

December 2023



English Martyrs'  
Catholic Primary School  
Loving Jesus, Loving Learning, Loving Life

Part of the Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust



# Autumn Term 1b Newsletter



# A Message from Miss Elliott

We have had another busy fun filled Christmas term and both children and staff are ready for their well-earned Christmas holiday!

As we approach the end of another incredible year at school, I wanted to take a moment to extend my warmest Christmas greetings to our school community.

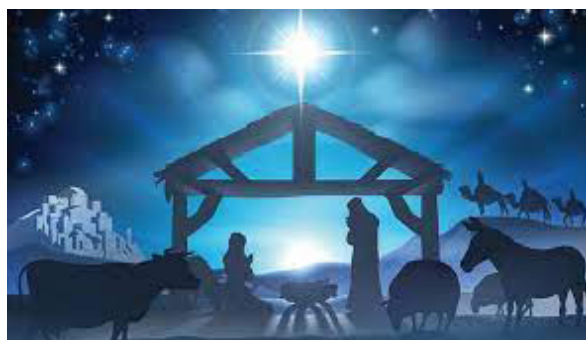
It has been a year filled with growth, learning, and unforgettable memories, and I am grateful to each and every one of you for being a part of it.

Thank you for all your support this term especially with your attendance at our Masses, class liturgies and Christmas events. Although Advent was rather short this term, our Year 6 have led us in beautiful weekly reflections based on the advent wreath.

As we gather with loved ones during this festive season, let us remember the true spirit of Christmas – love, kindness, and gratitude. May your holidays be filled with warmth, laughter, and cherished moments with family and friends.

On behalf of the entire staff, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the coming year be filled with continued growth, new adventures, and countless opportunities for success.

*Miss Elliott*



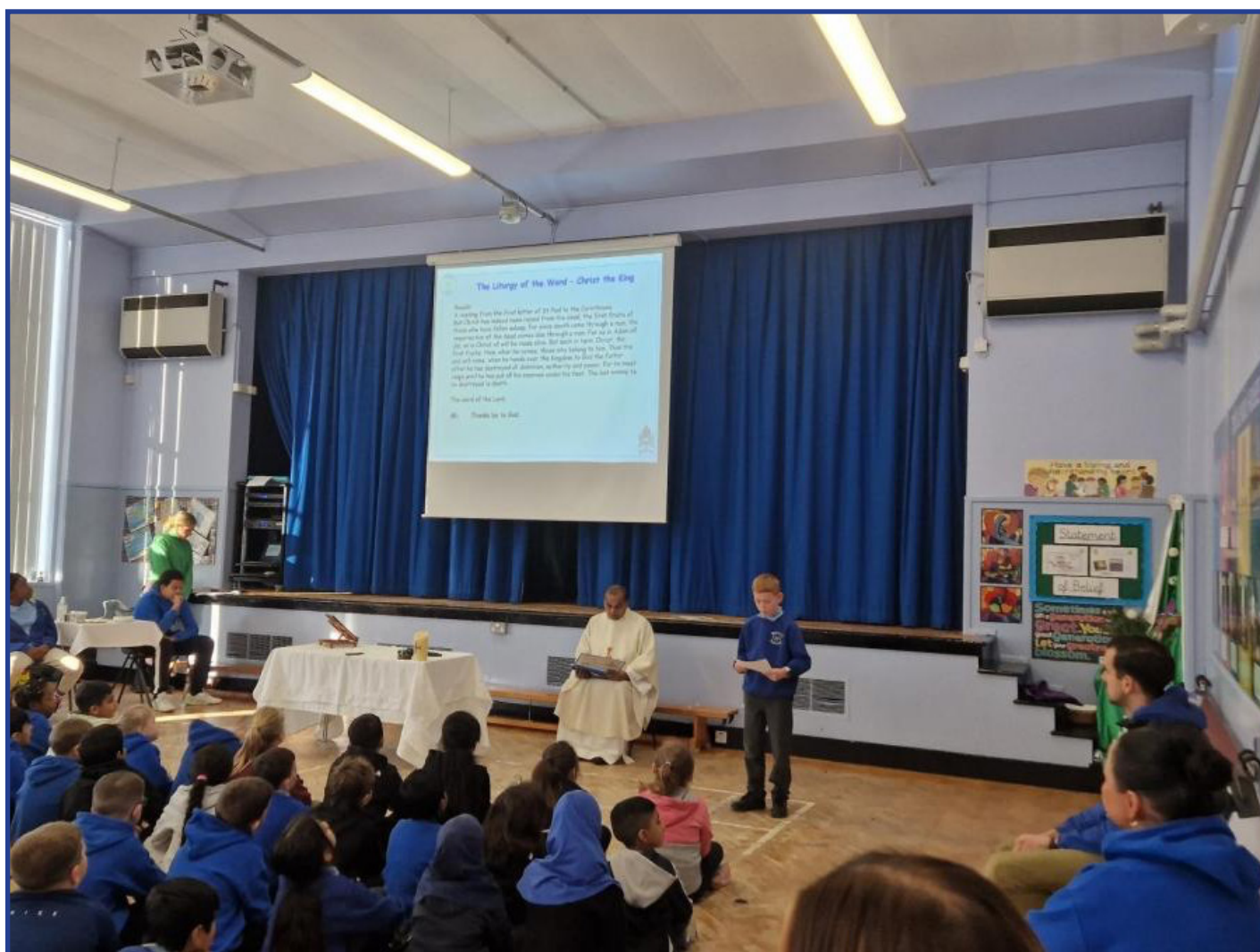


# End of Term Christmas Mass



Children in Years 1 - 6 were joined by parents and parishioners in church for our End of Term Christmas Mass.

# Advent Mass in School



We were joined by Fr John who celebrated Holy Mass with us, in the school hall.

Y3 and Y5 helped us to celebrate the mass, leading the readings and singing hymns. We marked the start of Advent and thought about how we can prepare for the arrival of Christ, at Christmas.

We celebrate Mass, in school on the first Friday of each month. All of our English Martyrs' parish and school community are most welcome to join us. There are refreshments served by our pupils available after Mass.



# Fr David Visit

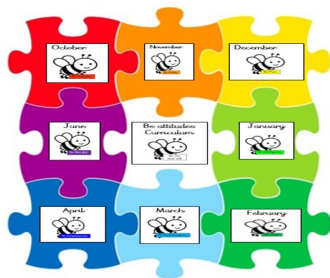
Fr David came into school to talk to all of the children about his key work in Muhoroni, Kenya, and the Asante Sana Woman's basket weaving project he is fundraising for. Below are the beautiful baskets that the ladies in Muhoroni make. We now have them with our liturgical areas in our classroom.



# House Groups

Once a month the children are meeting in their house groups to focus on the Be-attitudes in school. This has been such a lovely experience and children from Y1 – Y6.

Living the Beatitudes



The Beatitudes are a roadmap for our life: they invite us to keep our hearts pure, to practice meekness and justice, to be merciful to all, to live affliction in union with God.

..... nurturing positive attitudes so our pupils can BE the best version of themselves.

# World Faith

This term the children have learnt about a range of world religions. They have covered Judaism and Islam and have also celebrated a special week to celebrate all World Faiths. The children have celebrated Diwali and Hanukkah in special assemblies. Where possible we have had visitors to come into school to talk about their religion to explain a key message to our children - it is important to all live together in one big community.





# Y6 - Play in a Day

Year 6 produced a 'Play in a Day' based on Macbeth. The children all worked really hard throughout the day and were able to share a short performance which was was dramatic, fun and contained every key plot point.

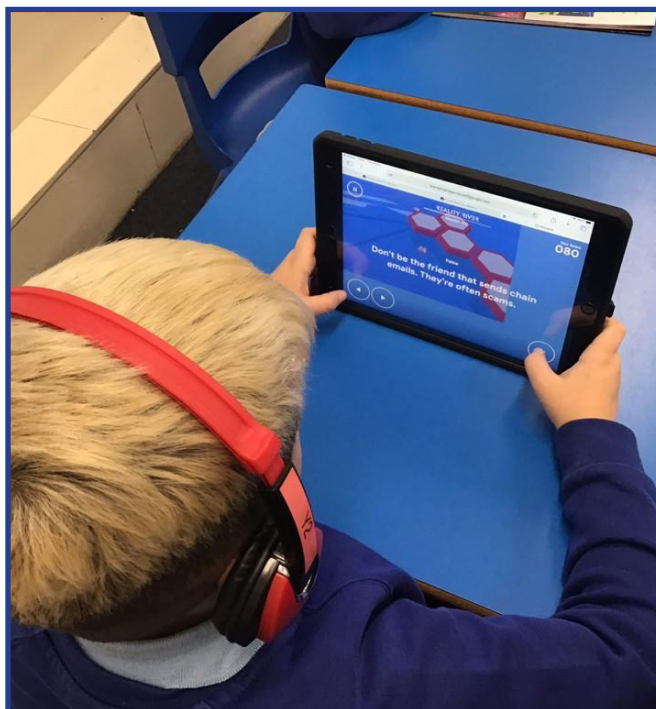
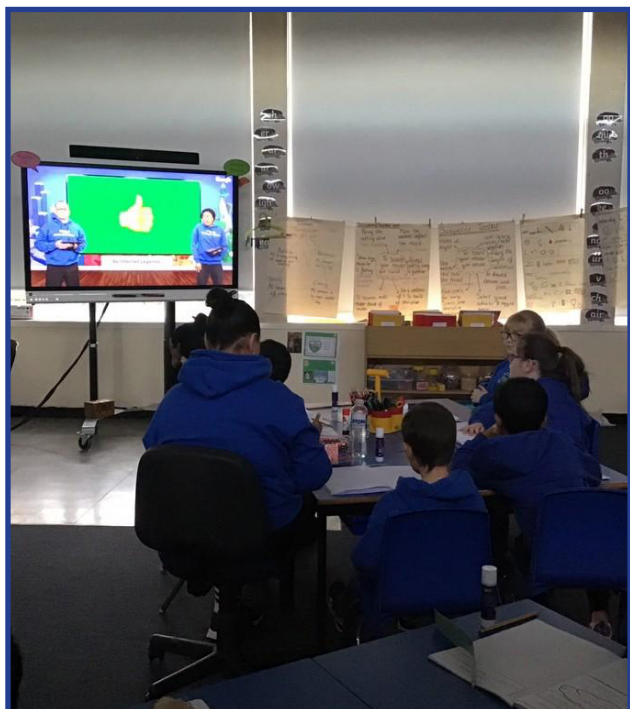


**"Double, double, toil and trouble, Fire burn and cauldron bubble..."**

A potted production of Shakespeare's tale of murder and the supernatural. Scotland is facing a rebellion which the King's greatest General, Macbeth, crushes. After the battle he meets three witches who predict his rise to the throne... but following their predictions leads to his own downfall.



# Internet Legends - Online Safety



**Pupils across school took part in a National online assembly to raise awareness of online safety.**

**Pupils took part in a very interactive assembly and were guided through different scenarios to highlight some of the dangers that might occur by being online but also how these can be avoided by keeping safe.**

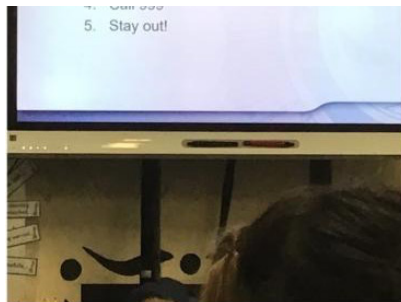
**Part of the assembly involved listening to situations where unkind messages were sent online. We were told different ways on how we could deal with this.**

**As a follow-up activity, Y3 enjoyed sending words of kindness to friends during 'Kind Time' and talked about the positive impact of messages of kindness.**

**In Y2, pupils played an online game, Google Interlands to apply what they had learned.**



# Y4 Tyne and Wear Fire Service Visit



Year 4 had a visit from Amanda from the Tyne and Wear Fire service. She told us how quickly a fire can start in our homes.

We watched a video it was scary to see how quickly fire and smoke spreads! Luckily, TWFS have the fastest response time to an emergency- approximately 5 minutes!

We have all been asked to test our fire alarm weekly to check that it works.

Amanda reminded us about the dangers of charging phones, tablets and games consoles overnight, as they can overheat and cause a fire.

# School Council

At English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School, our school council is a group of children that represents the views of all our pupils. It gives our children the opportunity to have their voices heard and be part of the whole school community. They help to make decisions about school life and organise projects that support learning and development.

A new school council is elected each year and is made up of 2 representatives from each year group, from Year 1 to Year 6. All school council representatives are elected by their peers at the beginning of each academic year. The children who would like to be considered for school council write a manifesto, the children then vote in a secret ballot to elect the school councillor.

## School council aims:

- To meet regularly to discuss their views and be heard.
  - To organise whole school and class events
- To make sure our school is a happy and safe place for all of our children
- To make sure children have a place to voice their concerns, opinions, and thoughts
  - To encourage all children in school to suggest ideas and improvements
  - To ensure any suggestions or concerns are listened to and acted upon





# Knife Crime Workshop

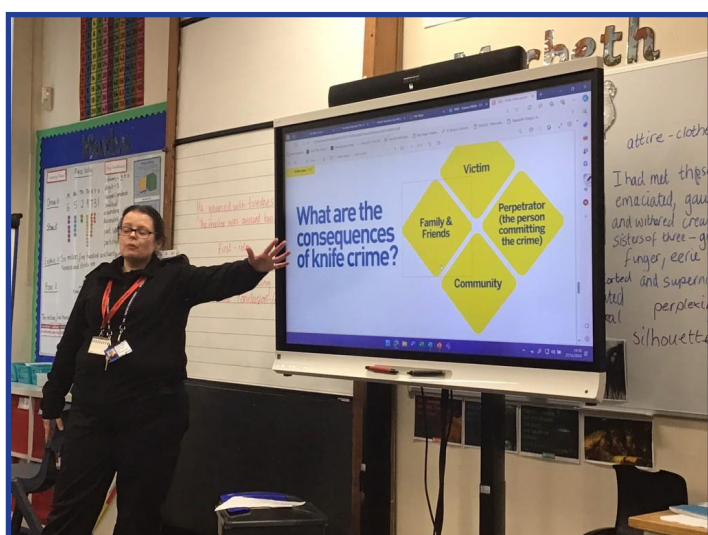
Year 5 and 6 took part in a knife crime workshop, in partnership with Northumbria Police.

Representatives from Northumbria police came to visit our upper KS2 classes to talk about the perils of knife crime and consider the consequences of this.

The pupils took part in the interactive workshops, which covered:

- risks of carrying a knife or a bladed article
  - misconceptions about knives
  - why people might carry a knife
- helping students to have some understanding of the consequences of carrying a knife
  - sources of support for young people

The workshops were really informative and helped our pupils gather a better understanding of some of the issues the police and young people in our community are facing.



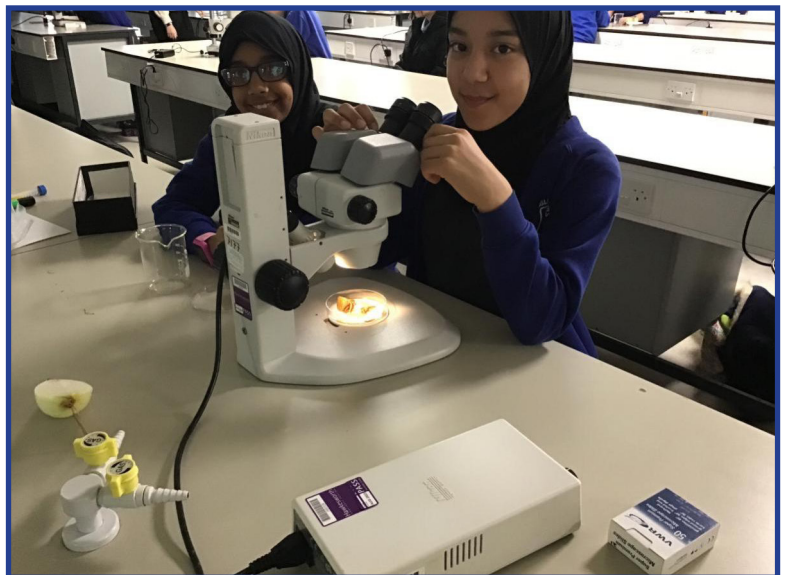
# Y6 Durham University Experience Day

As part of our school's curriculum enhancement, our Y6 children have visited Durham university. The purpose of the trip was to get an understanding of university life.

The children had a lecture on 'Crime and Punishment' and this supports our History topic.

We also had the opportunity to have a science lesson in the Bioscience laboratories. This followed on from our heart dissection lesson yesterday where we looked at the anatomy of the heart. Year 6 had the opportunity to look at a variety of cells in tissues and meal worms under a microscope and the effect of lasers on the tissue.

At lunchtime we had lunch in the Great Hall of Durham Castle - we felt like we were in Harry Potter!



# Britain Get Talking

The Britain get talking campaign has led to over 100 million new or meaningful conversations since its launch. However, it has been reported that mental health has declined for almost 40% of British school children. This is a worrying statistic.

As part of our work, linking to World Mental Health day, Mrs Dowling led us in a very informative assembly to talk about the Britain Get Talking campaign and how we can help each other by offering to be there for each other, and not be afraid to speak up when things are not going well.

This year, the campaign continues to focus on young people, as simply asking a child what's on their mind can be key to them opening up and easing their worries.

We were also joined virtually by Ant and Dec who explained more about the importance of looking after our mental health and talking to others about our feelings. They set us a special homework task to get us all talking - even the adults!

“Talking isn't the whole solution, but it can help us feel more able to cope and encourage us to seek support if we need to. And we know that the earlier a person can get support for their mental health, the more effective it's likely to be.”

Dr Sarah Hughes, CEO of Mind





# Key Stage 1 Nativity





# Christmas Jumper Day



# Christmas Lunch



Thanks again to Carole and her fantastic kitchen team for making such an effort for our children, at English Martyrs'

They enjoyed a beautiful Christmas lunch during the last week of term.



# Chocolate Cheer



Thank you to all who helped to spread a little Christmas Cheer, by collecting chocolate items which have been given to our local foodbank and Joe's Place to show our love and care for others.

# Carols in Church





# Christmas Parties





# Reception Nativity





# Nursery Concert





# Fun in the Snow



# Movie Night



Thank you to all those children who attended the movie nights in school.  
In total £550 was raised for charity!



# Choir

Well done to our fabulous Christmas Choir. They sang at Fenham library as well as the Grainger Market and brought Christmas cheer to those who passed by.





# Y5 - Carols at Cathedral





# Stemazing - Girl Powered Event at Nissan

Our Year 6 Girls were invited to attend a special event at the Nissan Skills Foundation.

The Nissan Skills foundation aims to raise interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in schools.

This was an opportunity for the girls to take part in the 'Girl Powered' workshop – The initiative aims to create a more inclusive environment for all students within the robotics and engineering community.

As well as raising the aspirations of local youngsters to show that social issues, economic background and gender are not barriers to a potential career in Engineering and Mathematics

The workshop included:

A hands-on robotics challenge

2 STEM team activities

The chance to take the Girl Powered pledge

Inspirational female keynote speaker

The workshop was a great hands-on experience and a wonderful opportunity to ask questions and find out about a career in STEM.



# Year 3 - Willow Weaving

We welcomed Ruth and her team into school for her annual pruning and weaving of our KS2 willow tunnel. This was much needed after a warm and sunny summer, followed by a very wet autumn! The willow had grown very high and needed a lot of expert care.

Luckily, the team were able to quickly get the structure looking great, again. Our year 3 pupils, learned about how to look after and maintain the willow as well as being able to work with Ruth, to create some willow shapes and structures.





# Durham University Assembly

We welcomed Ross and the team from Durham University into school, for a special assembly. Children from years 4, 5 and 6 were able to find out about the historic University at Durham but also what studying at any university might be like.

The children asked some fantastic questions about what it might be like to study for a degree. They were surprised at how many different options there are to study different subjects. The children were excited to find out that you can live at the university - at Durham you can even live in a castle!

We were able to see what a lecture looks like, find out about the different jobs at universities as well as what careers a degree could lead to.

## **Children commented:**

*"I loved the assembly, I didn't know there were so many subjects to study!"*

*"It really made me want to go to university, it would be so exciting to study and live with others in the halls."*

*"I would love to go and study one subject so I become an expert."*

*"I think university would be amazing and I really hope to go and study when I am older. "*



# Girls Football

Our KS2 Girls football team began this year's league games, under the floodlights. They played their first 3 league games showing great teamwork and determination. Although the results didn't go their way on the night - there were some fantastic performances and it was a great experience.

We look forward to the next round of matches!



# Boys Football



Our U11's team started off this year's league games, in great form.

The team had to battle with poor weather conditions as they played three league games.

The first game, a very close encounter ended up in a 1-0 loss. However, the team showed great character and resilience winning the next two games 4-0 and 5-0!

Some great individual performances but above all a great team effort.



# German Club

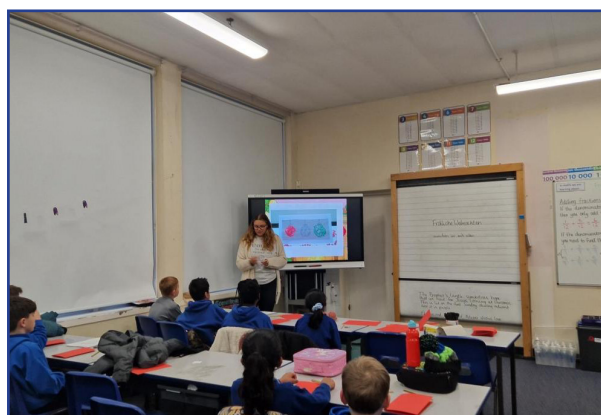
German club takes place on a Thursday, after school.

We have been learning some basic french phrases and words. Mrs Bridgewood and Miss Madsen lead our German club and teach us through lots of fun games, songs and activities.

We have been making Christmas Cards for our friends in Germany. We will exchange cards with the pupils at Rainbow School - our link school in Gelsenkirchen.

We unboxed a special delivery, all the way from Germany. Inside there were Models, made by the pupils at Rainbow School.

The models were of local landmarks within the area of the school, in Gelsenkirchen. It was very exciting. We will be finding out more about our link school and the city, in the coming weeks as well as meeting our German friends through video conferencing, in the New Year.



# House Points

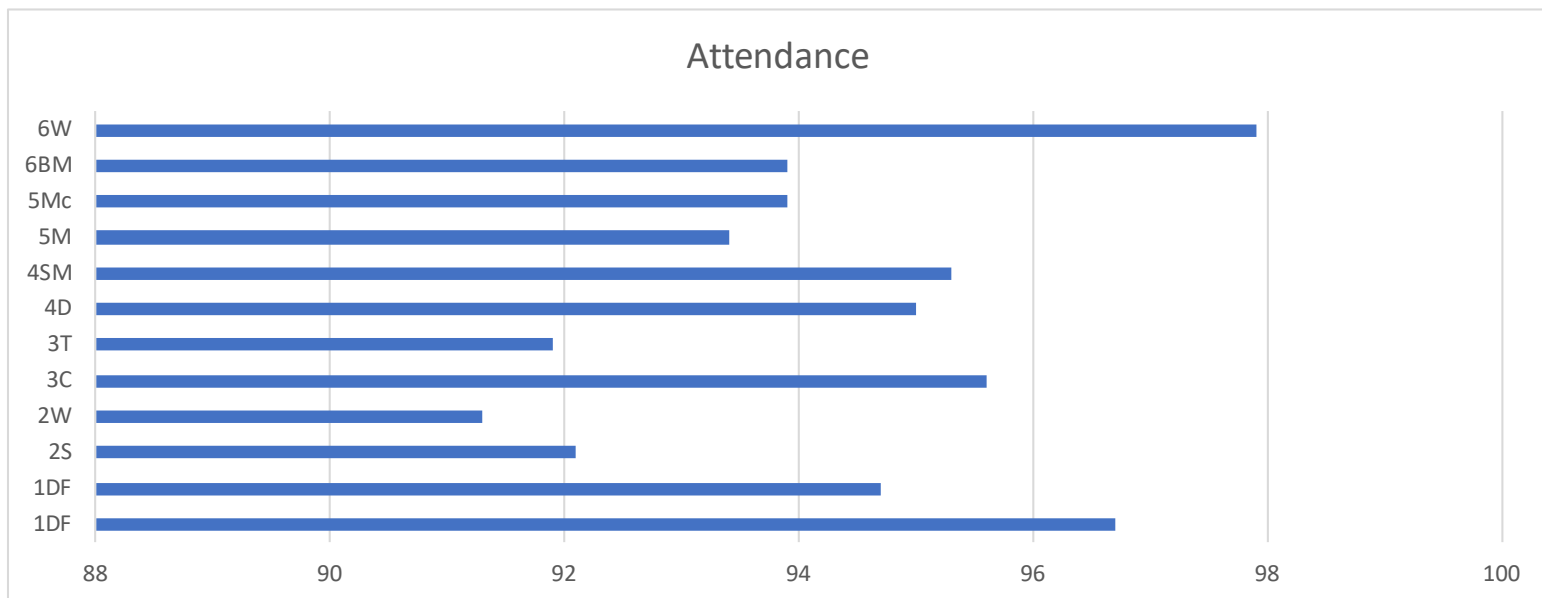
Term 1b - Winning House

St Hilda - 1118



## Attendance by Class

Well done to the children in 6W who have once again topped our half termly attendance tracker!





# School grounds

We continue to make improvements to our school grounds and have recently had a new traversing wall fitted.



## Upcoming Dates.....

Monday 8th January - INSET Day (school closed to children)

Tuesday 9th January - Children return to school

Monday 29th January - Y6 Safety Works Visit

Tuesday 30th January - Parents Night 1

Thursday 1st February - Parents Night 2

Friday 19th February - Half Term Holiday