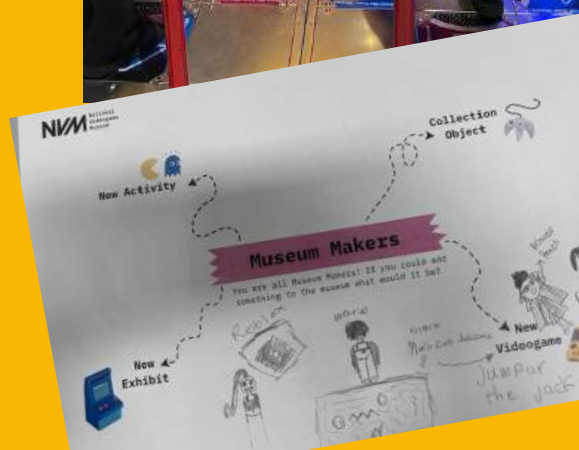
# Year 4 'Takes Over' at the National Videogame Museum!

Year 4 had an amazing experience last week as they participated in the Kids in Museums Takeover Day at the National Videogame Museum in Sheffield city centre.

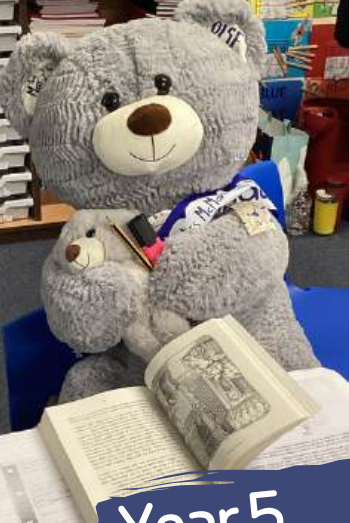
During the Museum Makers workshop, our students learned all about the museum and the fantastic people who work there. They even got to become mini curators for the day, suggesting exciting new exhibits to add to the collection.

The session was not only educational but also a lot of fun! The museum documented our class's takeover on their social media, showcasing how engaged and creative our students were. Many museums across the country were involved in this initiative.

After the workshop, the class had the chance to explore the museum and play with a variety of vintage video games from the collection. It was a fantastic day of learning and fun!







Year 5



# Attendabear Update!

This week, Attendabear has been having an exciting and educational time in Year 5!

Our beloved classroom companion joined the students in woodwork, where precision was key. They practised measuring wood accurately in millimetres, using a vice to secure their pieces before carefully sawing them. After cutting, the students double-checked their measurements to ensure everything was just right.

In addition to woodworking, Attendabear cosied up in the reading corner with Caleb and Alya, where they read "**Best Friends**" by Jacqueline Wilson. The trio enjoyed their time together, as Attendabear understands the importance of friendship.

During guided reading, the class explored "**Faerie Tales**" by Carol Ann Duffy, which sparked some great conversations. Attendabear was surprised to learn that "Hansel and Gretel" actually means "John and Margaret"! This fun fact led to plenty of giggles and curious questions among the students.

As always, Attendabear is eager for more adventures and learning opportunities in the coming weeks! Stay tuned for more updates on Attendabear's journey at St. Mary's





Year 3

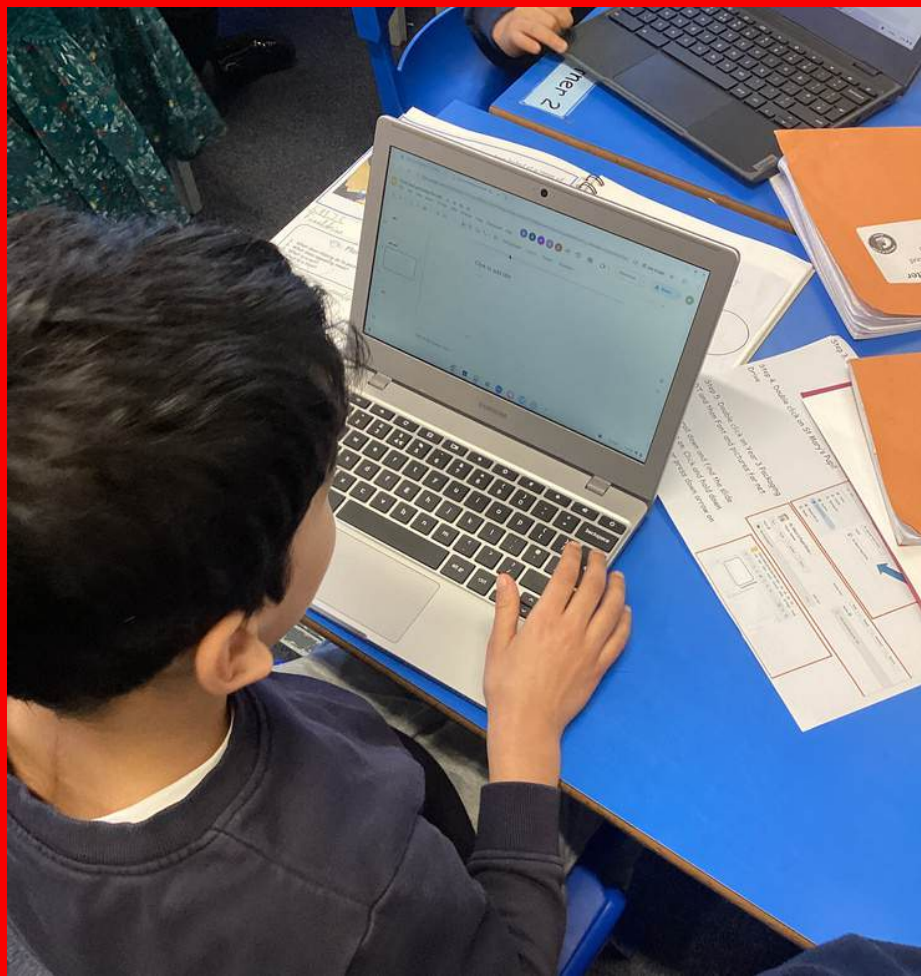
The image shows a close-up of a child's hands typing on a silver laptop keyboard. To the right of the laptop is an open spiral notebook. The left page of the notebook has handwritten notes in blue ink: 'makes it stronger', 'looks nice', 'Net is a 2d', 'et mch mate', '3d', 'The style of', 'tring being', and 'ed'. There is also a small sticker that says 'Holidays! lobster font'. The right page of the notebook features a drawing of a yellow hexagonal box with a blue lid, labeled 'Merry Christmas'. Below the drawing is a small 3D box and the handwritten note 'I have used yellow because it is my mums favorite colour'.

# We've been graphic designers this week!

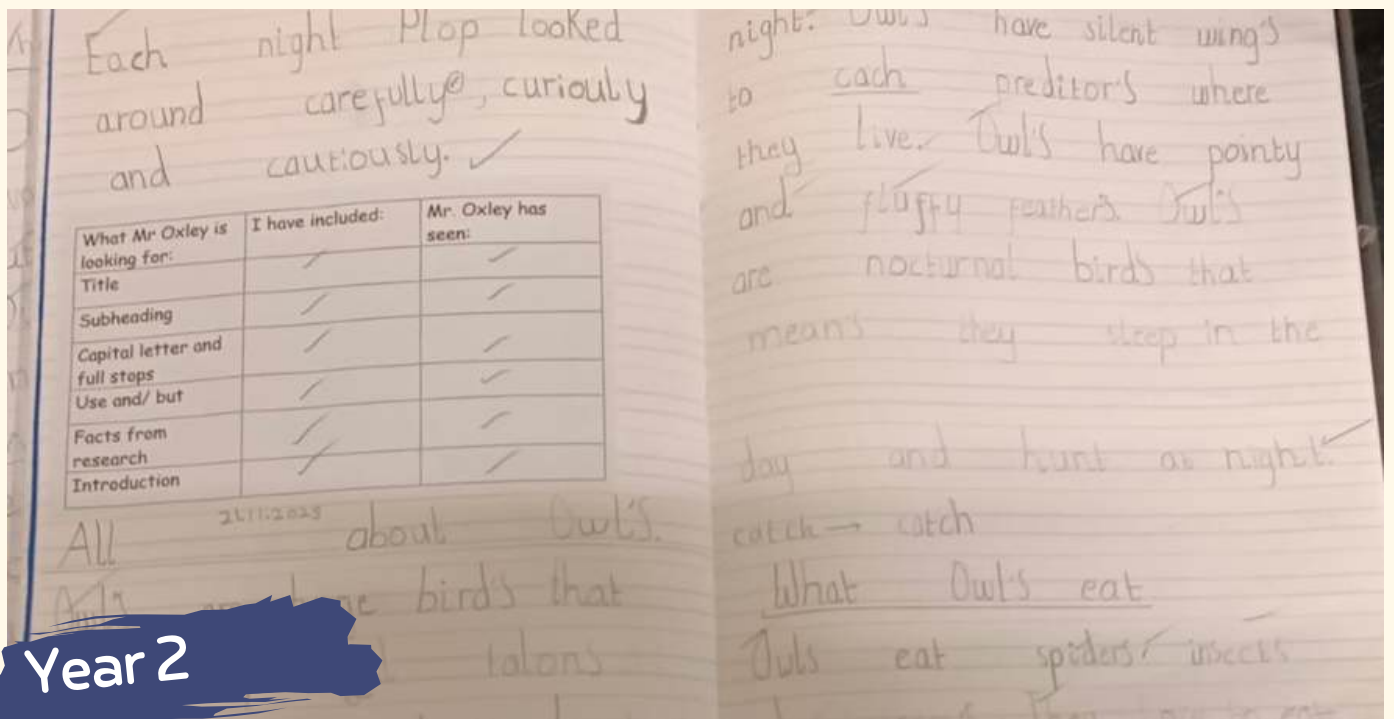
Year 3 have been graphic designers in DT this week!

After analysing a range of packaging and designing our own, we have started to use the chromebooks to choose which font and pictures we would like to include on our own chocolate packaging.

I am so proud of the resilience of all the children as they tried lots of new skills on the chromebooks and worked well together to succeed.







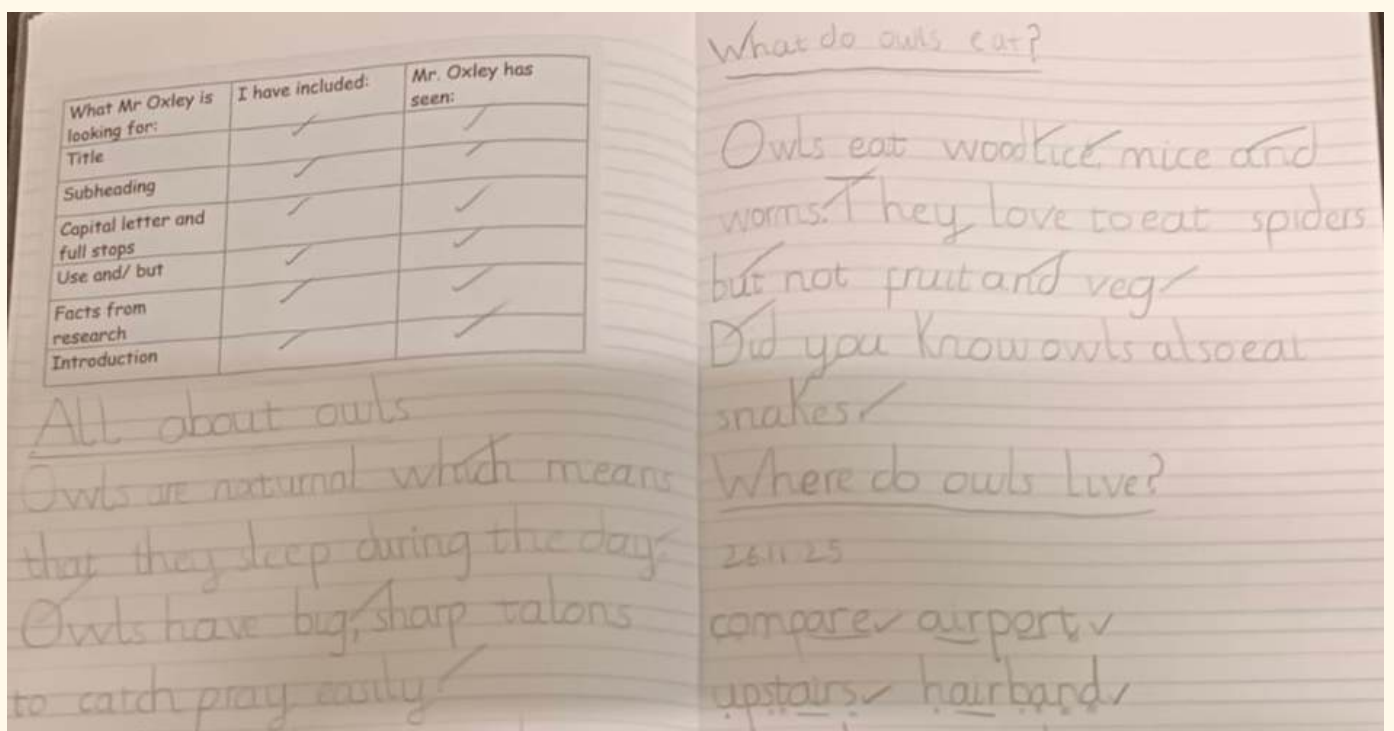
Year 2

## Presenting owl facts in an interesting and easy-to-read way

Year 2 have been working hard writing non-chronological reports all about owls! The children researched fascinating facts about where owls live and what they eat, using books, websites, and other resources to gather their information.

They practised using specific vocabulary related to owls, such as “nocturnal,” “prey,” and “nesting,” and organised their writing with clear titles and subheadings.

Everyone focused on presenting their facts in an interesting and easy-to-read way. It has been wonderful to see their curiosity and independence grow as they explored these amazing birds and shared their knowledge through their writing.





# Weekend Green Spaces for St Mary's Families



## Ruskin Park

Ruskin Park - A charming local park with play areas and green open spaces, ideal for walks, games, and spending time outdoors.  
Journey time from St Mary's Academy (Cundy Street): Around 2 minutes on foot.



## Walkley Millennium Green

Walkley Millennium Green - A quiet, leafy green space with paths and open areas, ideal for gentle walks, picnics, and enjoying nature close to Walkley.

Journey time from St Mary's: Around 5-10 minutes on foot, or 3-5 minutes by car.



## Rivelin Valley Park

Rivelin Valley Park - A beautiful woodland valley with streams, stepping stones and great walking paths. Perfect for exploring nature and spotting wildlife.

Journey time from St Mary's: Around 25-30 minutes by walking, or 8-10 minutes by car



## Ponderosa Park

Ponderosa Park - A large, open green space with football pitches, play areas, and wide paths. Great for walks, picnics, and outdoor games.

Journey time from St Mary's: Around 15-18 minutes on foot, or 5-7 minutes by car.

## Bolehill Recreation Ground



Bole Hills - A large, open green space with a playground and panoramic views of Sheffield. Perfect for running, flying kites, or enjoying a sunny day outdoors.

Journey time from St Mary's: Around 12-15 minutes on foot, or 4-6 minutes by car.



## Crookes Valley Park

Crookes Valley Park - A scenic park known for its tranquil pond and wildlife. Great for a quiet stroll, feeding the ducks, or spotting birds.

Journey time from St Mary's: Around 20-25 minutes on foot, or 5-8 minutes by car.



## Weston Park

Weston Park - A historic park next to the free Weston Park Museum, with a pond, statues, and tree-lined paths. Perfect for gentle walks, picnics, and exploring the museum.

Journey time from St Mary's: Around 25-30 minutes on foot, or 8-10 minutes by car.

Explore, play, and enjoy the green heart of Walkley!