

22ND DECEMBER 2023

FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

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



Christmas is a joyful time within St. Mary's, with love and celebrations all around. Sending Christmas wishes is important for creating a warm and joyful school environment. These wishes bring a sense of togetherness and community and show that everyone at St. Mary's is valued. It's a special way to spread happiness, gratitude, and festive cheer. Teachers, who work hard to educate, feel acknowledged, while pupils and parents/carers experience the joy of the holiday spirit. May the magic of Christmas fill your hearts with warmth and happiness, May your holidays be as bright as your smiles in the classroom. May the spirit of giving and kindness fill your hearts this Christmas. May the magic of Christmas inspire you to dream big and achieve great things in the coming year.



God bless you all and keep you safe.

I look forward to seeing you all in January 2024!

amazing

Congratulations to Fatima - this terms house point winners!!!

OUR WEEK IN PICTURES

Class three enjoying their PE lessons and class four writing to our sister school in Uganda.



ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

Congratulations to the pupils who have completed their 'being active' awards this week. We have our first silver award this week as well - well done April! Remember, you have two weeks off school soon so lets see and celebrate lots of active awards after the holidays!



SCHOOL MEALS

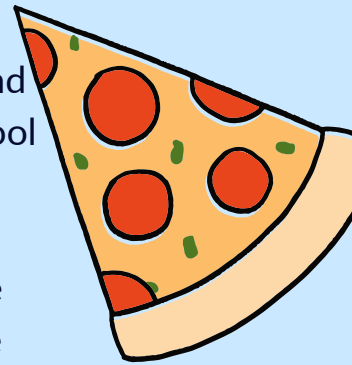
Derbyshire County Council have increased primary school meal prices from £2.30 per day to £3.25 per day. This price increase will come into effect for us at Saint Mary's from the 1st of January. The price increase is set by Derbyshire County Council and is not something under our control.

This price increase won't affect children in reception, year one and year two as all infants are entitled to a Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM).

Having a high quality, healthy meal at lunchtime is extremely important. Children who eat a balanced, nutritious meal are more likely to be alert in class and have more energy to enjoy an active lifestyle. The catering staff are highly skilled and experienced and are passionate about the food they serve. Children have a choice every day of a main meal, a vegetarian meal, two choices of sandwich and a jacket potato or pasta pot (set days). Derbyshire catering have achieved the Soil Association Food for Life Catering Mark Silver Accreditation in primary schools and the Bronze Catering Mark in all secondary schools. The award means that they use local, seasonal, fresh ingredients which are free from trans fats, harmful additives and are not genetically modified. They only use UK Farm Assured meat which is better for animal welfare, sustainable sources of fish and free-range eggs. All the menus are created using the School Food Standards as set out by the government and adhere to strict nutritional guidelines so you can be assured that your child is receiving a high-quality meal.

We would encourage as many children as possible to have a hot, school dinner every day. As well as being a healthy option, school dinners are also convenient for busy parents, help children with their social skills, encourage good eating habits and support children to try new foods.

We would also urge everyone to see if they are entitled to free school meals (FSM) by completing the application form here: <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your-child-at-school/meals/school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>



DATES TO NOTE



Christmas Mass times

Mass of Christmas Eve for families:

Saturday 24th December 6.00pm - New Mills

Mass of Christmas night Saturday 24th December 9.00pm - Marple Bridge

Mass of Christmas day Sunday 25th December 9.30am - New Mills

Mass of Christmas day Sunday 25th December 11.30am - Marple Bridge

Monday 8th January 2024	Everyone returns to school.
Monday 15th January	Swimming for year 5 begins
Monday 15th January	Primary applications window closes
Thursday 18th January	Health champions

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 – We won't be running the sports clubs in the first week back after Christmas



SCHOOL COMMUNITY NOTICES



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.

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

Secondary Admissions Consultation -
We have 2 consultations re Admissions in 2025-2026 running. Please click here for further details <https://www.srscmat.co.uk/governance/admissions/>

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.

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

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.



SAFEGUARDING ONLINE

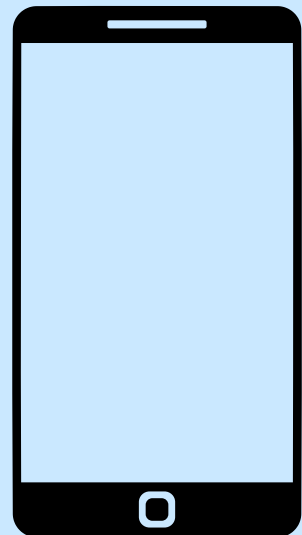
Some of our children may be lucky enough to receive new devices this Christmas, such as a mobile phone, games console or tablet. It is therefore really important to think about keeping our children safe online at this time of year. Please do set parental controls on your children's devices so that you 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.



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

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.

KIDS ART CLUBS
"make your mark"

Christmas 'arty party' workshop
Saturday 23rd December: 10 - 12noon

AGE 6-12

calling all MINI artists...

NEW YEAR ART CAMP

Painting, drawing, large scale murals, sculpture, photography, textiles.
for ages 6-12.

£32 per day sibling & multi day discounts available

...New year and back to work, I can help!

Wednesday 3rd & Thursday 4th January

Any other enquiries call Rachel on 07497815555

NEW MILLS PhotoJENIX

early drop off and late pick up options

KIDS ART CLUBS
"make your mark"

Online Booking Essential
<https://kidsartclubs.class4kids.co.uk>

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**





WE WISH YOU AND
YOUR FAMILY A

Merry Christmas

AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM EVERYONE AT
SAINT MARY'S