



12TH JANUARY 2024

# FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

## SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Happy New Year to you all and a warm welcome back. On behalf of all the staff, thank you all for your wonderful cards, warm wishes and presents. The theme this week for liturgy is 'The Epiphany'. The pupils have been learning about the arrival of the three wise men bearing gifts for baby Jesus. Over this term, senior leaders will be reviewing our curriculum to ensure the seven areas of Catholic Social Teaching are directly taught. The principles of these are not new to us since they are attitudes and beliefs we all follow. Examples include:

**Dignity** - we believe every human person is made in the image and likeness of God. This is a gift that we all share as fellow human beings; we are all infinitely loved by our Creator. God is present in every human person, regardless of religion, culture, nationality, orientation or economic standing. Each one of us is unique and beautiful. We are called to treat every person and every creature with loving respect.

**Solidarity and The Common Good** - Solidarity arises when we remember that we belong to each other. Solidarity spurs us to stand side by side with our sisters and brothers, especially those living in poverty. The common good means that the fruits of the earth belong to everyone. No one should be excluded from the gifts of creation.

**Option for the poor** - The option for the poor reminds us of God's preferential love for the poorest and most vulnerable people.

**Stewardship** - Pope Francis invites everyone on the planet to consider how our actions are affecting the earth and the poorest people. Everything is interconnected, and all of creation praises God. It is our Christian vocation to care for creation.

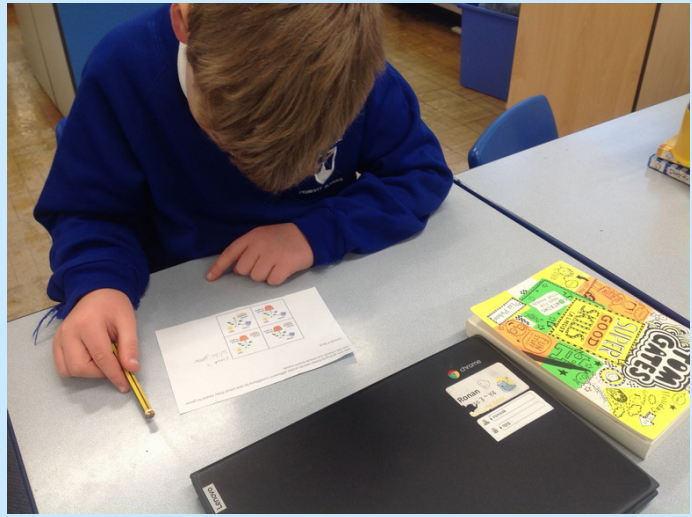
The staff, pupils, visitors and parents have all commented on our beautiful cross that has been handmade by a local craftsman. Thank you to Mark Gadd and the PTA for funding this. This action came as a direct result from pupils requesting an outside cross. Pupils have said, 'I like the cross because it is very special.', 'It reminds us of Jesus' story and that Mary is his mum which is the name of our school.', 'It reminds us how to do the sign of the cross when we say, 'In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.'

Class assembly dates will follow next week. Please note that on the following dates you are all welcome to join us for Mass and Adoration on 18 January at 10.00am, 15 February and 14 March. At the end of Mass, the pupils will sit in silent prayer for the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. This will include Class 3 and 4 pupils only. Fr Emmanuel will lead the Mass.

**SCHOOL CHROMEBOOKS – AS A REMINDER, THE CHROMEBOOKS THAT KEY STAGE TWO CHILDREN BRING HOME EVERYDAY ARE ONLY TO BE USED FOR LEARNING. IN SCHOOL, THE CHROMEBOOKS ARE FILTERED TO ENSURE THAT NO INAPPROPRIATE SITES CAN BE ACCESSED BUT ONCE THE DEVICE IS TAKEN HOME, WE DO NOT HAVE CONTROL OF WHAT IS VIEWED AS THIS IS LINKED TO YOUR HOME WI-FI CONTROLS. CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE ACCESSING SITES SUCH AS TIKTOK, YOUTUBE, FACEBOOK ETC. ON THESE DEVICES. CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE LEFT UNSUPERVISED ON THEIR CHROMEBOOKS. IF WE FIND THAT CHILDREN ARE NOT USING THEM PROPERLY, WE WILL REMOVE THE DEVICES FOR HOME USE. A NEW ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT WILL BE SENT OUT IN DUE COURSE. PLEASE SEE FURTHER INFORMATION BELOW ABOUT E-SAFETY.**

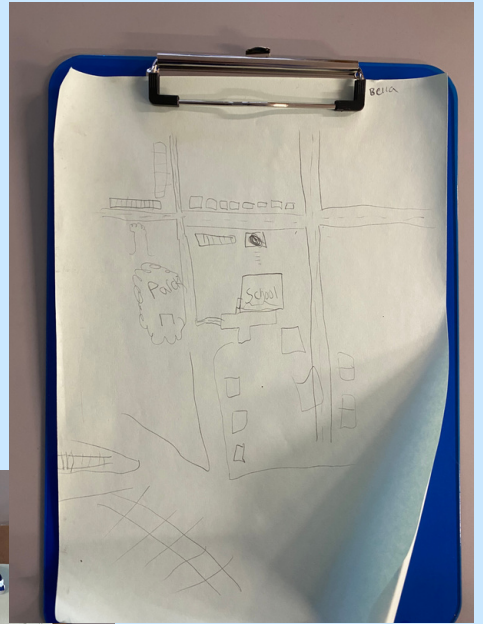
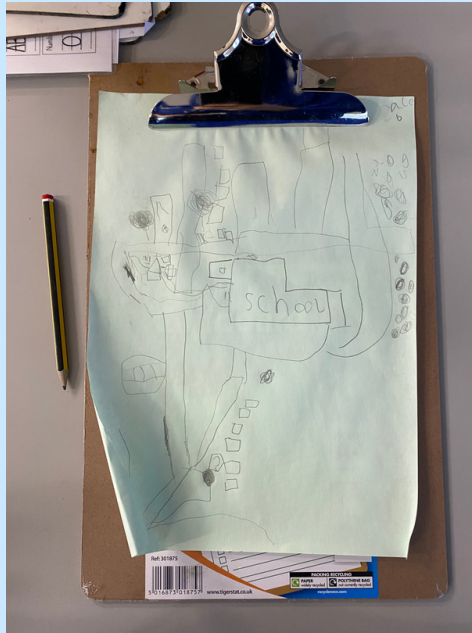
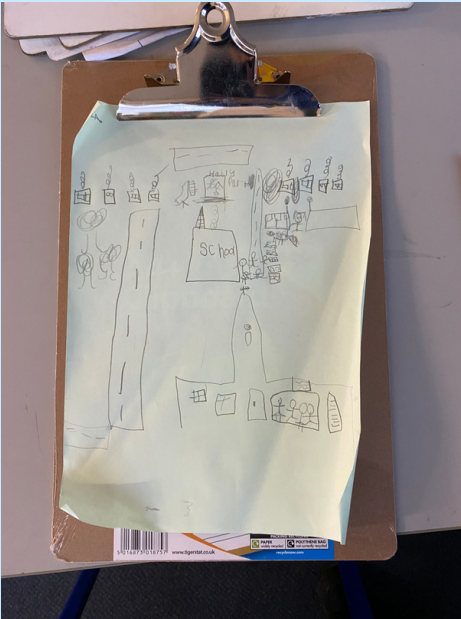
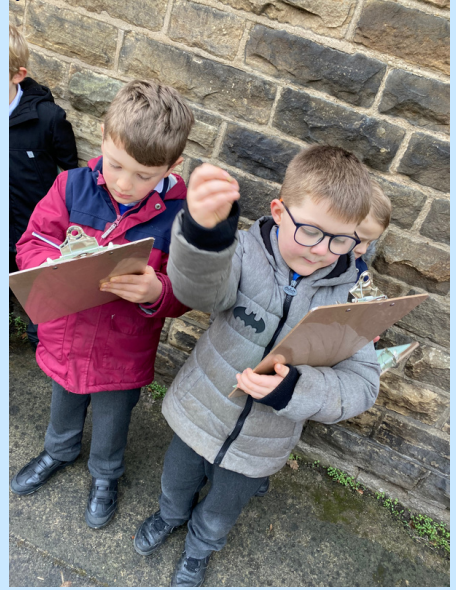
Have a lovely weekend - Mrs Chapman

# CLASS 1 AND 3 ARE LEARNING ABOUT SCIENCE AND FOCUSING ON BIOLOGY –LIVING THINGS AND PLANTS



# GEOGRAPHY

Class 2 were working on their Geography field work skills this week. They went for a walk around the local area, looking at the geographical features and creating their own ariel view maps. They have produced some amazing maps!



# SCHOOL CROSS

We are very lucky to have a new school cross which has been built by a local craftsman and paid for by our wonderful PTA. Thank you so much.



# DRAGONS

Class 2 have been visited by special guests this week...dragons paid a visit! Can you spot them??



# PARENT AND QUESTIONNAIRE FEEDBACK ON CATHOLIC LIFE, RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

**My Child feels happy at school – over 91% strongly agree or agree**

**My Child feels safe at school – over 94% strongly agree or agree**

**The school is a supportive and joyful community – over 91% strongly agree or agree**

**Staff at school are positive role models for my child – over 94% strongly agree or agree**

**The school works well with the parish – over 91% strongly agree or agree**

**I understand the schools Catholic Mission and I am supportive of it – over 81% strongly agree or agree and 16% were not sure**

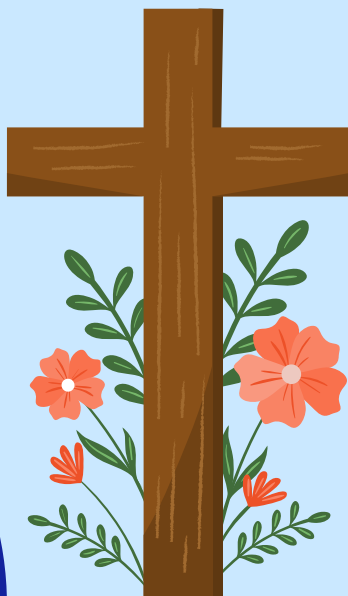
**The school supports me in my role as the first educator of my child – over 94% strongly agree or agree**

**My child enjoys learning RE in their lessons – over 75% strongly agree or agree and 16% were not sure**

**I know how well my child is doing in RE and what they need to do to improve – over 75% strongly agree or agree and 25% were not sure.**

**The school supports my child's spiritual and moral development – over 81% strongly agree or agree and 16% were not sure**

**I am invited to be involved in the prayer life of the school – over 91% strongly agree or agree**



Following on from the questionnaire results we have identified the following action points:

I am not sure what the schools Catholic Mission is? –The school's mission will be added to the weekly newsletter

I am not sure what my child is learning in Religious Education – Class teachers will add to ClassDojo the topic and a short discussion question.

At the start of each new religious education topic the children will be given a copy of the Big Question to complete at home so that you will be aware of which learning is being taught each term.

**Thank you to everyone who took part in the survey!**

# DATES TO NOTE

**SATs after school revision club starts for all year 6 pupils on Monday, 15th January, from 3.20pm to 4.15pm. This will run every Monday right up to SATs week (week commencing 13th May).**

<b>Monday 15th January</b>	<b>Swimming for year 5 begins</b>
<b>Monday 15th January</b>	<b>Primary applications window closes</b>
<b>Monday 15th January to Monday 29th April</b>	<b>SATs after school revision club for all year six pupils, 3.20pm to 4.15pm every Monday</b>
<b>Thursday 18th January</b>	<b>Health champions</b>
<b>Thursday 15th February</b>	<b>Geography collapsed curriculum day</b>
<b>Monday 26th February</b>	<b>INSET day – school closed to pupils</b>

# OUR MISSION STATEMENT

## S – Service and Stewardship

- We care for each other – ‘Love one another as I have loved you’
- We understand our obligation and responsibility to other in our local, national and world wide communities.
- We are learning to become global citizens, courageously following in Jesus’ footsteps.
- We are working together to Building God’s Kingdom on Earth.
- We are helping to look after the most vulnerable in our communities.

## T – Togetherness

- We work together for the greater good.
- We work together cooperatively as a team.
- We are disciples of Christ and we show this through our actions.
- We are stronger together.

## M – Mission

- We ensure all of our pupils receive the best learning opportunities through the provision of a broad and diverse curriculum.
- We bring Christ to all of our children, ensuring that he is front and centre in everything we do – ‘Rip of the Roof’.
- We are the living Gospel.
- We strive to be the best we can be and achieve our God given potential.

## A – Awe and Wonder

- We are inspiring our pupils to be future leaders.
- We recognise the awe and wonder in God’s creation.
- We recognising our uniqueness in the eyes of God.
- We are being inspired to learn more, know more and understand more.

## R – Reconciliation and Forgiveness

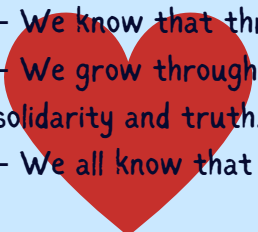
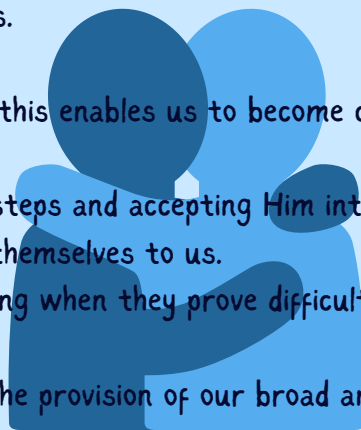
- We know how to say sorry and recognise when we have done something wrong.
- We know how to ask God and others for forgiveness.
- We know how to forgive others as God forgives us.
- We know that we can learn from our mistakes and this enables us to become closer to God.

## Y – Yes!

- We are Saying ‘yes’ to God by following in His footsteps and accepting Him into our hearts.
- We are Saying ‘yes’ to opportunities that present themselves to us.
- We are saying ‘yes’ to new challenges and persevering when they prove difficult.
- We are saying ‘yes’ to helping those in need.
- We are saying ‘yes’ to achieving our best through the provision of our broad and diverse curriculum.
- We are saying ‘yes’ to celebrating our differences.

## S – Spirituality

- We recognise our faith in God and that we are all part of something greater.
- We know that through prayer we discover who we are and why we are here.
- We grow through our Gospel Values, of acceptance, hope, faith, courage, honesty, love, charity, solidarity and truth.
- We all know that “I am Important and Precious because God loves me”.





# SCHOOL COMMUNITY NOTICES



**Our dinner table discussion this week was 'does your house weigh more the dustier it gets?'**

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 ATTENDANCE WAS 98.7% THIS WEEK!**

# 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](http://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](http://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](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

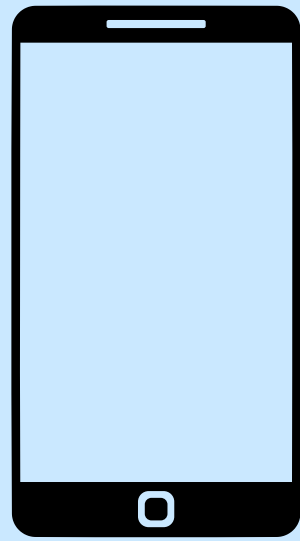
As a school, we are always here to support you and your family. If your family circumstances have changed, for example a loss of a loved one, a separation or even a house move, please do let us know. Changes like these will impact children and it would really help if we knew about your changing circumstances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



# SAFEGUARDING ONLINE

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Some of our children may have been lucky enough to receive new devices for Christmas, such as a mobile phone, games console or tablet. It is therefore really important to think about keeping our children safe online. 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 or playing games 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 or playing games not meant for their age. This can be very distressing and can cause long term harm.

# EXTRA INFORMATION

## BEING CREATORS After School Club SHIELD TREE WOOD

TUESDAYS  
3.40 -  
5.PM

£8.50  
PER  
SESSION



### THE ART OF FIRE

BOOK NOW! [www.bookwhen.com/beingoutdoorsic](http://www.bookwhen.com/beingoutdoorsic)



## 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.**

## 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.



# Enter our **Super Draw**

## Win a **£1,000 Luxury Getaway**

**OR £1,000 CASH PRIZE**



- Tickets cost just £1 a week
- Chance to win up to £25,000
- Play weekly, or just play the Super Draw!
- Get away from it all in 2024!



**YOUR  
SCHOOL  
LOTTERY**

**PLAY NOW:**

Go to

[www.yourschoollottery.co.uk](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk)

Search for: **St Mary's New Mills**



Gamble**Aware**

See website for Terms & conditions. Enter by 27/01/24