



St Edward's CE Academy Cheddleton **Community Newsletter February 2026**

Our last newsletter ended with the words, 'As we begin our journey into 2026, may we all find a way to *"shine like stars"* (Daniel 12:3), and we have certainly seen many shining examples during this first half of the spring term!

Throughout the school, our children have been shining in their art lessons. In Reception, we have been learning about the artist, Andy Goldsworthy, who creates art using natural materials. Inspired by his style, the children worked together in our school forest area to create a church made from the natural objects found on our forest floor. KS1 have created African sunset scenes by using their blending and shading techniques with coloured pastels and then sketching elephants, trees and birds as silhouettes. KS2 have used watercolours to produce some amazing artwork inspired by Vincent Van Gogh and his beautiful sunflower paintings. I'm sure you'll agree that we have some budding artists in our midst!



On 13th January, our KS1 children had the wonderful opportunity to visit the Magna Science Adventure Centre to enhance their science learning about materials. Housed in the former Templeborough steelworks, Magna is an amazing building where children can explore science, technology, design, and steel heritage in a hands-on, engaging way. During the visit, the children learned about different materials, including metal, plastic, fabric and wood. They explored how materials can change and whether those changes are reversible. They also experienced 'The Big Melt' show where they learned about the steel industry and how steel is made. A highlight of the day was making their own slime!

During the week beginning Monday 9th February, we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme is 'This is my place' which is centred around how we can feel a sense of belonging and help others feel like they belong. Across the school, we talked about where we belong and shared some of our happy, safe spaces. We talked about the importance of family and the people who help and support us. Some of our older children spent time in the nursery with their siblings and it was so lovely to see the love and compassion shine through as they supported them with their activities and discussions.

Love and compassion also shone through during the 'Friendship Disco' organised by our PTFA for the whole school. It was a joy to see so many happy, smiling faces as the children danced and sang together. A great way to reinforce the importance of belonging and making sure that everyone feels included.

On Tuesday 10th February, we celebrated Safer Internet Day. This year's national focus is on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and helping children understand how AI is used online, how it can be helpful and how to use it safely and responsibly. We also reinforced the importance of speaking up if something online makes us feel uncomfortable. We shared an information poster with our families that included helpful guidance and signposted them to some websites that offer excellent online safety support and advice.

To end our half term, we held a non-uniform day to launch our PTFA's 2026 Sponsored Challenge. The challenge is to raise £20.26 by taking on a '26' challenge, eg. bake and sell 26 cakes, read 26 books, score 26 goals, donate 26 items to charity, etc, with a prize being awarded for the most creative ideas. All money raised will go directly towards supporting the children and enriching their journey at St Edward's Academy. We can't wait to find out what creative ideas our children have chosen!