

RISE



THE
DIOCESE OF
SHEFFIELD
ACADEMIES
TRUST

The St Mary's CE Academy School Newsletter

30th January 2026

“ Rise up, take courage and do it ”

Ezra 10:4



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been full of meaningful moments and joyful learning across St Mary's. Our Holocaust Memorial Assembly was a powerful time of reflection, where children listened with empathy and thought carefully about kindness, respect and standing up for one another.

In classrooms, there's been a wonderful buzz of imagination and curiosity. In Foundation Stage, children have been bringing stories to life through play and seasonal learning, while in Year 2 pupils have explored shared values across different faiths, making thoughtful links to kindness, gratitude and responsibility in their own lives.

It's been lovely to see such strong attendance too - a real sign of how much children enjoy being part of our school community. As we look ahead to Children's Mental Health Week, with its focus on belonging and happiness, we're reminded of how special it is when everyone feels valued and connected.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Together, we're helping our children to grow with confidence and compassion.

Mrs Burgess x



Dates for your Diary

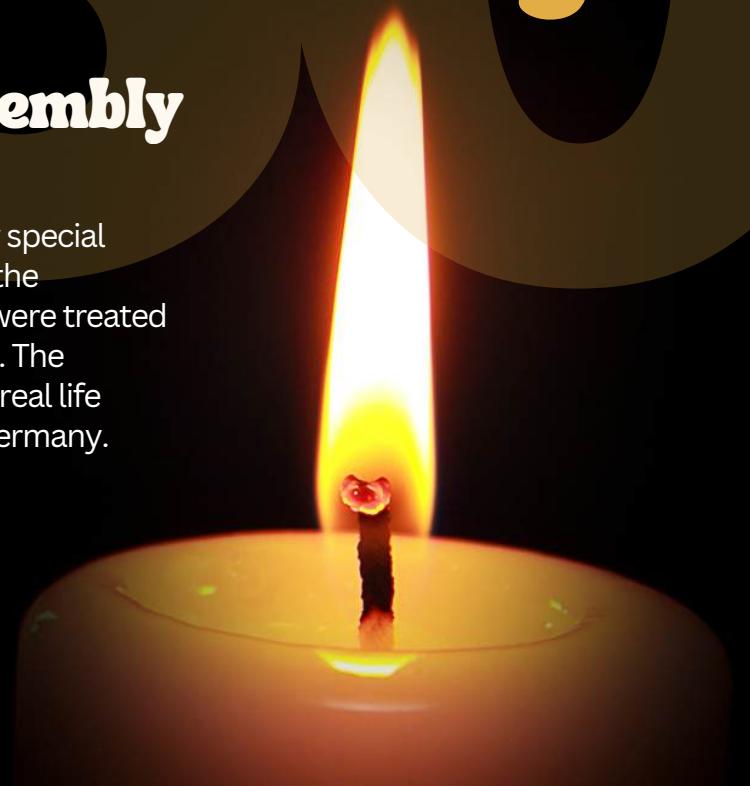
- Tues 10th Feb - Young Voice choir event at the Arena
- Thursday 12th Feb, 9.00 a.m. - Young Voice choir to showcase their songs in the hall - £1 tickets - as part of our mental health week
- Thursday 12th Feb - Mental Health Day - wear something that makes you happy - yellow, football shirt, jeans etc.
- 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.

Remembering. Respecting. Reflecting.

Holocaust Memorial Assembly

All the children gathered in the school hall for a very special memorial assembly to mark the 80th anniversary of the Holocaust. We heard about people in the past who were treated badly because of their religion or colour of their skin. The children heard about Jewish people and listened to real life stories about what it was like to be a young Jew in Germany.

Throughout the assembly, children heard about discrimination and how some people, even today, treat people badly because of their race, religion or because they are different. The children heard a poem about racism which was written by Rose Young when she was eight years old for a Holocaust Memorial Day poetry competition.



*If hate was an animal,
It would be a green-eyed python*

*If hate was a place,
It would be the bottom of the ocean*

*If hate was an illness,
It would be the black plague*

*If love was a season,
It would be a warm summer,*

*If love was a food,
It would be a birthday cake with six candles*

Love is like a big fat juicy yellow mango.

Rose Young - 8 years old



Foundation



Exploring Stories and Seasons

This week in Reception, the children have continued to enjoy learning all about our story 'One Snowy Night'. They have taken on the role of some of the characters to retell the story in Percy's hut and some children have used the ice blocks to make Percy's home.

In Nursery, the children have been learning about what type of clothes we wear in hot and cold weather. They worked really well in pairs to sort the items. Well done!

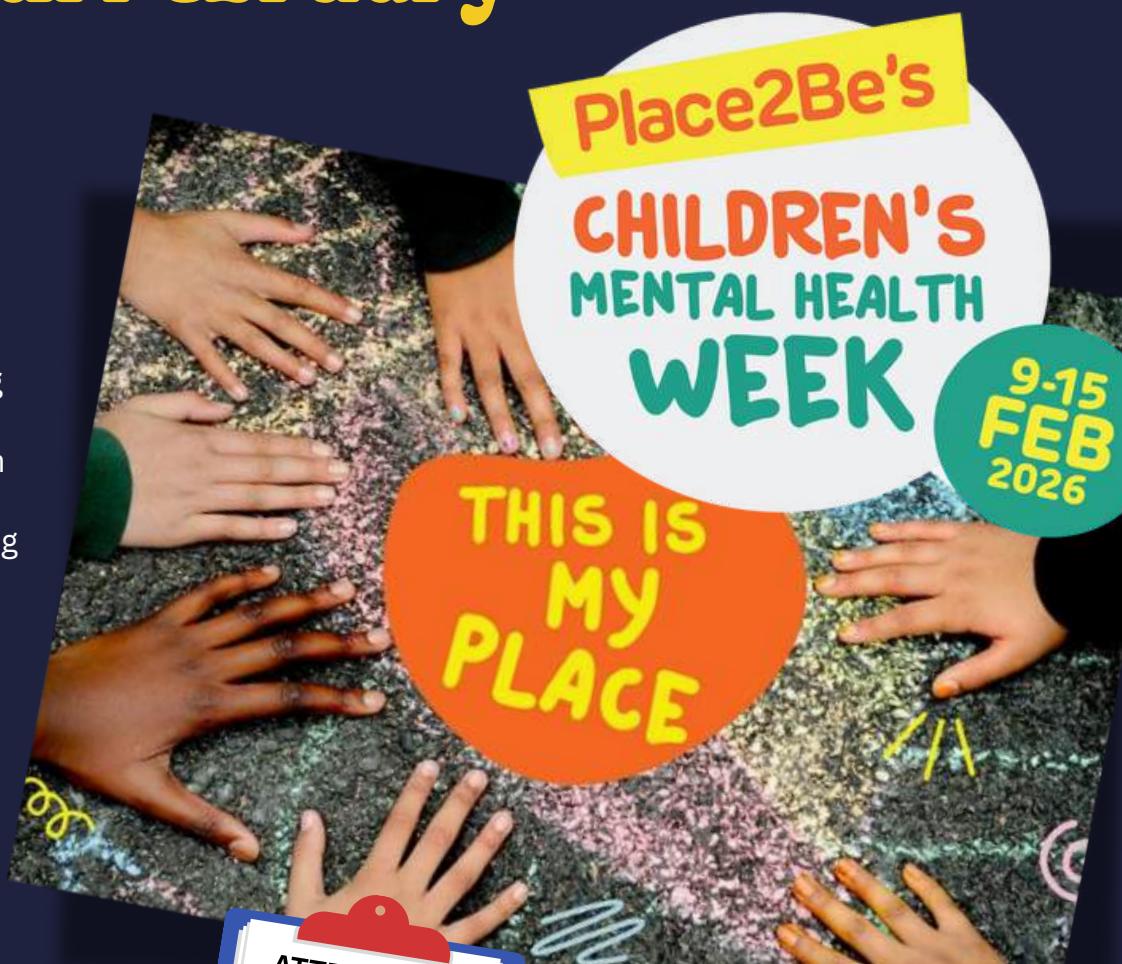


Children's Mental Health Week

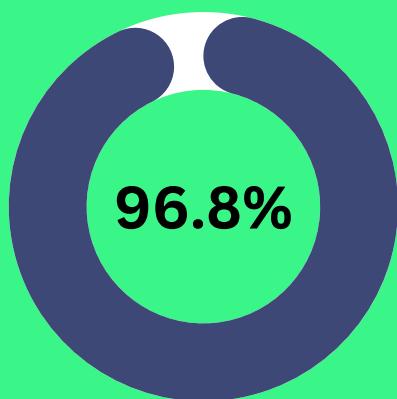
9th to 15th February

We will be taking part in Children's Mental Health week and this year's theme is belonging and the happiness that this feeling can bring.

All week we will be talking about our mental health and on Thursday the 12th February all children will be able to wear something that makes them happy.



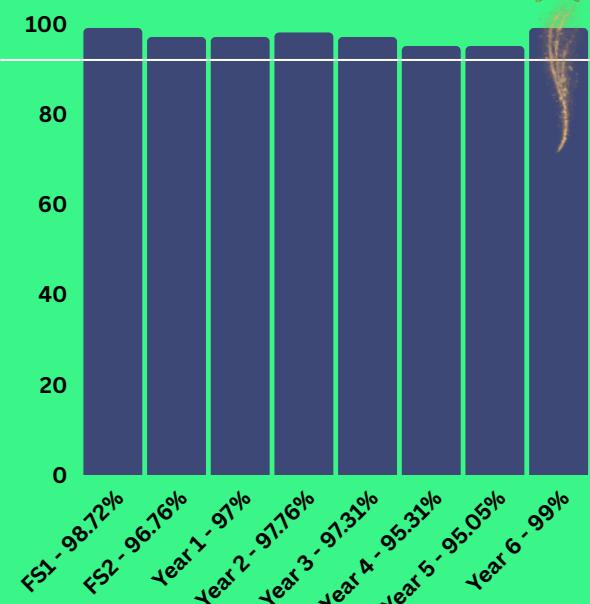
ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Our whole school attendance for the week 96.86%

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

WELL DONE Y6



Y6 are class winners this week with 99%
WELL DONE!

Year 2

Exploring the Five Pillars and Common Values

Year 2 have been exploring the Five Pillars of Islam and thinking about how these important values appear across many different religions.

The children showed impressive curiosity as they discussed ideas such as kindness, helping others, gratitude, and taking time to reflect.

They also made thoughtful connections to their own daily lives, sharing examples of how they show respect, care, and responsibility at home and in school.

This learning has helped them understand that people of different faiths often share similar values, and they approached the topic with maturity and enthusiasm.

A fantastic effort from everyone in Year 2!

