

15TH DECEMBER 2023

FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY A WARM WELCOME TO THIS WEEK'S NEWSLETTER.



A very festive welcome to this week's newsletter. We have had a wonderful week with our nativity performances, reminding us all about the true meaning of Christmas. Your children have shown through their actions and words the essence of Advent. They are an absolute credit and a joy to behold. Thank you for all that you do in supporting them through their school journey.

The focus this week for our whole school liturgy was peace and next week we will light our third candle (which is pink) to represent Joy. 'The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.'

The main focus for this week's newsletter is the nativity and how we are preparing for this most wonderful time of the year.

Parents of pupils in Class 3 and 4 please note the following for your information:

Class three - Mrs Hodgson will be sending home on a regular basis links via ClassDojo to the teaching of mathematics and how you can support your child at home.

Class four - Mr Pearson will be starting revision sessions with year 6 whilst year 5 are at their swimming lessons. In addition he is also planning to start after school revision sessions before February half term. We strongly recommend full pupil attendance at all these sessions.

Have a wonderful weekend and we will see everyone next week.
Mrs Chapman.



Peace of Advent Mission

Find a time this week to grab your coat, wrap up warm and take a quiet walk. As you do, remember that Jesus is with you. You can talk with him about anything and he is always ready to share his love and peace with you.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who has made this week so memorable. All of the staff for the incredible performances, the lunchtime staff for the brilliant Christmas meal, Miss Watson for organising our carol singing, our wonderful toddler group for their Christmas party and our incredible PTA for the carousel day today. Thank you for all of your hard work, planning and organisation. You have all helped to make wonderful memories for the children.



KEY STAGE ONE CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES



KEY STAGE ONE CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES CONTINUED



KEY STAGE TWO CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES



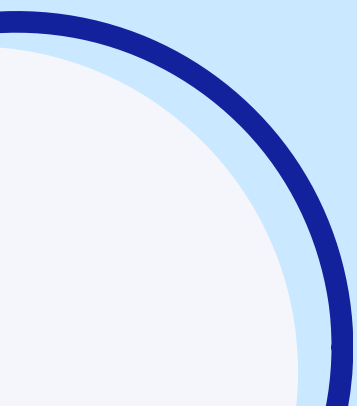
KEY STAGE TWO CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES CONTINUED



LOVING OUR LEARNING



PANTOMIME 2023



BASKETBALL

We took a Year 5 and a year 6 team to the basketball competition this week. Mrs Evans was extremely proud of both teams who made the semi finals of the competition having both finished top of the table in their first round leagues. Well done everyone. You played brilliantly in a very high standard competition.



MINNIE VINNIES

The Mini Vinnies would like to thank everyone for all the donations that have been made for the refugee project in Hazel Grove. These items will be taken this weekend and given out to help over Christmas.



CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY



CAROL SINGING



TODDLER CHRISTMAS PARTY



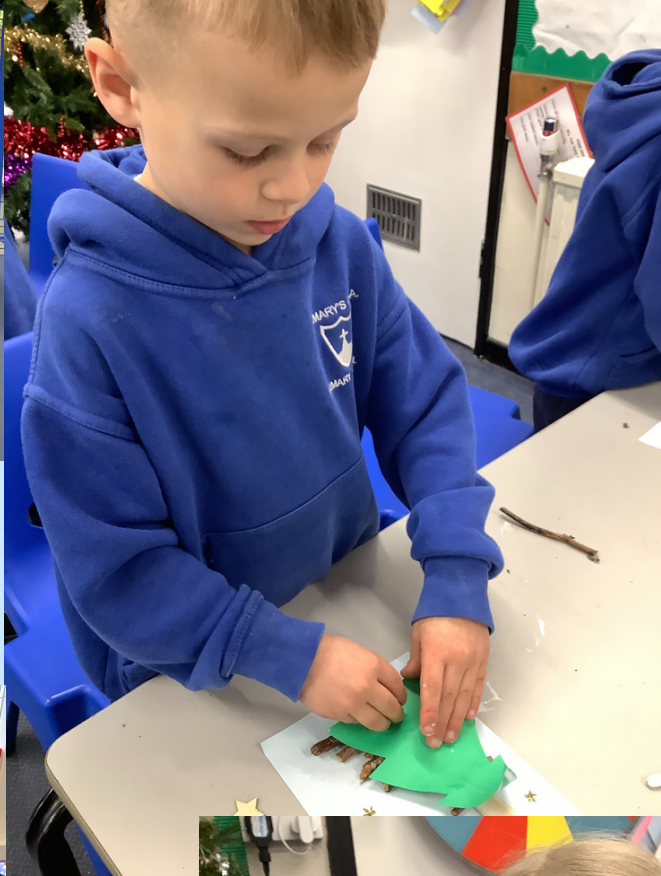
**Thank you
so much to
everyone
who helped
to organise
this event.
It looked so
much fun!!**



PTA CHRISTMAS CAROUSEL DAY



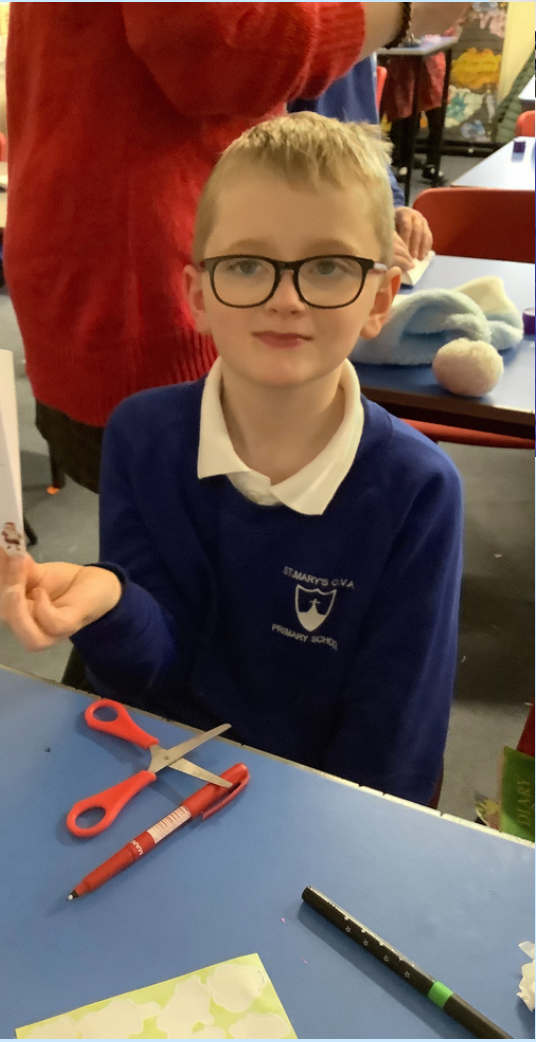
PTA CHRISTMAS CAROUSEL DAY CONTINUED



PTA CHRISTMAS CAROUSEL DAY CONTINUED



PTA CHRISTMAS CAROUSEL DAY CONTINUED



PTA CHRISTMAS CAROUSEL DAY CONTINUED



PTA CHRISTMAS CAROUSEL DAY CONTINUED



DATES TO NOTE



There are no Star of the Week assemblies on Friday 15th or 22nd December. Active participation awards and house points will continue until the end of term.

On Monday of next week, we will have jacket potatoes not pasta pots on the menu.

Tuesday 19th December	Violin performance by pupils learning with Mrs Porter. Everyone is very welcome to come to this performance which starts at 9.15am
Friday 22nd December	Christmas service – songs of celebration. Everyone is very welcome to attend. The service starts at 1.15pm and is being held in school. <u>All children should be collected after the service on this day (2.00pm) at which time school will close for the Christmas break.</u>
Monday 8th January 2024	Everyone returns to school.

Wraparound clubs – Due to increasing staff and food costs, from 1st January 2024 we will have to put the price of wraparound up slightly. We have had to take this measure to make sure that we can continue to run the provision for everyone. Breakfast club will increase from £3.50 per session to £4.00 per session and afterschool club will increase from £7.50 per session to £8.00 per session. We're also moving the booking cut off time from midnight to 1.00pm the day before the session is required. This is to help us manage our pupil to staff ratios better. Lastly, we'll only be serving breakfast up to 8.20am. This helps us to make sure that all the pots can be tidied away and tables cleaned before lessons start for the day.

Thank you for your understanding.

Afterschool sports sessions with Mrs Evans – Sports clubs are on next week as normal. Please look out for more information about sports club after Christmas, we won't be running the sports clubs in the first week back after Christmas.



SCHOOL COMMUNITY NOTICES

Please do take part in the Parent Consultation to give your feedback to our approach to teaching Relationships Education and Health Education - the letter was sent out on Monday of this week. The consultation process closes on Friday 15th December.

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

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

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.

SCHOOL HEALTH

There is lots of information available about children and young people's health, including the school nursing team, vaccinations and the national child measurement programme here - www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social-health/health-and-wellbeing/your-health/children-and-young-peoples-health/children-and-young-peoples-health.aspx



Information about the neurodiversity hub, which is based in Buxton, can be found here - www.zink.ork.uk

There is also lots of information on our school website, including information about the foodbank here - <https://www.stmarysnewmills.srscmat.co.uk/parents/family-support-and-school-health/>



SAFEGUARDING ONLINE

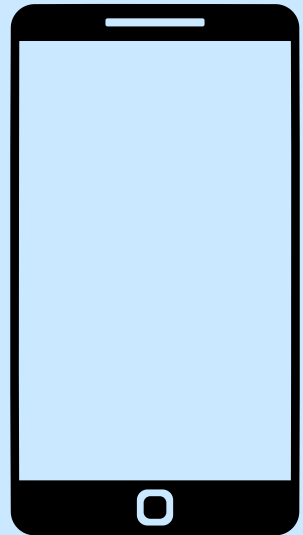
Some of our children may be lucky enough to receive new devices this Christmas, such as a mobile phone, games console or tablet. It is therefore really important to think about keeping our children safe online at this time of year. Please do set parental controls on your children's devices so that you can control what they see and how long they can use their devices for. It is also vital to talk to your children about why you are doing this and let them know that they can talk to you if they see something inappropriate or upsetting.

The NSPCC have some fantastic resources which are free to access, explaining how to keep children safe online and how to set parental controls –

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/#guides>

They also have guides about social media platforms and how to help children stay safe when using them. As a reminder, **no primary school age pupils should be accessing social media at all.**

Please also be alert to children watching films which are not appropriate for their age and stage. Always follow the age guidance and be mindful of young children watching upsetting or violent films. This can be very distressing and can cause long term harm.



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, 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.



EXTRA INFORMATION



**Youth Matters
Christmas
FAMFEST**

2ND, 3RD AND 4TH
JANUARY 2023
ST GEORGES PARISH HALL
AGES 5 - 17

How to book
log on to: www.itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk
click on book, then provider:
Youth Matters New Mills CIC
Select the days you would like to attend
and checkout
It's FREE

The poster features a red background with white snowflakes, a snowman on the left, a Christmas tree at the bottom, and a logo at the top center.



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.

The poster is decorated with illustrations of various fruits like strawberries, blueberries, kiwi, lemons, watermelon, and bananas.



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.

The poster includes illustrations of children, a paint palette, and a clock.



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

The poster features a blue background with a large yellow circle containing the main text. It includes a small photo of a child with a globe and a school logo.

Enter our **Super Draw**

SCHOOL LOTTERY

**WIN A £3,000
CHRISTMAS
CASH BONUS**



- Tickets cost just £1 a week
- Chance to win up to £25,000
- Play weekly, or just play the Super Draw!
- Win a huge festive cash bonus!

**PLEASE HELP US TO
RAISE FUNDS TO BUY
RESOURCES FOR ALL OF
OUR CHILDREN IF YOU
CAN!**



**YOUR
SCHOOL
LOTTERY**

PLAY NOW:

SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO
www.yourschoollottery.co.uk

AND SEARCH FOR **St Mary's New Mills**

