#### 8TH DECEMBER 2023



### FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

#### SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

## A WARM WELCOME TO THIS WEEK'S

**NEWSLETTER.** 



A warm welcome to this week's newsletter, the first in Advent.

This weekend the weekly theme begins with peace. The senior chaplains will lead whole school liturgy on Monday based on this theme.

It is only fitting that we take the opportunity to say thank you to all the families who are using the travelling cribs. Please record your responses within the little booklet or send photographs to school and we will add them to our newsletter and website. All families will receive the travelling crib before the end of term.

The school is a hive of business with carol singing and concert practice and advent activities. It is heart-warming to hear all their beautiful voices as you walk through school. It is hard to believe we are already on the countdown

to Christmas. This week some of our year 3 and 4 pupils attended the benchball event. They played fantastically and came second overall. Next week, our year 5 and 6 basketball teams are in action! Please do check the dates to note below or ClassDojo as everyday is a whirlwind of activities in

the lead up to Christmas! Have a lovely weekend Mrs Chapman





Heavenly Father

We pray for Peace in our hearts and peace in the world so that the world can reflect your loving will.



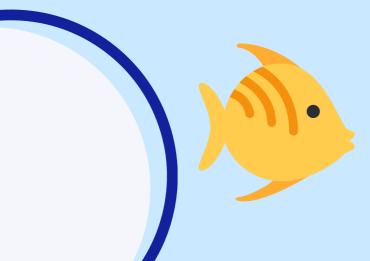
#### LITTLE FISH PRESENTATION

On Friday afternoon many of our pupils completed a range of presentations to talk about their role and the work they do supporting others through their different groups. Each group have different names and all fall under the umbrella of Little FISH (Faith in Small Hearts). I was very proud of the groups who confidently talked about their very important roles in school. We had a full range of groups and pupils including; Eco Team, Fairtrade Team, Pupil Parliament, Faith in Action, Sports Leaders, Well-being, Health Champions, Minnie Vinnies, Chaplains, Diversity and School councillors! As you can see, a lot of pupil led groups across school. Thank you so much to the parents/carers who came along to this pupil led assembly - you all helped to make their day.











#### **BENCHBALL**

Some of our year 3 and 4 pupils attended a benchball session at the Lesire Centre on Wednesday. The team played fantastically and placed second overall. Well done to everyone! Next week it is the turn of our year 5 and 6 basketball teams!





#### **WRAPAROUND CLUB**

Wraparound club have been busy this week; construction using Lego and Gears, creating incredible art work and catching up on homework! We do have places available at both breakfast club and after school club - please contact the school office for more information.

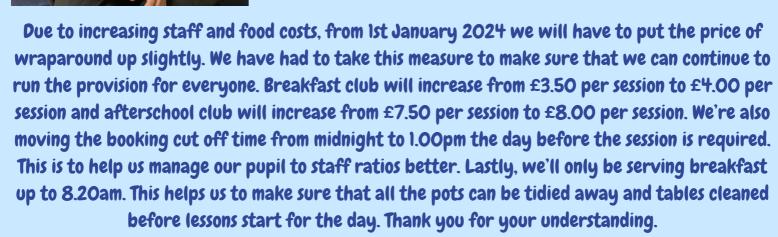






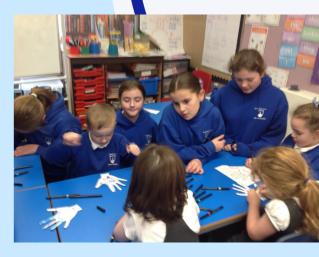






#### **HELPING HANDS**

Hello, we are the Helping Hands club, and we are one of the little fish. We are Ella, Ava, Erin, Samantha, and Evie. We are a diversity club to help other pupils in our school. In October we started this club in global learning. We thought it would be an idea and not reality and we were so excited when Mrs. Chapman and Mrs. Peatfield revealed the news to us all. At first, we did colouring, bingo, and games. After that we started more things like coloring in bookmarks, but after the half term, we were doing Stain glass windows with Y2 and with Y1, we did a tree of hands. On the hands, they put their names and what we need in our world like love, peace, hope, joy and care. On the 1st of December it was St. Ralph Sherwin's feast day and with the Y2's we coloured in St. Ralph Sherwin pictures and we questioned them why he is important and what they did to learn about him in their day. Outside class 2, we have a 'Helping Hands Board' which is where our tree of hands and stain glass windows are. The children who come always enjoy it and we are so happy that they do they once said, "We love coming and we want to come again. We did class 1 and 2. After Christmas we are doing class 3 and 4 and the year 6 come with their special friends to make both of their bonds stronger. We want to try to make our school better and a more diverse place.







#### **MINNIE 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. 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 so much to those people who have already donated items, we are very grateful.





#### **DATES TO NOTE**

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

nativity costumes. 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.

	continue until the end of term.
Monday 11th December	Key stage one Christmas performance – morning (9.30am to 10.30am) then the evening performance (6.00pm to 7.00pm)
Tuesday 12th December	Whole school trip to the pantomime at Buxton Opera House
Wednesday 13th December	Key stage two Christmas performance – morning (9.30am to 10.30am) then the evening performance (6.00pm to 7.00pm)
Thursday 14th December	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!
Friday 15th December	PTA Christmas Corousel day. We would be grateful for a donation of £2.00 per child on this day. For households with more than two children, please only bring £5.00.  Our parent and baby group also have their Christmas party on this day.
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.  All children should be collected after the service on this day (2.00pm) at which time school will close for the Christmas break.
Monday 8th January 2024	Everyone returns to school.

#### **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.

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

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.

#### **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/pare nts/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 <a href="mailto:safeguarding@nmm.srscmat.co.uk">safeguarding@nmm.srscmat.co.uk</a>, 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 seperation 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**

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.



Longlandsroad, New Mills, SK223BL-01663742412





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.



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





#### 9.15AM

Lessons are well underway and work is being produced.

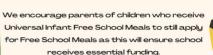
9.15am - The register closes. Any arrival after this time is an unauthorised absence.



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

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



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



# Super Draw

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!





#### **PLAY NOW:**

SCAN THE QR CODEOR GO TO www.yourschoollottery.co.uk AND SEARCH FOR St Mary's New Mills

