



**1ST MARCH 2024**

# **FRIDAY NEWSLETTER**

## **SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY**

**Welcome back! We do hope you had a wonderful time with your families last week. Our pupils talked about this week's virtue 'gratitude' and how grateful they are to their parent's and carers.**

**The weekly theme is, 'I co-operate with others in work and play.' The senior chaplains have been teaching the stations of the cross with our KS1 pupils each lunch time as part of our Lenten preparations.**

**Our inset day on Monday focused on a range of training to support pupils with Special Educational Needs. All staff had the opportunity to talk about new evidenced based research approaches and also to feel very assured that current practice is inline with all national and statutory recommendations.**

**Class 4 pupils took part in a dance festival on Wednesday- please enjoy the photos below.**

**Class 3 have been on their river walk. Thank you to Mrs Barber for volunteering to lead this session and to our volunteers for helping.**

**The PTA organised a wonderful fund-raising event on Thursday with all the pupils at lunchtime which not only helped to raise funds but also ensured all our children had a fun filled active session. Thank you to our PTA who are doing a fantastic job.**

**Book sale - following on from parent/carer feedback about the costs of purchasing books from the book fair we have listened to this and our children have suggested the following:**

**Families can donate good quality age-appropriate books and send them into school next week (4/3/24). On Wednesday 13th March at 2.45pm-3.30pm children and families are invited into school to give a voluntary donation for these books.**

**Please note upcoming dates for this term. As you can see it is very busy, short term!**

**School finishes on Thursday 28th March after our Lenten service which will begin at 1.30pm. All families are very welcome to attend this service. All pupils should be collected at 2.00pm.**

**Have a lovely weekend,  
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/>**

# DANCE FESTIVAL

Some of our class 4 pupils attended the dance festival this week. Well done to you all! Please see the fantastic dance routine video on [ClassDojo](#).



# STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Senior chaplains lead children through the Station of the Cross.



# LEAP YEAR ACTIVITIES – PTA

Thank you so much to our PTA members who came to do leap year activities on Thursday of this week. Please also see the video on [ClassDojo!](#)



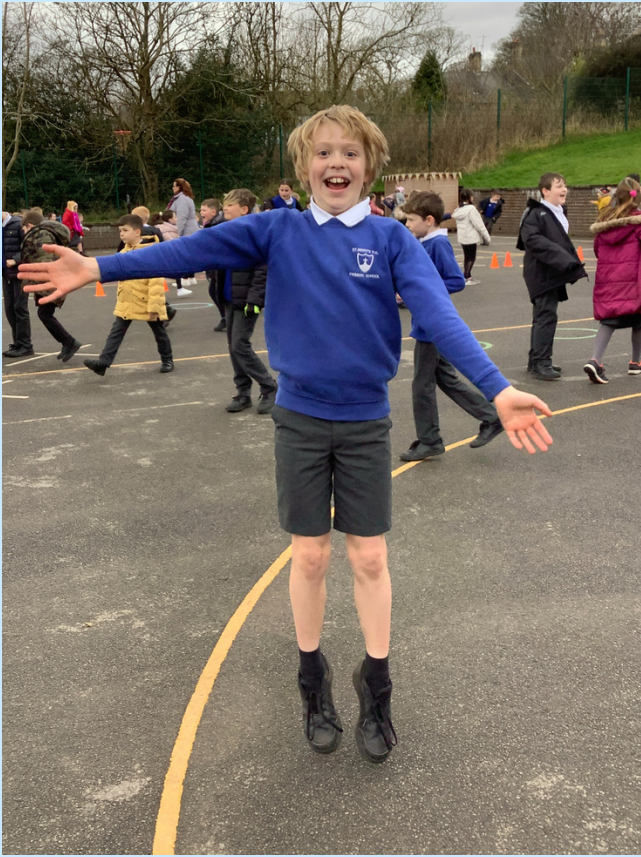
# LEAP YEAR ACTIVITIES – PTA CONTINUED



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# CLASS 3 RIVER WALK – LAUNCHING OUR RAFTS!

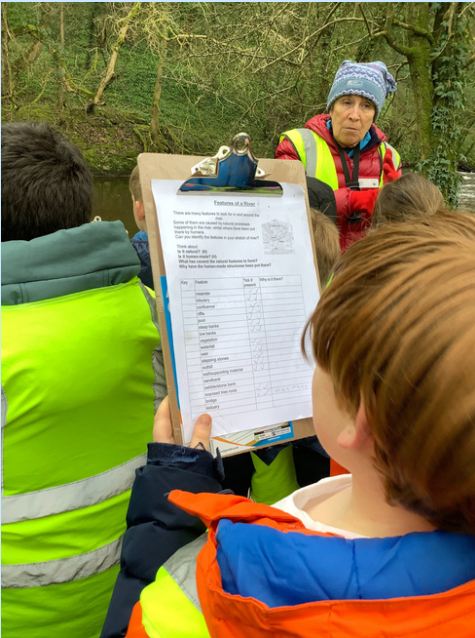




# CLASS 3 RIVER WALK – LAUNCHING OUR RAFTS! CONTINUED



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# CLASS 3 RIVER WALK – LAUNCHING OUR RAFTS! CONTINUED



Thank you to Mrs Barber for leading this walk  
and to our volunteers for helping on the day!

# 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](mailto: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.

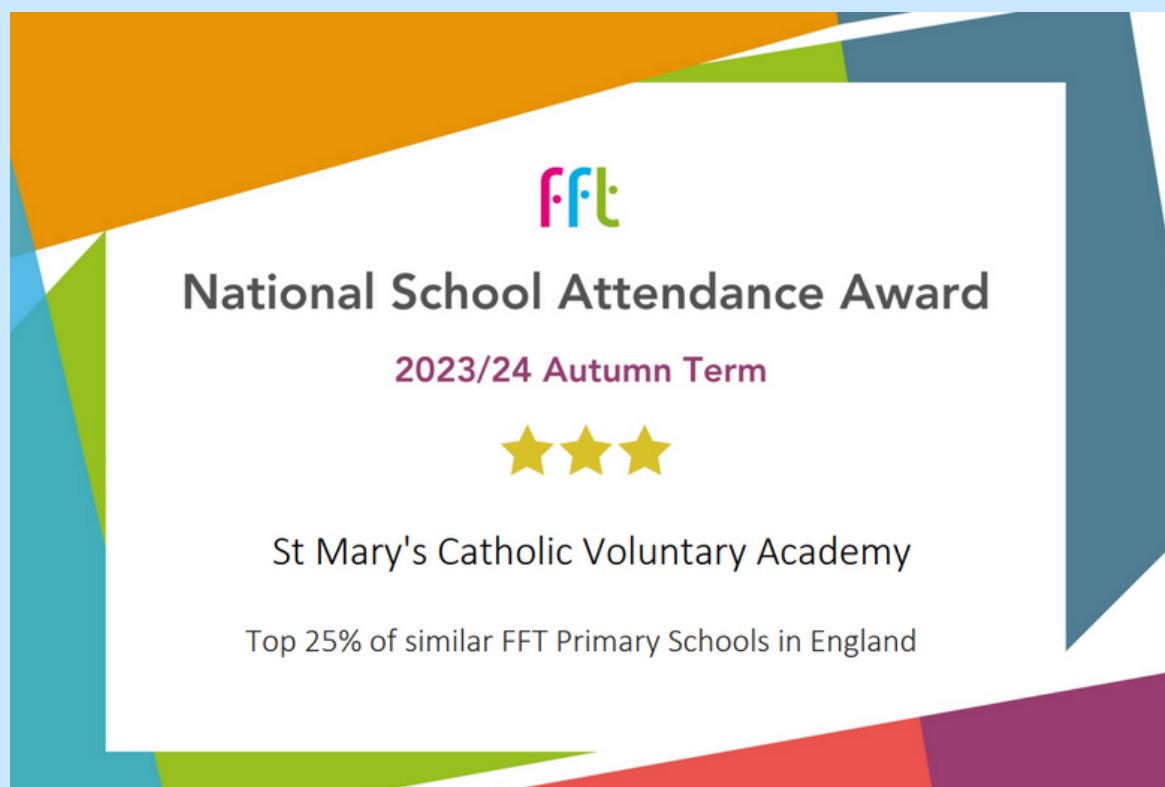
Appointments are allocated on a first come, first served basis. We will do as much as we can to allocate a ten-minute appointment within the slot you have requested but this may not always be possible.



## ATTENDANCE AWARD

We were proud this week to receive the FFT attendance award. We placed in the top 25% of similar primary schools.

Thank you to everyone for helping us to keep our attendance high and therefore ensuring the best possible outcomes for all of our children.



# DATES TO NOTE

<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 7th March</b>	<b>World Book Day – potato challenge! (see poster above)</b>
<b>Monday 11th March to Friday 22nd March</b>	<b>Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel event</b>
<b>Wednesday 13th March</b>	<b>Book sale in the hall – second hand, good quality books. Voluntary donations. 2.45pm–3.30pm</b>
<b>Thursday 14th March</b>	<b>Choir to sing at Jubilee day centre</b>
<b>Thursday 14th March</b>	<b>Parents meeting regarding the residential trip to The Briars (year 5 only) 3.20–4.00pm</b>
<b>Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th March</b>	<b>Parents consultation sessions</b>
<b>W/C Monday 25th March</b>	<b>Holy Week</b>
<b>Thursday 28th March</b>	<b>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</b>
<b>Friday 29th March to Monday 15th April</b>	<b>Easter holidays and INSET day</b>
<b>Tuesday 16th April</b>	<b>National primary places offer day</b>
<b>Wednesday 17th April</b>	<b>Class photos</b>
<b>Wednesday 8th May to Friday 10th May</b>	<b>Year five residential trip to The Briars</b>
<b>W/C Monday 13th May</b>	<b>SATs week</b>
<b>Thursday 16th May</b>	<b>Parent meeting regarding the residential trip to Lea Green (year 6 only) 3.20pm–4.00pm</b>
<b>Thursday 23rd May</b>	<b>Class one assembly 9.15</b>
<b>Thursday 23rd May</b>	<b>Science collapsed curriculum day</b>
<b>Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May</b>	<b>Half term holidays</b>
<b>Thursday 13th June</b>	<b>Class three assembly 9.15am</b>
<b>Thursday 20th June</b>	<b>Class two assembly 9.15am</b>
<b>Wednesday 26th June to Friday 28th June</b>	<b>Year six residential trip to Lea Green</b>
<b>Monday 15th July</b>	<b>Class four end of year production dress rehearsal (all invited) 1.30pm</b>
<b>Tuesday 16th July</b>	<b>Class four end of year production (all invited) 6.00pm</b>
<b>Friday 19th July</b>	<b>School closes for the summer break</b>

# 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 'if both hands fall off my clock is it still a clock?'**

**God loves you perfectly; He forgives you completely; He cares for you constantly.**

*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 is thankful.**

*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 co-operate with others in work and play.**

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS 96.2% 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

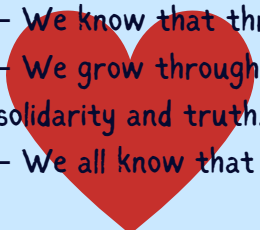
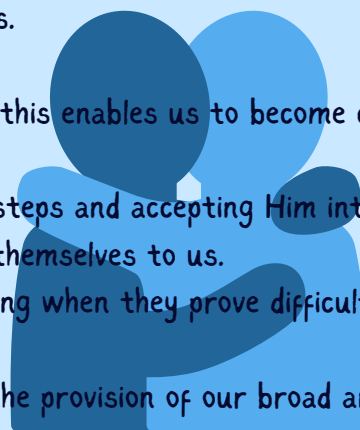
- We know how to say sorry and recognise when we have done something wrong.
- We know how to ask God and others for forgiveness.
- We know how to forgive others as God forgives us.
- We know that we can learn from our mistakes and this enables us to become closer to God.

## 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](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

**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](http://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.



**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.**

The infographic is titled 'EVERY MINUTE COUNTS' and features a timeline of school arrival times. It includes illustrations of children, a paint palette, and a watermelon slice. The text explains that arriving late means missing out on important learning opportunities and provides specific examples of how many days are lost per year for different amounts of lateness.

**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.

The infographic is titled 'Could your child be entitled to Free School Meals?' and features illustrations of various fruits like strawberries, blueberries, kiwi, and bananas. The text explains that the school receives additional funding called Pupil Premium for every pupil registered, which is used to help raise achievement levels. It also mentions that by ensuring as many eligible families as possible have applied for free school meals, the school will receive its maximum Pupil Premium funding. The infographic provides a link to apply for Free School Meals and encourages parents of children who receive Universal Infant Free School Meals to still apply for Free School Meals as this will ensure the school receives essential funding. It also provides contact information for the school office if parents 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](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk)

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



GambleAware

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