



16TH FEBRUARY 2024

FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

A very warm welcome to the last newsletter of this half term. The theme this week is 'caring' and pupils have been helping each other if they are upset. Our statement to live by is, 'I listen to what you say. I show that I am listening to you.'

A very busy and fun filled week. This week commenced with the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. The class teachers demonstrated to pupils how the ashes are created by burning last year's Easter palm crosses and adding Holy Water. Father Emmanuel visited the school and completed an Ash Wednesday service with all the pupils, parents, carers and parish visitors. Please see the wonderful photographs of all our Lenten activities. Thank you to all the visitors and parents/carers who attended our Ash Wednesday service.

Eco Team – The eco team designed posters this week to remind us all that we have a daffodil cross growing through the grass and to stick to the footpaths around school.

Geography collapsed curriculum day – A wonderful day was had by all on our geography collapsed curriculum day. Key Stage 1 have created their own big cities/small towns using a range of junk modelling. Class 3 have completed sewing and raft making linking to their river topic. Class 4 have been designing longboats as part of their Viking topic. Please enjoy the photos below.

Reminder – As part of our school uniform policy can we remind all adults that pupils should not be wearing nail varnish or jewellery (please refer to the uniform policy for exceptions).

Thank you to the PTA for our wonderful Valentine's disco on Wednesday, and well done to Eden, Alice B, Alice W and Billy for winning the hearts competition. Thank you also to Swizzels for the donations of love heart sweets!

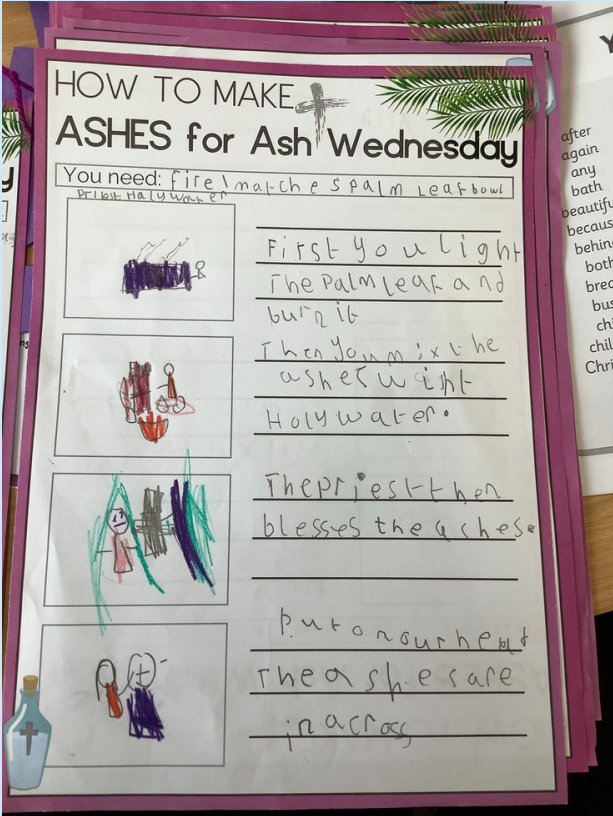
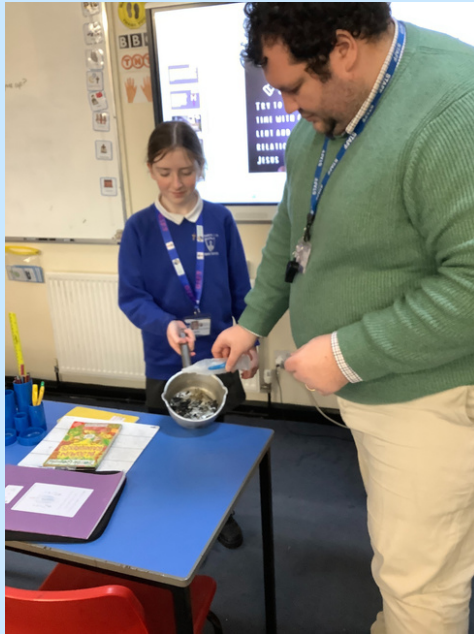
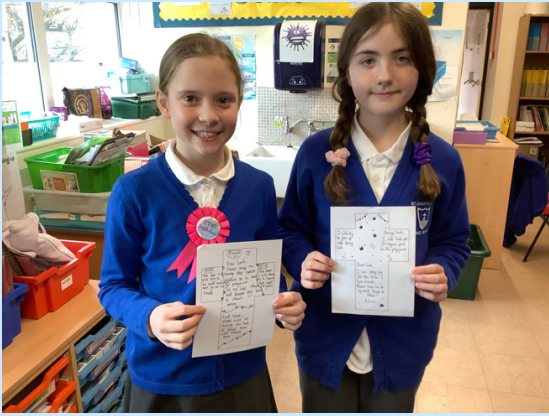
Some of our pupils attended a skateboarding event this week at New Mills Primary School. Skateboarding professionals demonstrated their sport and some pupils had a go themselves! After half term, we will be attending the dance festival with other schools in our cluster.

Have wonderful half term holiday and please remember that Monday 26th February is an inset day so school is closed to pupils.

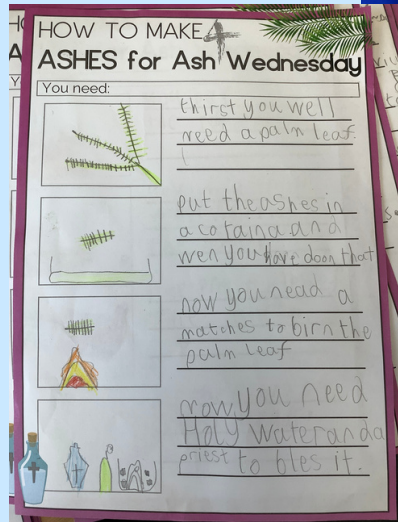
Mrs Chapman.

**Copies of both the school newsletters and the Parish newsletters can be found here –
<https://www.stmarysnewmills.srscmat.co.uk/news/newsletters/>
Our Catholic life and mission newsletter can be found here
<https://www.stmarysnewmills.srscmat.co.uk/catholic-life/catholic-social-teaching/>**

ASH WEDNESDAY



ASH WEDNESDAY CONTINUED





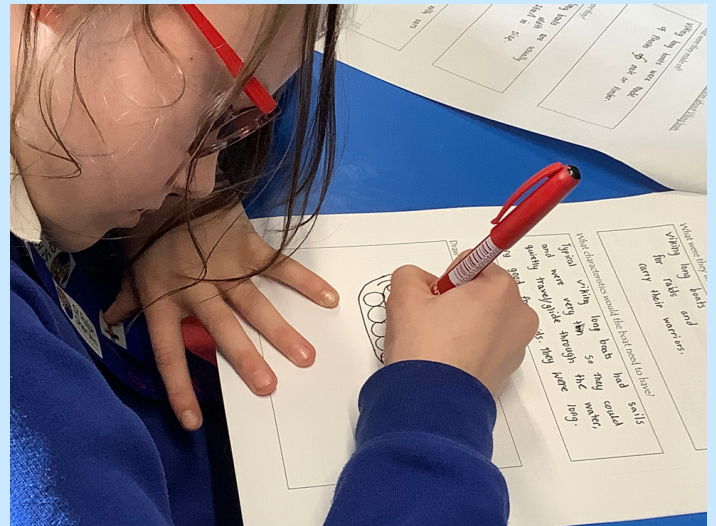
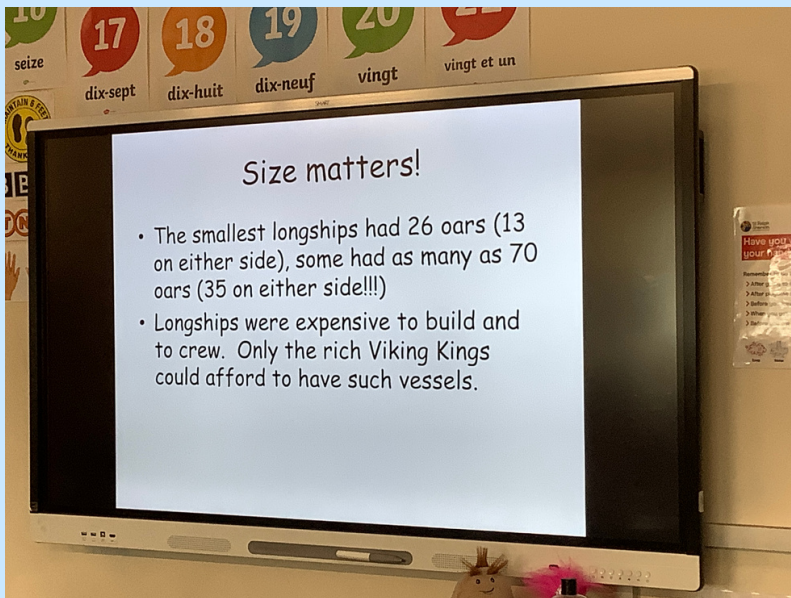
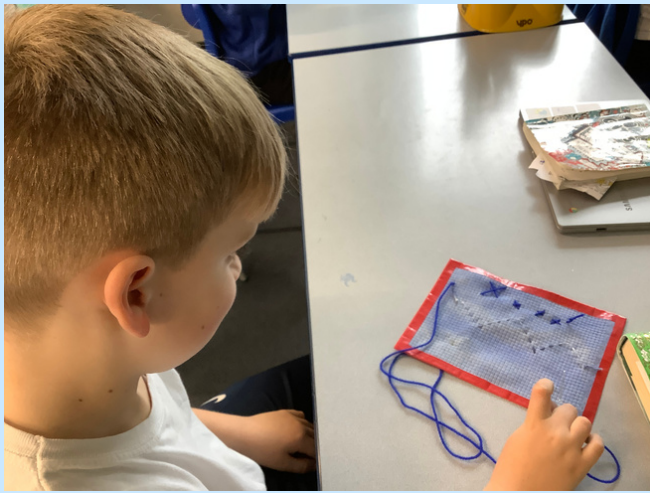
GEOGRAPHY COLLAPSED CURRICULUM DAY



Thank you so much to all of the adults who attended our showcasing of geography in the afternoon. We had a very large turnout so hopefully it is something we can organise again in the future.



GEOGRAPHY COLLAPSED CURRICULUM DAY CONTINUED



Design your own Viking Ship!

Sail, usually red, green, blue

Prow, fierce animal head. Remember to name your Ship - for example, LONG SERPENT or SNAKE OF THE SEA

Stern, fierce animal head

Shields, brightly coloured and hung on side of ship when entering port

Remember how strongly built the ships were. Overlapping wood with tar and animal fat stuffed in to seal any gaps

Oars would be used as well as the sail for speed, or without the sail when no wind Or when they had to be taken up narrow channels

GEOGRAPHY COLLAPSED CURRICULUM DAY CONTINUED

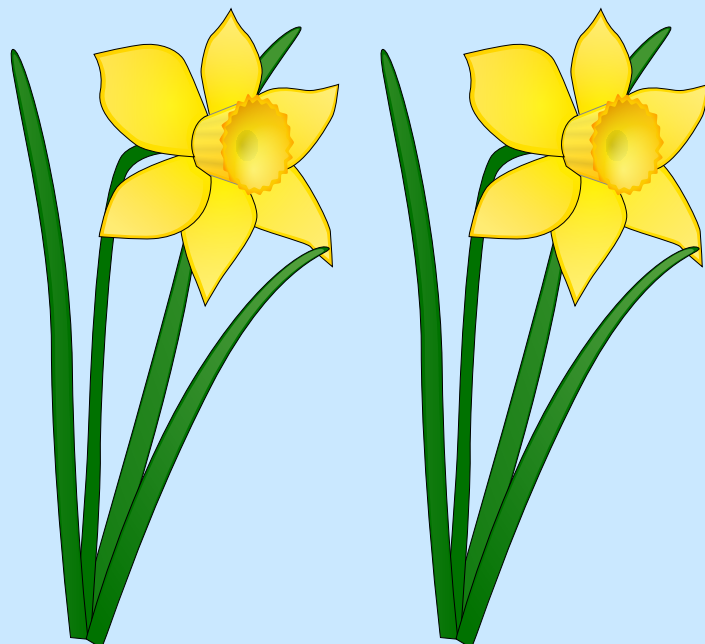


GEOGRAPHY COLLAPSED CURRICULUM DAY CONTINUED



ECO TEAM

The Eco Team put up posters to protect the delicate bulbs that are starting to appear.



SKATEBOARDING EVENT

Love the teamwork here, helping each other out!



Potato Challenge

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

7TH MARCH

Turn a potato into your favourite book character.

Time to get creative! For World Book Day this year, we are asking the children to turn a potato into their favourite book character. Bring your potato and a copy of the book (if you have one) with you on Thursday 7th March for a fun filled day of book exploration.



1st, 2nd & 3rd Prize
in each class

extra activities throughout the day



YOU SPOKE - WE LISTENED

Our pupils recently said "we should try to make sure that all of our fun days are not dress up days because people spend lots of money on costumes and those who don't have a lot of money feel bad. We should have days where we can still make things but maybe recycle things we have at home or use things that are not expensive so everyone has the same chance."



WHO WILL YOUR POTATO BECOME?



PARENT AND CARER CONSULTATION SESSIONS

Please book a parent/carers consultation timeslot – these links have been e-mailed to you.

The parents/carers consultations will take place on Monday 18th March (1.30pm - 5.40pm) and Tuesday 19th March (1.30pm - 6.00pm). Please click on the links on your e-mail to book an appointment with your child's class teacher. There is one link per class, and you must book one timeslot per child. Please book a preferred timeslot using the links, we will then allocate a ten-minute slot as close to that timeslot as possible for you. Your allocated timeslot will be e-mailed to you in due course (this won't happen straight away).

The appointments are ten minutes long - if you feel you need longer to speak to your child's teacher, please contact the school office on joxley@nmm.srscmat.co.uk to arrange this.

All appointments are in-person appointments taking place in the school hall. If you are not able to attend an in-person appointment, please let the school office know so that a phone appointment can be arranged.

Appointments are allocated on a first come, first served basis. We will do as much as we can to allocate a ten-minute appointment within the slot you have requested but this may not always be possible.



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
Monday 19th February to Friday 23rd February	Half term holiday
Monday 26th February	INSET day – school closed to pupils
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day – potato challenge! (see poster above)
Monday 11th March to Friday 22nd March	Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel event
Thursday 14th March	Parents meeting regarding the residential trip to The Briars (year 5 only) 3.20–4.00pm
Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th 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

NEWS FROM THE PTA


Thank you to everyone who came to the disco on Wednesday of this week, we hope you had a great time! A huge well done and thank you to the PTA for organising and running this event.

The winners of the heart competition were Eden, Alice B, Alice W and Billy.



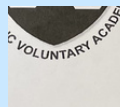
 Saint Mary's PTA Valentines Disco

Heart Competition!




For the upcoming PTA Valentines disco, we would LOVE for the children to draw/colour/craft this heart to be used to decorate the hall for the event. Please write your NAME and CLASS on the back of your designed heart and give it to your teacher by Monday 12th February 2024. A winner will be chosen per class and will win a prize! Good Luck!

Love from Your PTA

 Saint Mary's PTA Valentines Disco

Heart Competition!



For the upcoming PTA Valentines disco, we would LOVE for the children to draw/colour/craft this heart to be used to decorate the hall for the event. Please write your NAME and CLASS on the back of your designed heart and give it to your teacher by Monday 12th February 2024. A winner will be chosen per class and will win a prize! Good Luck!

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 weigh the sky? Would it be heavier on a cloudy day?'

**I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.
II John 1:2**

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

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 knows how to prepare.

*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 listen to what you say. I show that I am listening to you.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS 95.7% THIS WEEK!

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

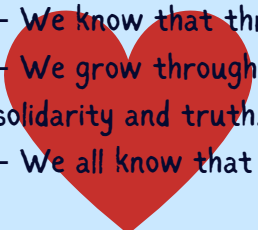
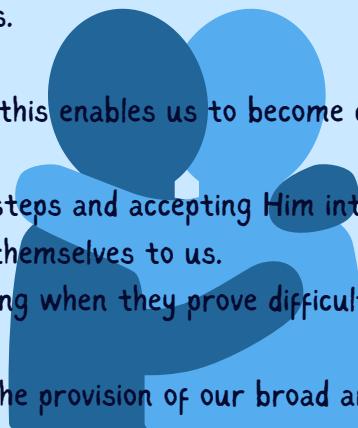
- We know how to say sorry and recognise when we have done something wrong.
- We know how to ask God and others for forgiveness.
- We know how to forgive others as God forgives us.
- We know that we can learn from our mistakes and this enables us to become closer to God.

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 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.

It is 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. Primary aged children aren't able to understand the consequences of decisions made when using social media, they are at risk because of WHAT THEY MIGHT SEE, WHO THEY MIGHT SPEAK TO and HOW THEY MIGHT BEHAVE. Please help to keep all of our children safe by ensuring that none of our children are using social media.**

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.

Parent webinar County Lines in Derbyshire

Hosted by

Ivison Trust,
a parent with lived experience & a
local police officer.

Register today

www.ivisontrust.org.uk/webinars

7-8.30pm
6th March

i feel so much
more confident to
to talk to my child

EXTRA INFORMATION

SUSTRANS BIG WALK AND WHEEL

We have some exciting news for you! We are taking part in the 15th year celebration of Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel, the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting challenge. The challenge runs from 11-22 March 2024. It's free to take part and we would love everyone to be involved.

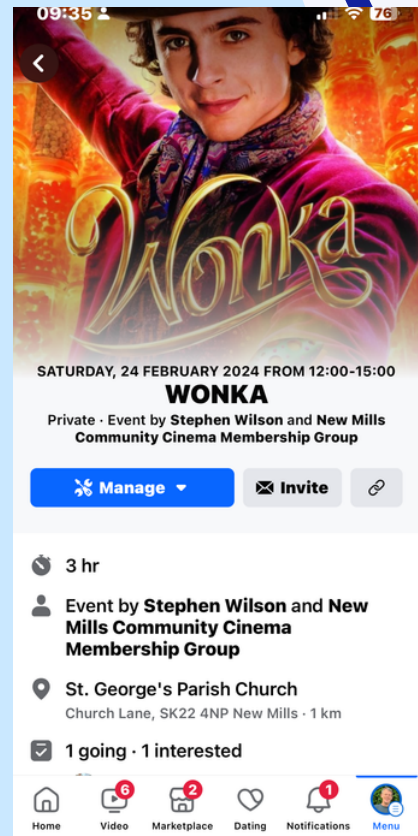
What do you need to do?

Encourage your child(ren) to walk, use a wheelchair, scoot or cycle to school on as many days as possible during the event.

Why we are taking part

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is a great way to build physical activity in children's daily routine which is important for their physical health and mental wellbeing.

Active school runs also help to reduce congestion and air pollution outside the school gate. A 2021 YouGov study showed nearly half of UK children worry about air pollution near their school. And that children thought active travel was the best way to bring down these pollution levels.



Half Term Art workshops
Kids Art Clubs will be running some studio based workshops over half term

Workshops will run from 10-3pm. Early drop off is available and sibling discounts.
Places for the sessions are limited so please book sooner rather than later to avoid disappointment.
Smaller numbers for a more nurturing and safe space for our mini artists.

ALL sessions will run out of our studio at Photojenix in New Mills.

Monday 19th Feb
Thursday 22nd Feb

<https://kidsartclubs.classforkids.io/camp/10>

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**

Nintendo Switch Bundle

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!
- Win an amazing gaming bundle!



**YOUR
SCHOOL
LOTTERY**

PLAY NOW:

Go to

www.yourschoollottery.co.uk

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



Gamble**Aware**

See website for Terms & conditions. Enter by 24/02/24