



9TH FEBRUARY 2024

FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Welcome to the newsletter. The theme for this week's whole school 'Celebration of the Word' was Diversity. The chaplains led prayer and activities about how we can show and understand what diversity means. Our statement to live by which each class discussed was 'I know we are happiest when we are united.'

The focus in school news this week is mental health and music. Please see the wonderful video of our children during their music lessons taken this week and last week.

Mental health week - Pupils across the school have completed activities based around mental health this week. Miss Gibbons, our ELSA, (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) has completed a short video informing you about her role, we have added this to ClassDojo and the school website.

Chromebooks - Please note the schools pays for all Chromebooks that classes 3 and 4 take home out of our school budget . They cost approximately £200 each. Please do take care of this equipment and keep it in good condition for the next set of pupils who will use it in the following academic term.

ICT and safeguarding - Can I remind all parents and carers that primary school children should not be using any social media platforms at home. 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.

Medical/dental appointments during school hours - Can we please ensure that appointments (unless it is an emergency) are booked outside school hours or during the holidays. There has been a significant increase in pupils leaving school to attend morning and afternoon appointments. This has a direct impact on pupils missing their learning which they will not be able to access at a later date. Teachers cannot go back and reteach missed lessons to a few pupils when they have full classes of children.

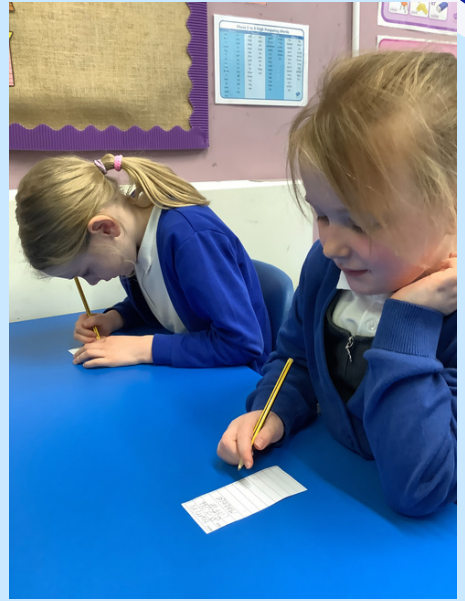
Mass - Well done to all the pupils who attended mass last Thursday at church and a special 'thank you' to Class 1 for making cards for Father Emmanuel.

Next week we have an Ash Wednesday service in school at 1.45pm, you are all very welcome to attend.

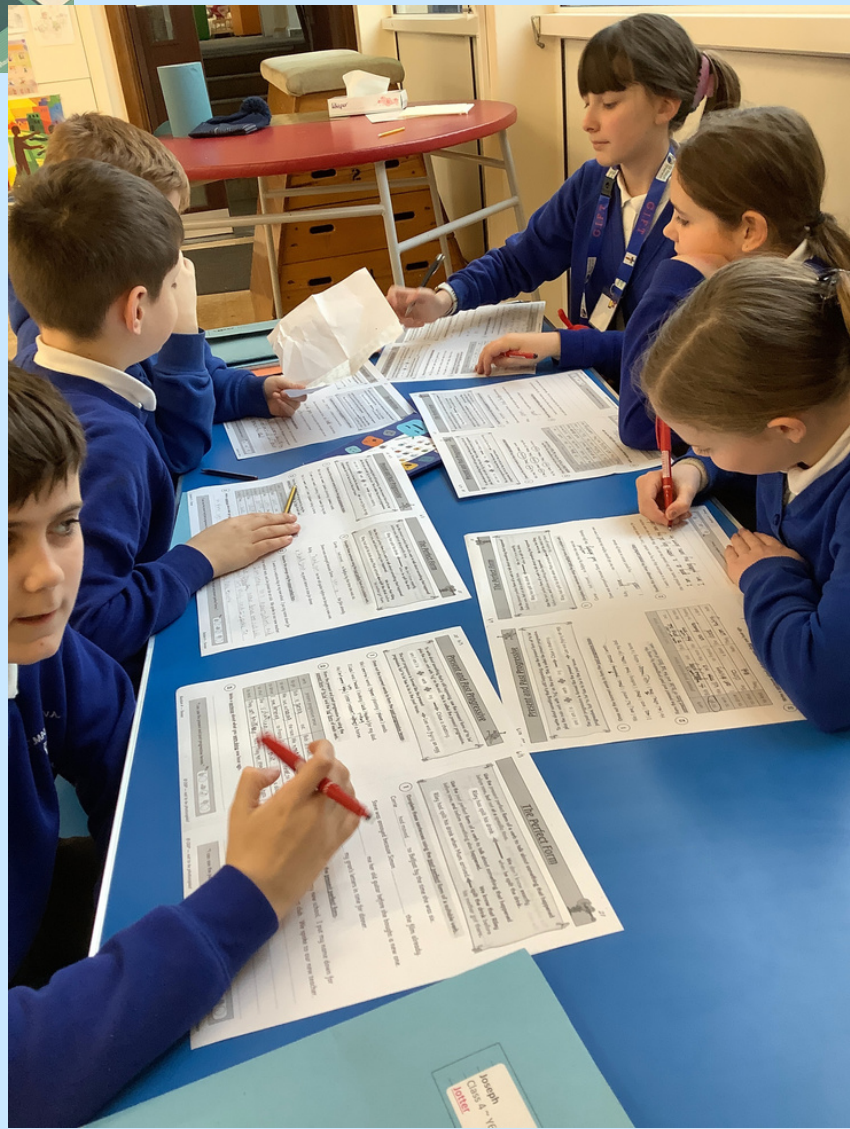
Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Chapman.

CLASS 2 – SPELLINGS AND READING



CLASS 4 – GUIDED READING



BIBLE STUDY WITH DAN AND THE LITTLE FISH GROUPS MEET



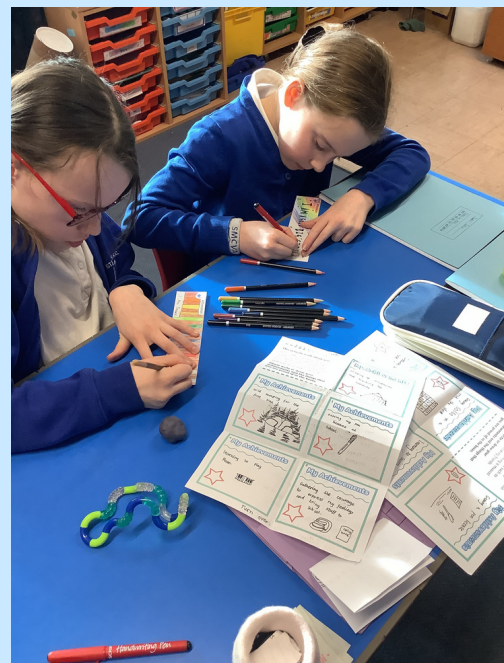
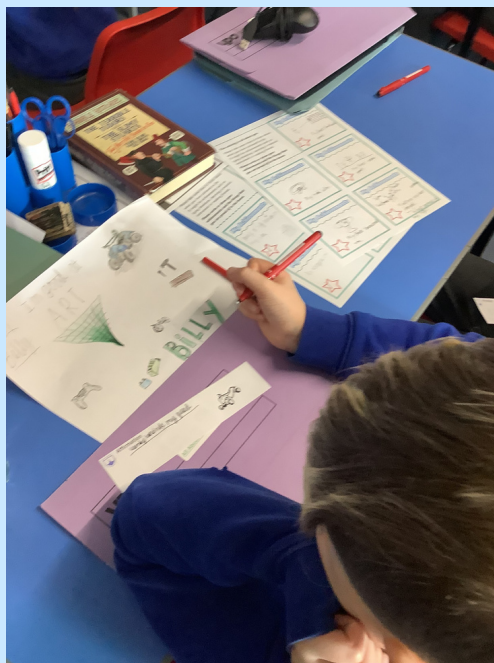
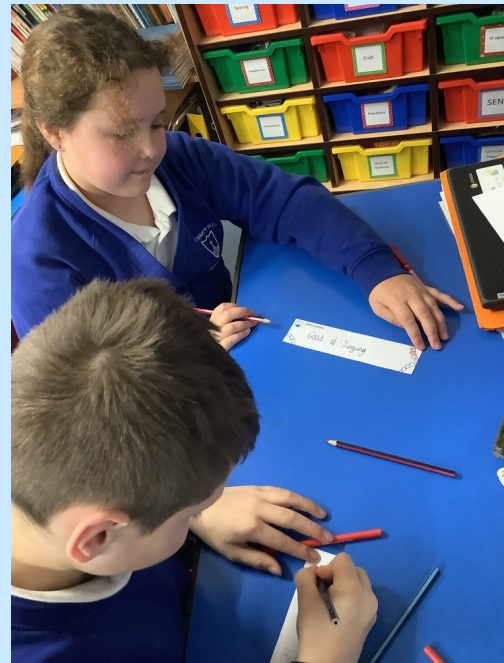
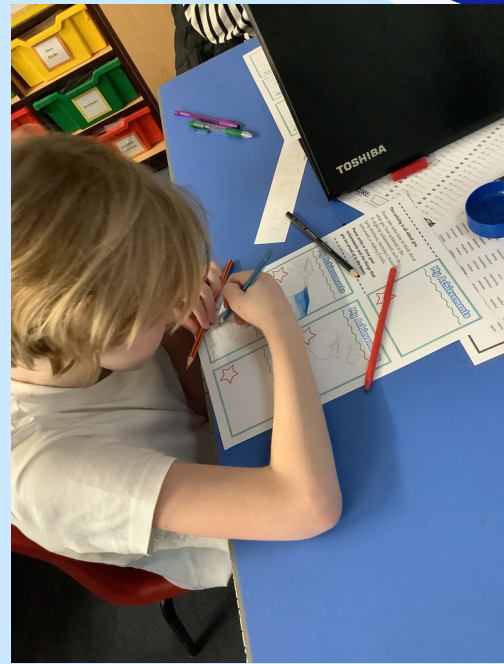
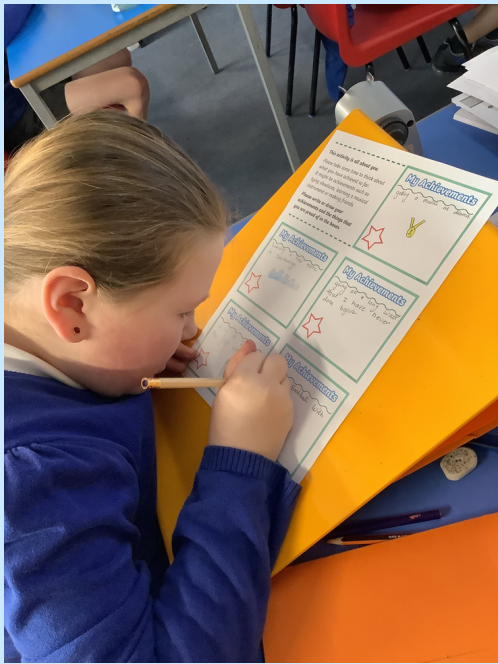
IT WAS MRS HODGSON'S SPECIAL BIRTHDAY ON THURSDAY, THE CHILDREN PRESENTED HER WITH A HANDMADE CARD AND FLOWERS

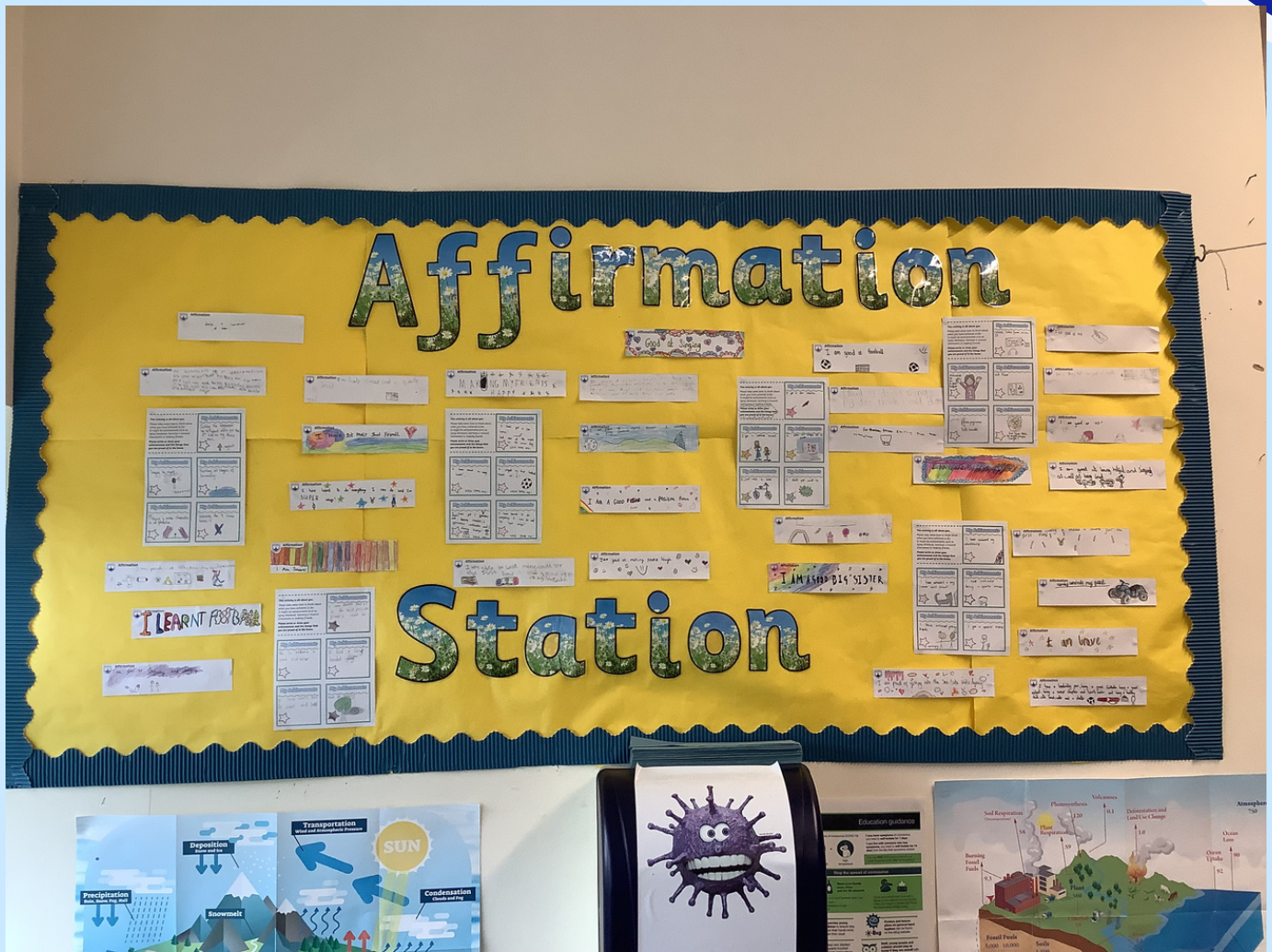


CLASS 1 – BUSY BEES



CLASS 4 – MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

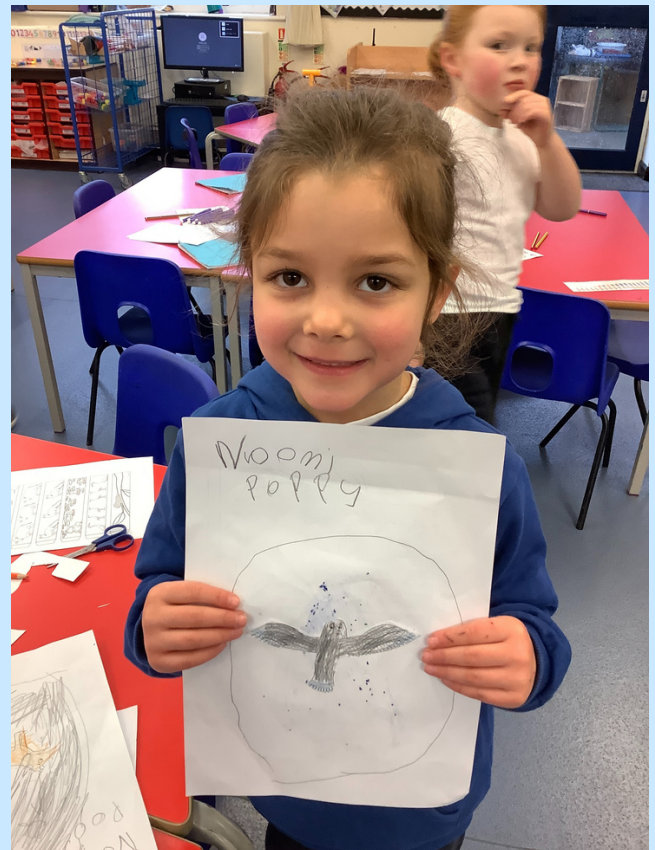
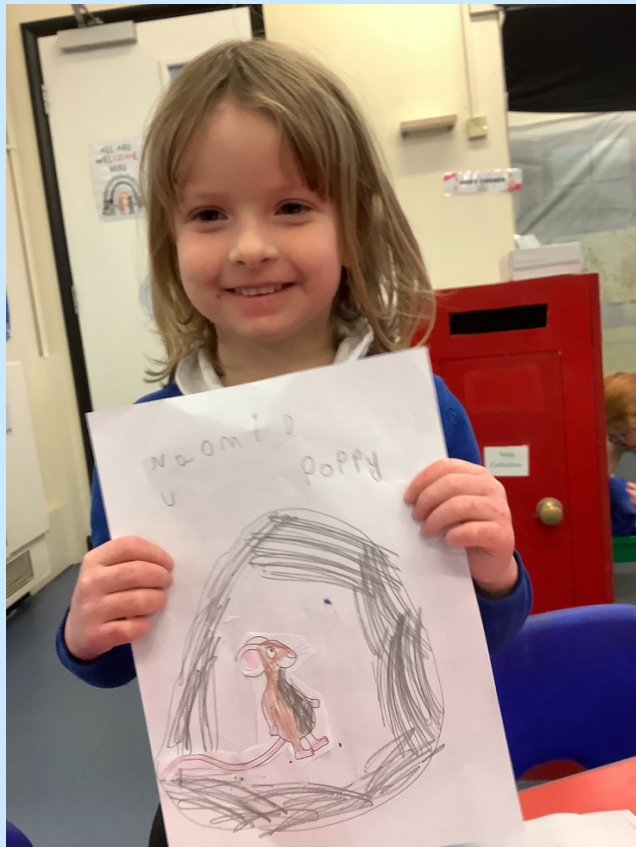
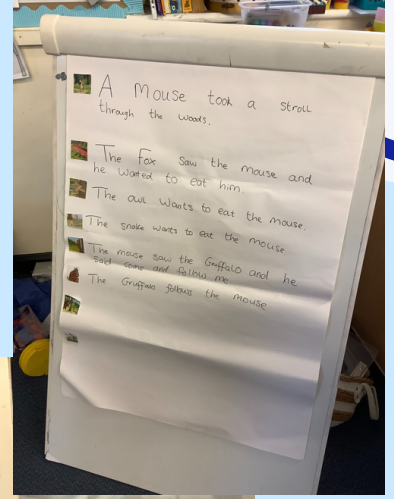
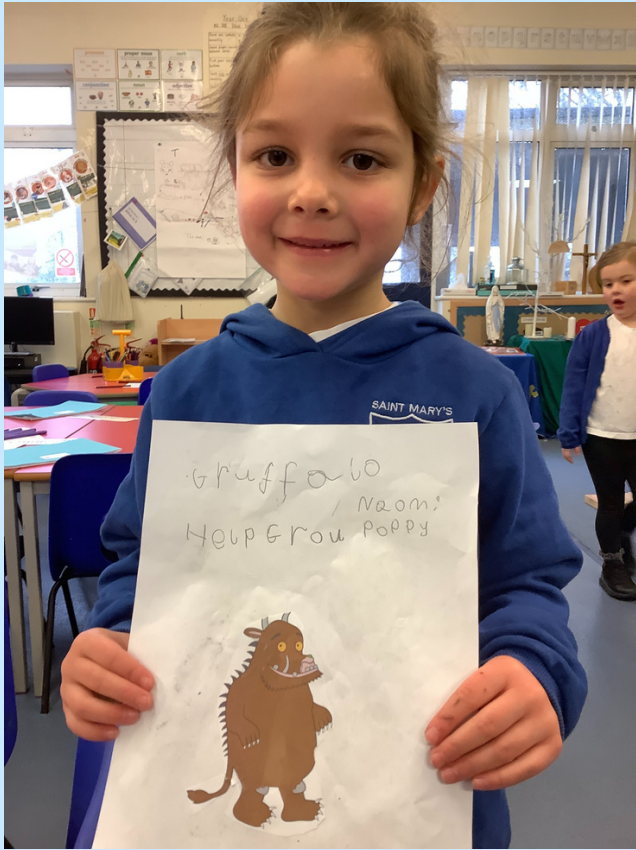




CLASS 2 HAVE BEEN USING COLOUR TO HELP THEM IDENTIFY THEIR FEELINGS



MAKING 'WANTED' POSTERS FOR THE GRUFFALO



CLASSES 1, 2 AND 3 ATTEND MASS

Class one made thank you cards for Father



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
Wednesday 14th February	Valentines disco. Key stage one 5.00pm to 6.00pm and key stage two 6.15pm to 7.15pm. £2.00 per child which includes crisps and drinks. Children to wear red, white or pink! PTA EVENT
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.
Friday 16th February	Wear your own clothes day, voluntary donation of £1.00 per child PTA EVENT
Monday 19th February to Friday 23rd February	Half term holiday
Monday 26th February	INSET day – school closed to pupils
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 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

NEWS FROM THE PTA



**THE WINNING HOUSE FROM LAST HALF TERM WAS FATIMA – THEY HAD A ROCK PAINTING SESSION WITH THE PTA TODAY!
THANK YOU TO THE PTA FOR TODAY**

VALENTINES DISCO

**WEDNESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY
IN THE SCHOOL HALL**

DRESS IN PINK WHITE OR RED

KS1 - 5-6PM

KS2 - 6.15-7.15PM

£2 PER CHILD

INCLUDES A DRINK AND A SNACK

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?'

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

"It takes a big heart to help shape little minds." Anonymous

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.

No Star of the Week assembly this week

*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 know we are happiest when we are united.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS 90.8% 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

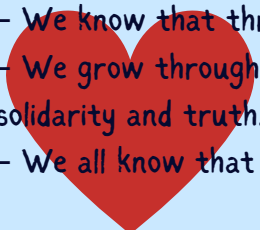
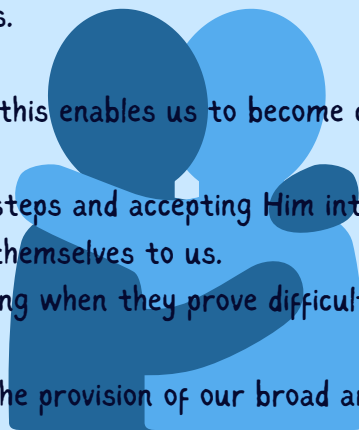
- We know how to say sorry and recognise when we have done something wrong.
- We know how to ask God and others for forgiveness.
- We know how to forgive others as God forgives us.
- We know that we can learn from our mistakes and this enables us to become closer to God.

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

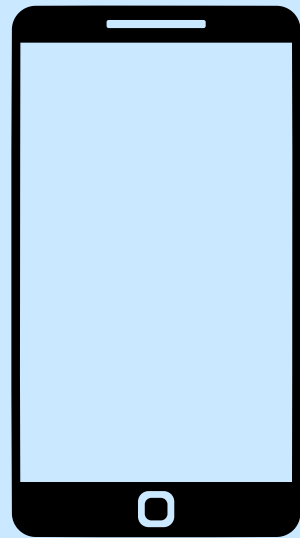
As a school, we are always here to support you and your family. If your family circumstances have changed, for example a loss of a loved one, a separation or even a house move, please do let us know. Changes like these will impact children and it would really help if we knew about your changing circumstances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

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.

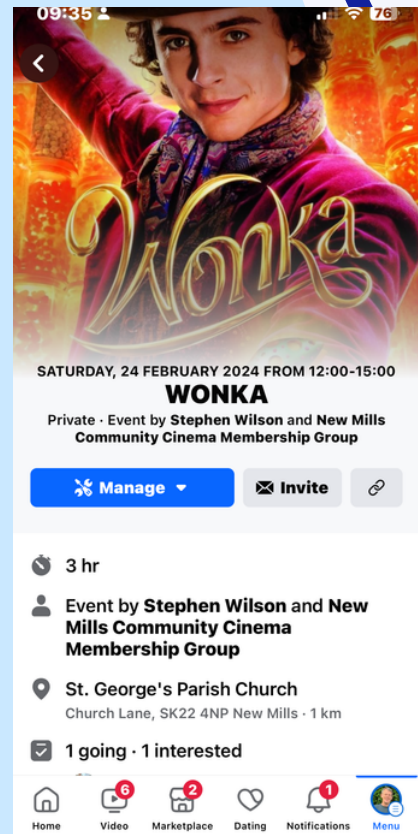
What do you need to do?

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.

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

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



Gamble**Aware**

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