



19TH JANUARY 2024

FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Welcome to this week's newsletter.

George from Class 4 has been this week's reporter on school life. Our focus this week is history and science.

In **Class 1**, pupils were examining micro habitats of insects. Pupils said, 'I enjoyed learning about the habitat of the wiggly worm, woodlice live outside in the dark under stones and wood.'

Class 2 were investigating things that are dead, things that are alive and things that have never been alive. Pupils said 'I enjoyed going outside and sorting the objects into different group classifications.'

Class 3 were learning about why plants have to have roots. Pupils said 'I liked the visual representation of the plants on the interactive white board, I enjoyed learning about the plants and how to look after them which links to Catholic Social Teaching on sustainability and stewardship.'

Class 4 were learning about the Anglo Saxons and what they drank. Pupils said 'I enjoyed learning about the Vikings, especially the helmets that they wore.'

Thank you for reading and I do hope you enjoyed my contribution - George.

Parent/carer reminders

At the start of this New Year we need to ensure that we have all our timings and systems in place to help everything run smoothly!

Communication - Please ensure all communication is read and acted upon. We are experiencing numerous queries requesting information that has been previously sent out to all families.

After school sports offer - The days and dates for these clubs will remain unchanged (Mondays and Tuesdays).

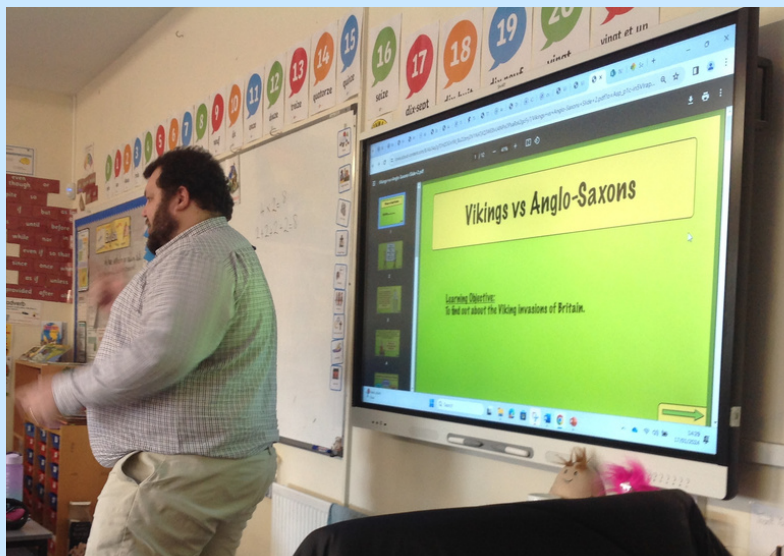
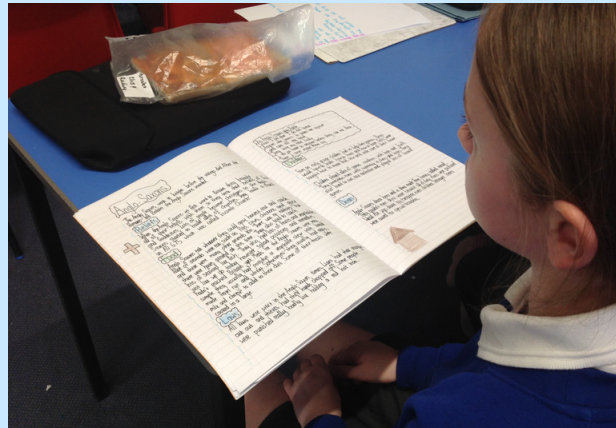
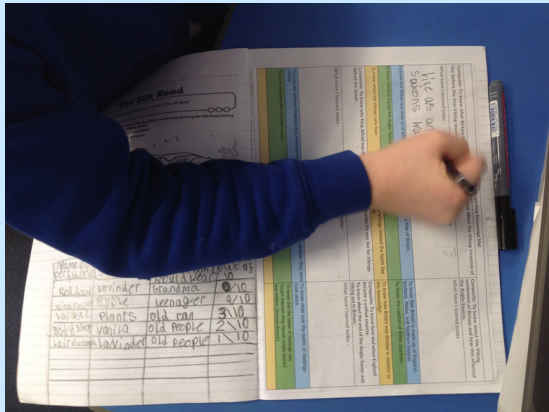
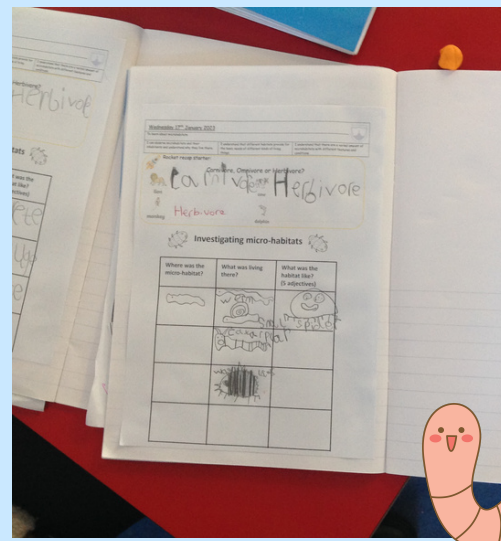
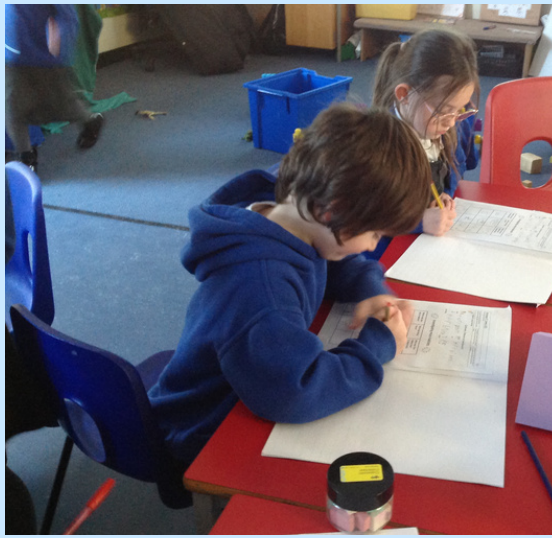
Wraparound care - Can you please ensure that your child/ren are collected on time. A charge will incur for every minute late since we will have to pay staff to remain on site. School closes at 5.30pm. The school answer phone comes on at 4.30pm so if there is an emergency please ring before this time. Please ensure child care costs (if paid via vouchers) are paid at least fortnightly so that significant costs do not build up.

School arrival and departure - All pupils should be dropped off at school no later than 8.45am - learning starts at 8.50am. Pupils in Class 1 and 2 must be collected at 3.15pm and Class 3 and 4 at 3.20pm. Sports club pick up is 4.15pm. **Please ensure your child/ren are dropped off and picked up on time.** If there is a genuine emergency then this is totally understandable. However we are finding that some pupils are being picked up and dropped off late for school, clubs or wraparound care. As a school we do our very best to accommodate all reasonable requests. Please treat us with the same courtesy as you would other professionals.

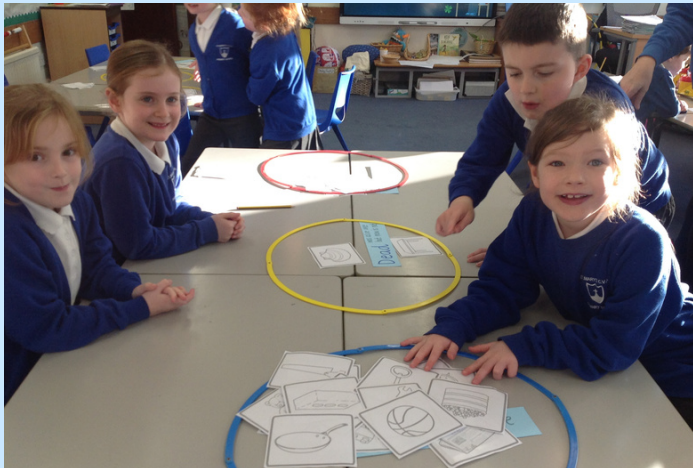
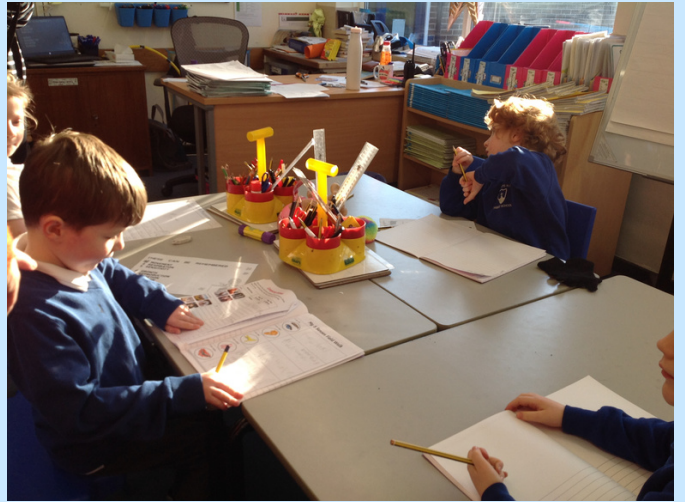
Please enjoy the lovely photos of the children engaging in their learning. Please also see the 'dates to note' section, these dates have also been added to ClassDojo. More dates will be added as we have them!

Have a lovely weekend - Mrs Chapman.

HISTORY AND SCIENCE



HISTORY AND SCIENCE CONTINUED



BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH

The children of wraparound club have been making fat balls for the bird feeders around school. We will be joining in with the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch survey. This is helping to build a picture of how our birds are faring and how we can play a part in helping them.



SPORTS THIS WEEK

Our year 5 and 6 dodgeball team had a fantastic afternoon hurling balls at each other in the local school dogeball tournament. Our Health Champions were also in action this week!



Year 5 and 6 dodgeball team

IF YOUR CHILD WAS INVITED TO THE AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS CLUB ON MONDAYS OR NETBALL ON TUESDAYS, PLEASE DO LET US KNOW IF THEY ARE ABLE TO ATTEND SO THAT WE CAN OFFER ANY OPEN PLACES TO CHILDREN ON THE WAITING LIST. IF YOUR CHILD IS SIGNED UP TO ATTEND EITHER CLUB, PLEASE DO LET US KNOW IF THEY WON'T BE ATTENDING SO THAT WE CAN AMEND THE REGISTERS.

DATES TO NOTE

Monday 15th January to Monday 29th April	SATs after school revision club for all year six pupils, 3.20pm to 4.15pm every Monday
Thursday 15th February	Geography collapsed curriculum day – normal school uniform on this day please. All parents and carers are invited to come into school at 2.40pm to share in the children’s learning.
Monday 19th February to Friday 23rd February	Half term holiday
Monday 26th February	INSET day – school closed to pupils
Thursday 14th March	Parents meeting regarding the residential trip to The Briars (year 5 only) 3.20–4.00pm
Monday 18th and Tuesday 18th March	Parents consultation sessions
W/C Monday 25th March	Holy Week
Thursday 28th March	Lenten service in school at 1.30pm – everyone is very welcome to attend. School closes at 2.00pm on this day. There will be no after school club on this day
Friday 29th March to Monday 15th April	Easter holidays and INSET day
Tuesday 16th April	National primary places offer day
Wednesday 17th April	Class photos
Wednesday 8th May to Friday 10th May	Year five residential trip to The Briars
W/C Monday 13th May	SATs week
Thursday 16th May	Parent meeting regarding the residential trip to Lea Green (year 6 only) 3.20pm–4.00pm
Thursday 23rd May	Class one assembly 9.15
Thursday 23rd May	Science collapsed curriculum day
Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May	Half term holidays
Thursday 13th June	Class three assembly 9.15am
Thursday 20th June	Class two assembly 9.15am
Wednesday 26th June to Friday 28th June	Year six residential trip to Lea Green
Monday 15th July	Class four end of year production dress rehearsal (all invited) 1.30pm
Tuesday 16th July	Class four end of year production (all invited) 6.00pm
Friday 19th July	School closes for the summer break

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

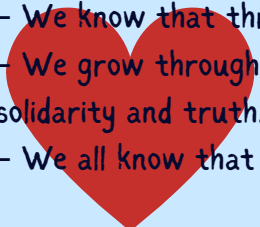
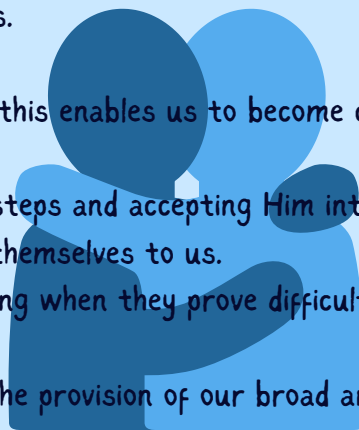
- We know how to say sorry and recognise when we have done something wrong.
- We know how to ask God and others for forgiveness.
- We know how to forgive others as God forgives us.
- We know that we can learn from our mistakes and this enables us to become closer to God.

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



If anyone has any clothes at home that belong to school, please send them back to us ASAP!!

Our dinner table discussion this week was 'can you feel happy and sad at the same time?'

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

**"The duties of a teacher are neither few nor small, but they elevate the mind and give energy to the character."
Dorothea Dix**

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 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.

Star of the Week this week was awarded to someone who enjoys reading.

*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.

Our statement of belief this week was - I try to love others as I love myself.

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



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

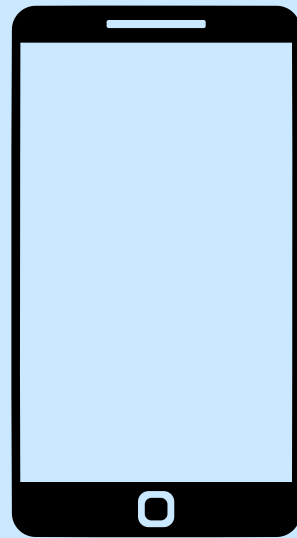
As a school, we are always here to support you and your family. If your family circumstances have changed, for example a loss of a loved one, a separation or even a house move, please do let us know. Changes like these will impact children and it would really help if we knew about your changing circumstances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



SAFEGUARDING ONLINE

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.

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



In winter, children and pets are particularly at risk when tempted to play on the ice formed on open water, and adults can find themselves at risk in attempting to save them.

Taking a nice walk in cold weather with your family, friends or dogs in tow can be really refreshing, just make sure you know some simple tips on how to stay safe in winter.

Here are some useful tips to keep safe this winter:



KEEP BACK FROM THE EDGE

Keep back from slippery banks.
Stick to well-lit areas and plan your walks in daylight or along well-lit paths.
Never go onto the ice.



KEEP CHILDREN AND DOGS WITHIN REACH

Teach children not to go onto ice.
Keep dogs on a lead near ice and slippery banks.
If out enjoying a winter walk, walk with friends.



Enjoy Water Safely



IF YOU'RE IN TROUBLE FLOAT AND CALL FOR HELP.

Stay calm, float on your back and call for help.

Wait for help and keep as still as possible.
Preserve heat by pressing your arms by your side and keep your legs together. Keep your head clear of the water.
Throw something that floats to somebody that has fallen in.



CALL 999

Do not enter cold water or ice to rescue.

Try and reach them from the bank using a rope, pole, tree branch, clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.

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!



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SCHOOL
LOTTERY**

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