

# FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

## A WARM WELCOME TO THIS WEEK'S NEWSLETTER.



The **Catholic virtue** this week is Kingdom. This links to Christ the King from last Sunday's mass. This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent, and you may find children will start to talk at home about what the different colour candles mean. This Sunday it will be the first purple candle which represents hope. As a school we hope that the wars in Ukraine and Israel come to an end and that 'man ' can live in peace.



# ECO TEAM

Our eco team have been in action this week creating new willow /green areas around school. Thank you to all the pupils and Mrs Barber for helping.





# RECEPTION ACTIVITY MORNING

Class 1 reception pupils went to New Mills leisure centre to participate in a range of multi skill activities with other local schools. Thank you to Mrs Evans and the teaching team in helping to organise the event.





# RECONCILIATION

On Thursday Father Emmanuel completed a wonderfully spiritual and reflective reconciliation service with all of our key stage 2 pupils. He was really impressed with the children's respectful attitude to this wonderful service.



# MINI VINNIES

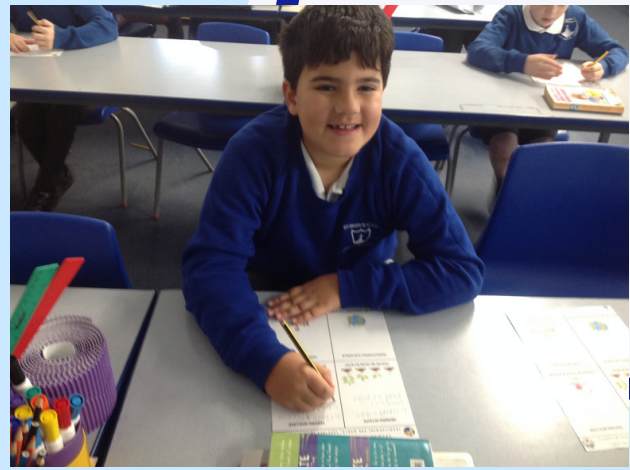
Class three are all part of Mini Vinnies. This is a group of primary school young people who get together to help those in need within their school and local community. Mini Vinnies introduces children to social justice issues and to living faith through action as part of the St Vincent de Paul Society. Class three decided that they would like to help refugees in the local area. The children have created a poster about this project. They would like to donate toiletries, colouring pencils, colouring books, note pads and books to a project at St Peter's church in Hazel Grove who help refugees. If you can donate any of the above please can these be brought into school by 14th December. Thank you for your support.





# FAITH IN SMALL HEARTS AND THE FEAST DAY

This Friday all our pupils in the Little FISH (Faith in Small Hearts) group welcomed in their parents and carers to present to them what their different roles are. Well done to all the pupils for speaking so confidently and passionately about their roles. We also celebrated the Saint Ralph Sherwin feast day across the school and reviewed the Trust Mission statement.



# DATES TO NOTE



Please do keep an eye on ClassDojo for messages from the class teachers with regards to nativity costumes.

There is no Star of the Week assembly on Friday 8th December.

<b>Monday 4th December</b>	<b>Last swimming day for year 6 pupils</b>
<b>Monday 11th December</b>	<b>Key stage one Christmas performance – morning (9.30am to 10.30am) then the evening performance (6.00pm to 7.00pm)</b>
<b>Tuesday 12th December</b>	<b>Whole school trip to the pantomime at Buxton Opera House</b>
<b>Wednesday 13th December</b>	<b>Key stage two Christmas performance – morning (9.30am to 10.30am) then the evening performance (6.00pm to 7.00pm)</b>
<b>Thursday 14th December</b>	<b>Christmas dinner day. We will also be Carol singing on this day at Watford House, in New Mills town centre and at Jubilee Day Centre. Christmas jumpers on this day if possible!</b>
<b>Friday 15th December</b>	<b>PTA Christmas Corousel day. We would be grateful for a donation of £2.00 per child on this day. Our parent and baby group also have their Christmas party on this day.</b>
<b>Friday 22nd December</b>	<b>Christmas service – songs of celebration. Everyone is very welcome to attend. Children should be collected after the service on this day (2.00pm) at which time school will close for the Christmas break.</b>
<b>Monday 8th January 2024</b>	<b>Everyone returns to school.</b>



# SCHOOL COMMUNITY NOTICES

Don't forget to order your school photographs by Monday 4th December for a Christmas delivery!

If anyone has changed their name, phone number, address, e-mail address etc. recently please do let us know so that we can amend the database. It is vital that we hold the correct contact details for everyone

Please give consent for your child/children to attend the pantomime on the 12th December via ParentPay if you haven't already!

Please be very careful when parking outside school. Please drive slowly and don't park on the zigzags, even just to drop off.

High attendance is vitally important to every child, educationally, socially, and legally. This is a good opportunity to remind everyone holidays should not be booked during term time. Headteachers are not permitted to authorise absences unless there are exceptional circumstances. This does not include reduced holiday costs. If a child is not in school and the absence is not authorised, we are under a duty to report this to the Local Authority who may issue you with a penalty notice.

Our Stay and Play day for parents and carers who have a child due to start school in September 2024 takes place on Thursday 21st December from 1.30pm to 2.30pm. Please do pass this on to anyone you know who has a child of this age.

If you don't currently have access to ClassDojo but you would like to, please speak to the school office.

# SAFEGUARDING

If you have any concerns about a child or something else, please contact one of St Mary's designated leads for Safeguarding on [safeguarding@nmm.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@nmm.srscmat.co.uk), who are:

**Mrs Chapman – Headteacher and Senior Safeguarding lead**

**Mrs Mallabar – Designated Safeguarding Lead, Class Teacher and Mental Health Ambassador**

**Mrs Laura Chapman (SENCO) – Designated Safeguarding Lead**

**Mr Matthew Pearson – Designated Safeguarding Lead**

Please see the school website here:

<https://www.stmarysnewmills.srscmat.co.uk/parents/snow-procedures/> for our adverse weather procedures



As a school, we are always here to support you and your family. If your family circumstances have changed, for example a loss of a loved one, a separation or even a house move, please do let us know. Changes like these will impact children and it would really help if we knew about your changing circumstances to help us best support you all.



Shout out to Mr Pearson who has completed all the training and is now a qualified Designated Safeguarding Lead!



# EXTRA INFORMATION

Everyone is invited to:



## St. Mary's parent and baby group

Every Friday during term time from 9.15am to 10.45am. £2.00 per session which includes a drink and a snack.

EVERYONE IS VERY WELCOME



Longlands road, New Mills, SK22 3BL - 01663 742412

## Could your child be entitled to Free School Meals?

For every pupil registered, the school will receive additional funding in the school budget called Pupil Premium which is used to help raise achievement levels.

By ensuring that as many eligible families as possible have applied for free school meals, we will receive our maximum Pupil Premium funding which enables us to provide the best education for our pupils.

Search 'Derbyshire County Council Free School Meals' for the link to apply!

We encourage parents of children who receive Universal Infant Free School Meals to still apply for Free School Meals as this will ensure school receives essential funding.

Please contact the school office if you need any support applying for Free School Meals.

## EVERY MINUTE COUNTS

CHILDREN FIND ARRIVING LATE FOR SCHOOL UPSETTING AND THEY MISS OUT ON IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITIES. PLEASE WORK WITH US TO PROVIDE YOUR CHILD WITH THE BEST CHANCES OF LEARNING BY ENSURING THEY ARE IN SCHOOL EVERY DAY AND ON TIME.

Your child has arrived in good time to meet friends and get ready for morning work in class.

**8.45AM**  
The school day begins at 8.45am with soft start for key stage one. The classrooms are open and children should come into school.

**8.55AM**  
The register is completed. Children should be ready to start their learning.

**9.00am** - Your child is late and has missed the beginning of the school day. 5 minutes late means 3 days lost per year.

**9.10AM**  
The teacher has explained the learning and lessons have started.

**9.10am** - 15 minutes late means 9 days lost per year

**9.15AM**  
Lessons are well underway and work is being produced.

**9.15am** - The register closes. Any arrival after this time is an unauthorised absence.

All applications, from pupils with faith or no faith, are very welcome at our school.

## STAY AND PLAY DAY

DO YOU HAVE A CHILD DUE TO START SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2024?

**COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR STAY AND PLAY DAY. SEE OUR FANTASTIC EARLY LEARNING SETTING, MEET OUR WONDERFUL TEACHERS AND EXPERIENCE OUR BRILLIANT LITTLE SCHOOL FIRST HAND!**

**A FREE AND FUN PLAY SESSION FOR ALL PROSPECTIVE NEW PUPILS AND THEIR PARENTS!**

# 21ST DECEMBER

**1.30PM TO 2.30PM**

INFO@NMM.SRSCMAT.CO.UK OR 01663 742412