

RISE



THE
DIOCESE OF
SHEFFIELD
ACADEMIES
TRUST

The St Mary's CE Academy School Newsletter

6th February 2026

“ Rise up, take courage and do it ”

Ezra 10:4

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today we say a very special goodbye to Mrs Cheryl Bridson, who retires after 25 wonderful years as a midday supervisor at St Mary's. She has cared for generations of children, and we thank her for the kindness and dedication she has shown to our school community. We wish her a very happy retirement and send her lots of love for the future.



It's been another busy and inspiring week across school, with children enjoying a wide range of experiences. Year 6 loved working with storyteller Alim Kamara to create their own raps, while our youngest pupils brought stories to life during National Storytelling Week. Across school, children have been exploring science, computing and the natural world, and we were proud to see pupils representing St Mary's at a recent bowling festival. It was also lovely to welcome families for the Big Schools' Birdwatch, celebrating the wildlife right on our doorstep.

As we look ahead to Safer Internet Day and Children's Mental Health Week, we continue helping children make safe, positive choices and feel a strong sense of belonging in our school community.

Finally, thank you to everyone who parks considerately around school. Please continue to avoid double yellow lines so we can keep all of our children safe, especially those crossing roads independently.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

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.

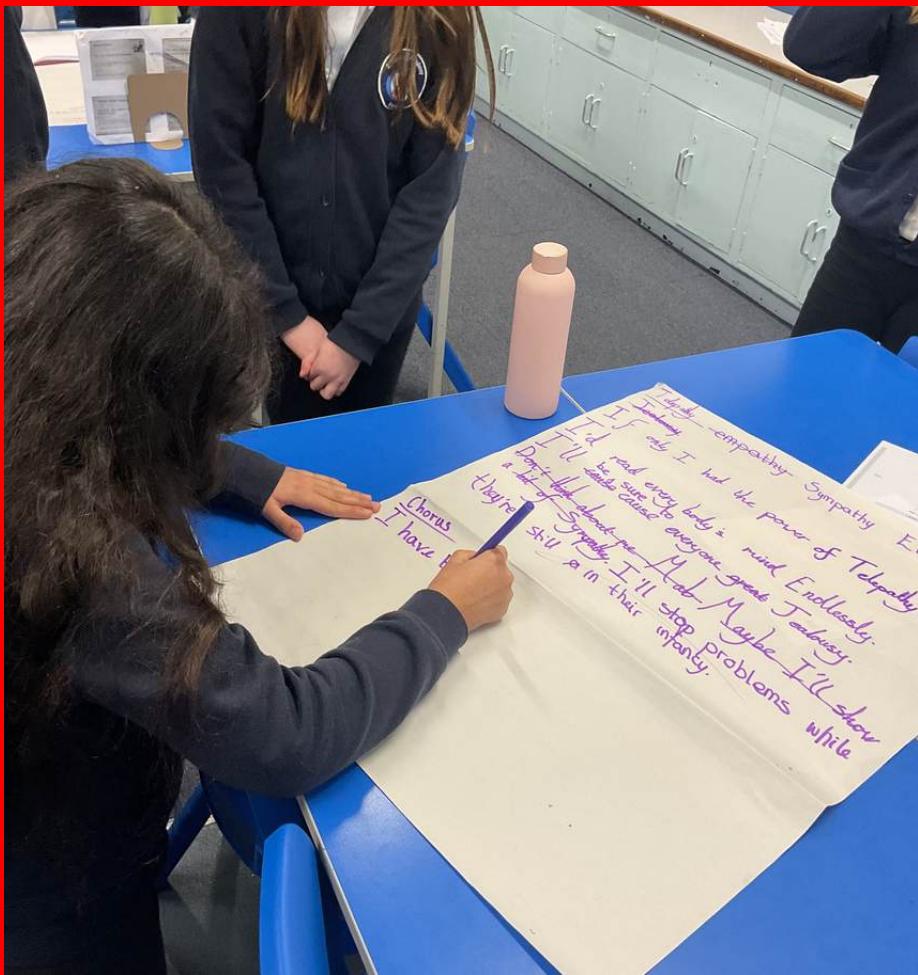


Year 6

Rapping and Storytelling with Alim Kamara

Y6 had a fantastic afternoon taking part in the storytelling workshop with Alim Kamara.

He was so inspirational and led to some amazing raps being produced by the children which will be entered into a competition.



Combining RE Learning with Speaking Skills

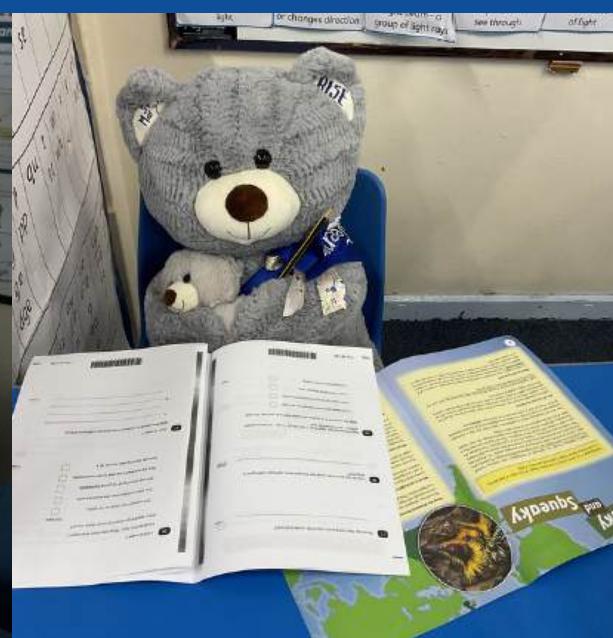
Year 5 have been learning all about the prophecies in the Bible that foretold the birth of a saviour. They explored passages from Isaiah and Micah, carefully examining what these texts reveal about what people were expecting the coming Messiah to be like.

Using their understanding, the children then created imaginative “job adverts” for the role of the Messiah, clearly outlining the essential qualities and criteria the successful candidate would need to meet. They performed their adverts to one another, demonstrating confidence, clarity and growing expression.

Mrs Mellow has been really pleased with how much their speaking voices have developed.



Attenda Bear Joins Year 6 for a Busy Week



Attenda bear had a great time in Y6 this week although it was assessment week so he had to join in with our tests!

He enjoyed taking part in our science investigation.



Storytelling Comes to Life in Foundation Stage

The children in Foundation Stage have had lots of fun during National Storytelling week.

The children in Reception were very enthusiastic when taking part in a poem about earthworms by Simon Mole.

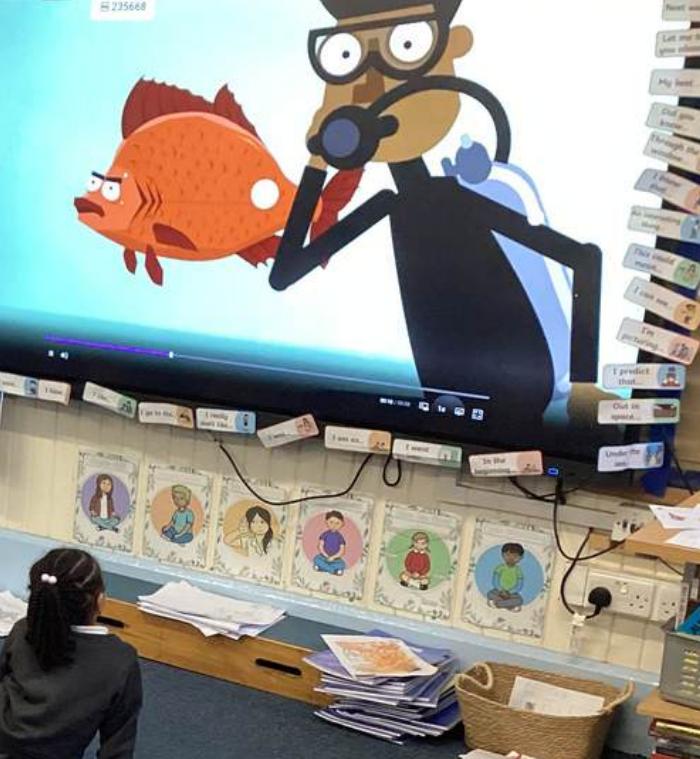
This inspired some children to make their own minibeast stick puppets and a puppet theatre to retell their own story.

They have also told stories through singing in Maths. 'Five little men in a flying saucer' has been a favourite and the children have used the stick puppets to sing the song themselves.

The children in Nursery have enjoyed using the arctic animals to retell their own stories.



Year 1



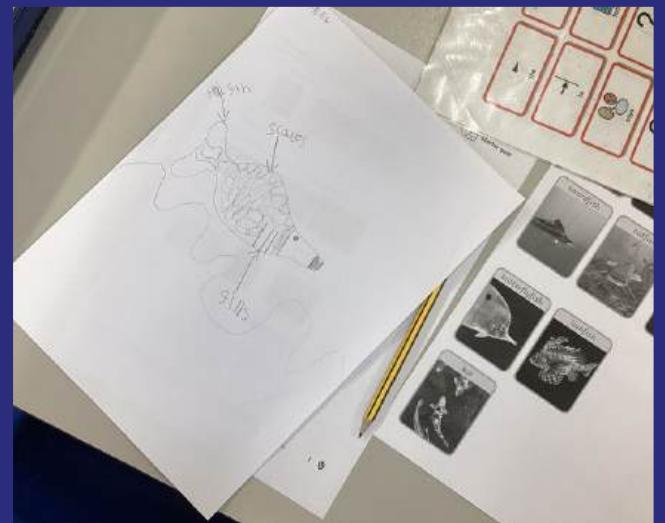
Discovering Fish and Amphibians

Year 1 have had a fantastic week learning about amphibians and fish.

The children explored the different parts of a fish, studying their functions and practising how to label them correctly.

They then built on this knowledge by comparing fish with amphibians through an interactive and engaging game.

Pupils showed great enthusiasm and curiosity, confidently identifying similarities and differences between the two groups and demonstrating excellent learning throughout the week.



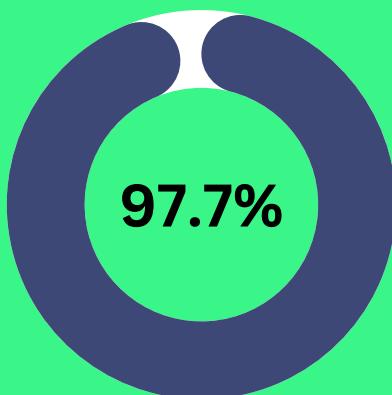
A strike and plenty of spares!

A group of KS2 children had a great time representing St Mary's at a bowling festival.

We had one strike and lots of spares!



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

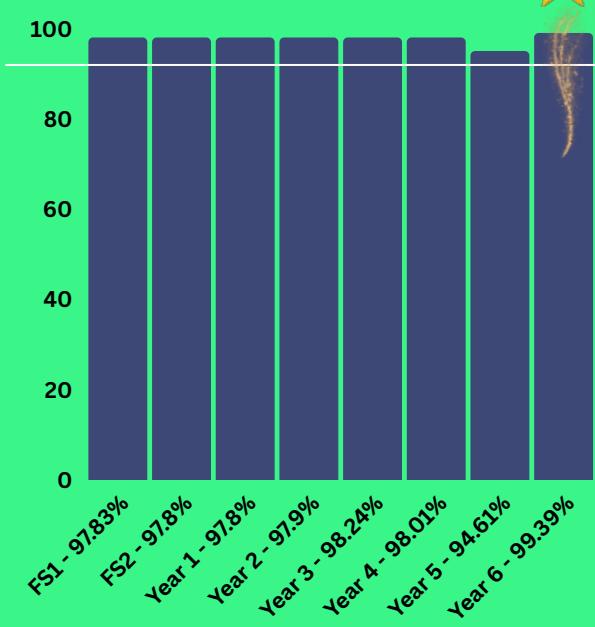


Our whole school attendance for the week 97.73%

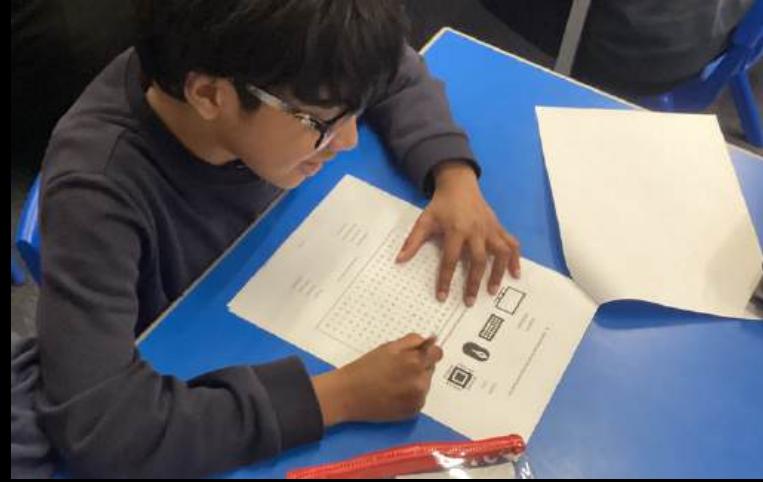
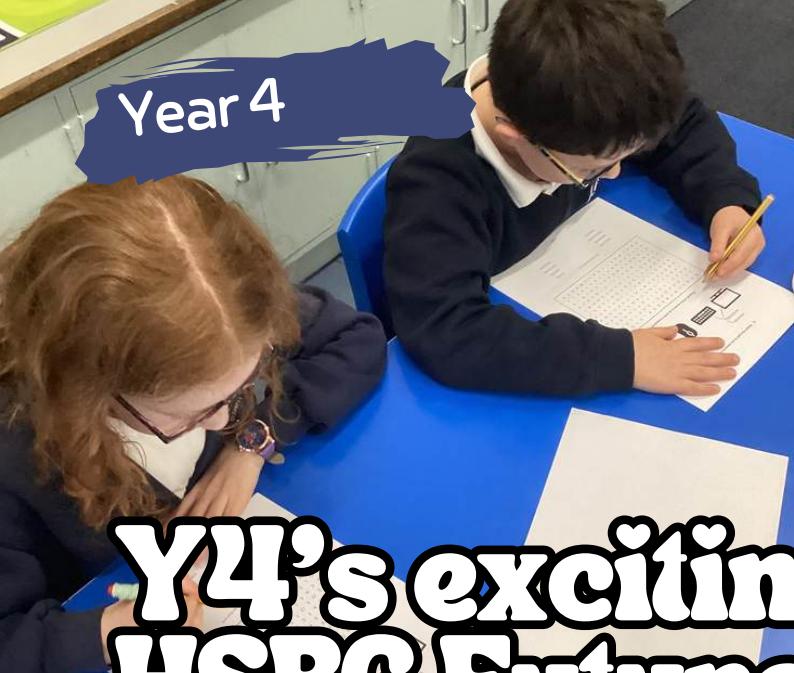
All classes that achieved 97% and above will get an extra 10 minute break.

Y6 are class winners this week with 99.39%
WELL DONE!

WELL DONE Y6



Year 4



Y4's exciting visit from HSBC Future Coders

This week, Year 4 had an amazing visit from the HSBC Future Coders team!

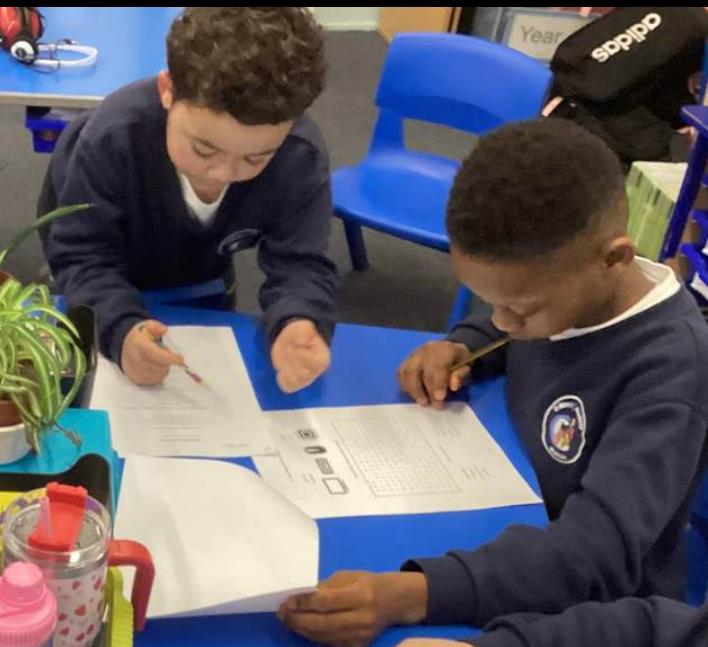
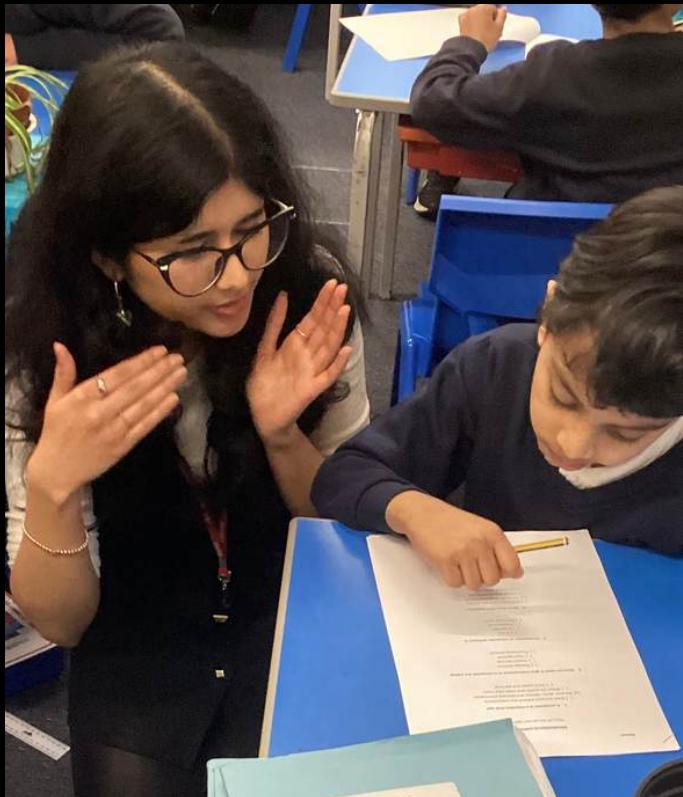
The children were introduced to the fascinating world of computing through a fun lesson on systems, networks, and computing basics.

They shared their existing knowledge and experiences, which sparked lively discussions.

The highlight of the day was the unplugged activities, where students engaged in hands-on learning without screens.

It was a fantastic opportunity for our young learners to explore the fundamentals of technology in an interactive way.

This was the first lesson of four and we can't wait to see what they learn in their next lessons!



big schools bird watch



Celebrating Nature on Our Doorstep

Many thanks to the families who joined us for the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch (despite the bleak conditions!).

We saw 14 different types of birds: blackbird, chaffinch, dunnock, robin, great tit, goldfinch, bluetit, wren, crow, pigeon, blackcap, long-tailed tit, song thrush and lots of magpies!

We are lucky to have so much biodiversity on our doorstep



Safer Internet Day 2026 | Tuesday 10 February

**AI AWARE:
Safe, Smart
and in Control**



Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 10th February 2026

Next Tuesday, we will be taking part in Safer Internet Day 2026, a national event that helps children learn how to stay safe online. This year's theme is...

“Smart tech, safe choices - exploring the safe and responsible use of AI.”

All children will take part in a special assembly, followed by classroom activities throughout the morning to help them understand how to use technology safely and responsibly. Lessons will focus on making sensible choices online, understanding new technologies such as artificial intelligence, and knowing how to stay safe in a digital world.

We look forward to sharing some of the children's work and activities with you after the event.