



**19TH JULY 2024**

# **FRIDAY NEWSLETTER**

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

Welcome to the last newsletter for this academic year. It is with a mixture of sadness and joy that I write this letter. We said farewell to our year Six pupils and celebrated all their shared successes. They will be remembered with such great fondness and will always be a part of the Saint Mary's family.

Last Friday our current senior chaplains interviewed our new chaplains. We now have twelve fantastic new chaplains. They have also changed their name to 'Mary's Missionaries.' Well done and a huge congratulations to you all, each one of you is bringing a unique quality to this team.

A huge **thank you** to our PTA for an amazing summer fair – you are all doing an incredible job. Thank you from all the staff, pupils and parents/carers at Saint Mary's.

On Monday we had our class four dress rehearsal. I am sure you laughed as much as me! This was followed by their final production on Tuesday evening.

On Wednesday morning we had a visit from Imran Kotwal who shared information about his Islamic faith. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed these sessions, asking lots of questions and using a range of resources. Special friends also had a fantastic teddy bear's picnic that afternoon. They shared biscuits made by their special friends and gifts made by year six. There was also a short charity show run by pupils in class four to raise funds for cancer research. Thank you to all who donated to this charity which is close to our hearts.

Year six had their leavers mass on Thursday followed by their farewell assembly on Friday.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for all your continued support throughout the year. I wish you all a safe and happy summer break and I look forward to seeing everyone in September.

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/>**

**Our Trust newsletter can be found here**

**<https://bit.ly/3UQsldI>**



# SUMMER FAIR



SUMMER FAIR



# SUMMER FAIR



# SUMMER FAIR



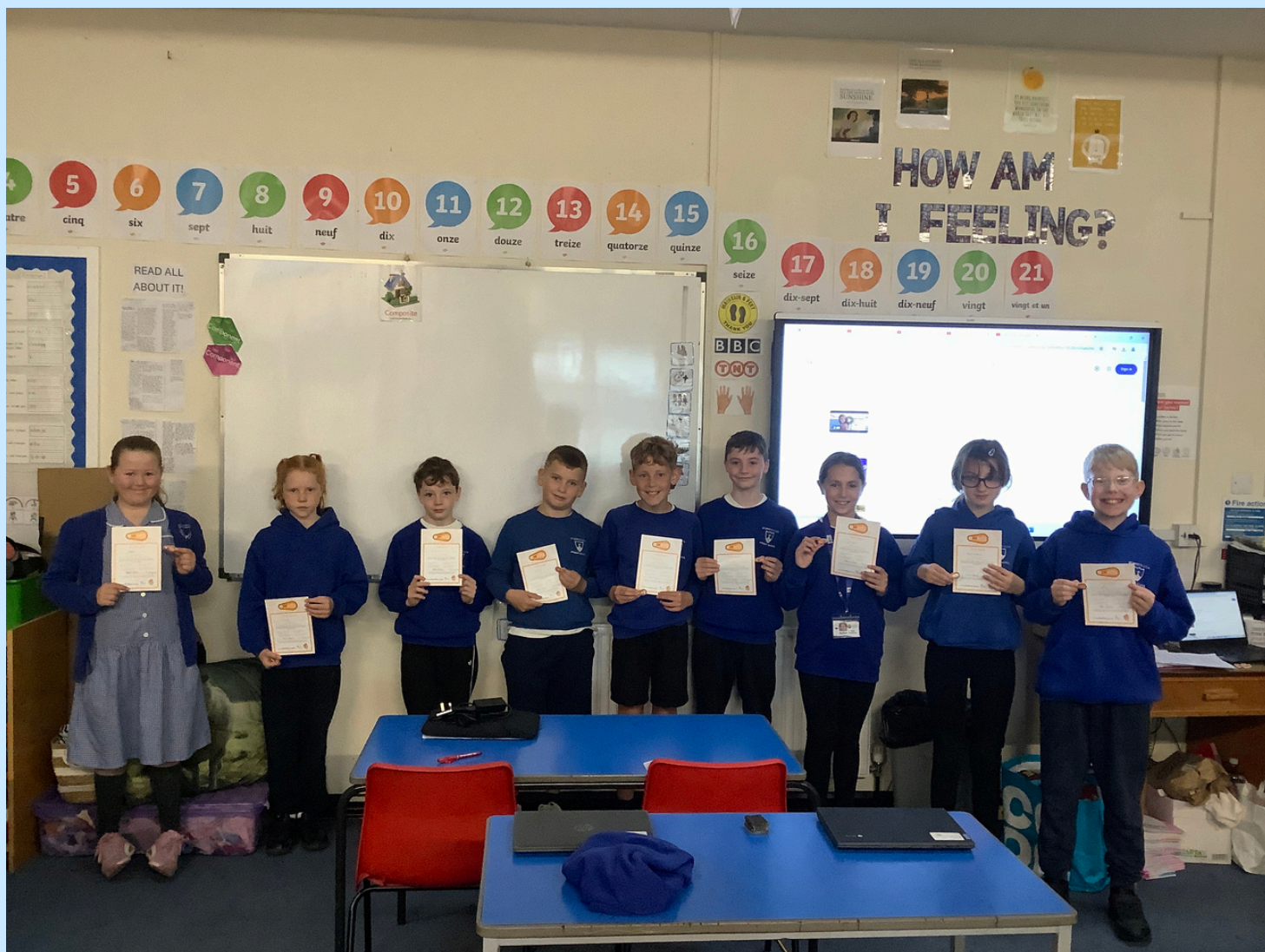
## SENIOR CHAPLAIN INTERVIEWS



**OUR ECO TEAM HAVE BEEN VERY BUSY SUPPORTING OUR SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES WITH THE SUPPORT OF PTA FUNDING BY LOCATING MINI BEAST INSECT HOUSES AND HEDGEHOG HOUSES AROUND THE SCHOOL GROUNDS. THANK YOU TO OUR PTA FOR SOURCING GRANTS TO BUY THESE INVALUABLE HABITATS WHICH NOT ONLY ENCOURAGE WILDLIFE BUT ALSO FURTHER DEVELOP OUR PUPILS LEARNING ON SUSTAINABILITY.**



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR BIKEABILITY PUPILS WHO ACHIEVED THEIR AWARDS LAST WEEK



## OUR NEW CHAPLAINCY TEAM, NOW KNOWN AS MARY'S MISSIONARIES



## CLASS 4 END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE – DRESS REHEARSAL



**LEARNING ABOUT OTHER FAITHS – THANK YOU TO IMRAN FROM THE MUSLIM LEARNER SERVICES FOR COMING IN ON WEDNESDAY TO TALK TO US ABOUT THE MUSLIM FAITH**



**FISH AND CHIP PICNIC LUNCH!**



FISH AND CHIP PICNIC LUNCH!



# DATES TO NOTE

**Dates to note for September 2024 onwards  
will be added when we return!**

# ABSENCES DURING TERM TIME

We continue to receive a number of messages from parents/carers requesting time off school for holidays. Please could we remind everyone of your legal responsibilities in relation to school attendance. In September 2013 the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 came into force. These regulations make it clear that Headteachers should not grant approval for any leave of absence during term-time, including holidays, unless there are exceptional circumstances. These regulations also state that holidays cannot be authorised retrospectively. Any requests should be on an official school absence request form and handed into the school office for consideration prior to any holiday/leave arrangements being made.

If an absence request is not granted and your child/children are absent on the dates requested, these absences are marked as unauthorised and we have no option but to refer cases to Derbyshire County Council for consideration of legal action.

This may result in:

- A Penalty Notice payable up to £120 fine per child.
- Prosecution under s444 (1) Education Act 1996 where, if convicted, you may be fined up to £1000.
- Prosecution under s444 (1a) Education Act 1996 where, if convicted, you may be fined up to £2500 and/or a community order or imprisonment.

Headteachers of maintained and academy schools across England are expected to abide by these regulations and to request legal action when a child is absent during term time without their permission – regardless of the child's wider school attendance.

Please do not book holidays during term time. We do understand that costs for holidays are higher outside of term time (school staff suffer in the same way), but any time taken out of school for holidays has a negative impact on both the child and the wider school. As a Headteacher, I have a duty to address absences and a duty of my governing body is to hold me accountable for it.

Mrs Chapman.





Saint Mary's  
Catholic  
Voluntary  
Academy, New  
Mills.

# Wrap Around Club

Our wraparound club includes lots of enrichment activities including gardening, sports, free play and homework support.



**Arts and crafts**



**Lego and games**



**Sports and Fitness**



Breakfast club runs Monday to Friday from 7.30am and includes cereal, toast and a drink. £4.00 per day

After school club runs Monday to Thursday (not Fridays) to 5.30pm and includes snacks, such as wraps, cheese and crackers, yogurts and a drink. £8.00 per day

**BOOK VIA  
PARENTPAY FOR  
THE SESSIONS  
YOU NEED**



Call Us  
**01663 742412**  
Or e-mail  
[info@nmm.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:info@nmm.srscmat.co.uk)



Use your tax-free childcare vouchers

**Speak to the school office  
for more information!**

# SCHOOL NOTICES



**No star of the week this week**

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.

**Our statement of belief this week was  
- I know how to show I am sorry.**

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 96.6% 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

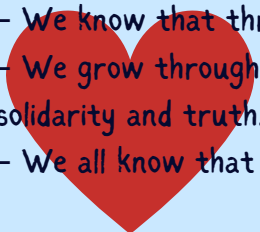
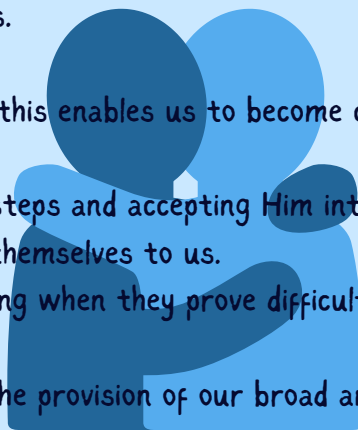
- We know how to say sorry and recognise when we have done something wrong.
- We know how to ask God and others for forgiveness.
- We know how to forgive others as God forgives us.
- We know that we can learn from our mistakes and this enables us to become closer to God.

## 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**

**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.**





It is important to know who to turn to especially during the holidays. You have the right to stay safe and speak out. Here are some useful links from the NSPCC to help children get the help when they need it and for Parents/carers to get support too.

- **It is up to all of us to keep children safe. Take our free, 10 minute digital training**

**and**

- **learn what to do if you're ever worried about a child or their family:**
- [Listen up, Speak up | NSPCC](#)
- **Online safety workshops for parents/carers:** <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/free-online-safety-group-workshops/>
- **Online Safety information packs for parents/carers** [Help keep children safe online with Techosaurus! | NSPCC](#)
- **Support for parents hub:** [Support & advice for parents | NSPCC](#)
- **SEND Support:** [Online safety for children with SEND | NSPCC](#)
- **Right from birth, every time you play with your child, use silly voices, or even sing, you are not just bonding, you are building their brain:** [Look, Say, Sing, Play - Brain-building tips | NSPCC](#)
- [Singing Day | Look Say Sing Play | NSPCC \(youtube.com\)](#)
- **Talk PANTS with your children:** [Let's talk PANTS with Pantosaurus! | NSPCC](#)

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about PALWORLD

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

In Palworld, players head out into an environment where they must craft items and survive alongside creatures called 'Pals'. In this sense, it's similar to Minecraft: fight monsters while maintaining a base. Palworld has sold more than six million copies and often has over two million people playing online simultaneously.

AGE RESTRICTION  
**PEGI 12**

## MATURE CONTENT

**18**  
CENSORED

While Palworld may look cute and cuddly, the game does have its more mature moments. For example, if you try to catch a Pal and don't succeed, the game displays a mild swear word. There are also minor references to inhumane acts like slavery when getting your Pals to perform certain tasks for you. While the presentation is intended to be humorous, this could still be seen as being in poor taste.

## VIOLENCE

Palworld has been referred to as "Pokémon with guns" and with good reason. As the game progresses, Pals can be given firearms, explosives and other weapons, allowing them to fight by the player's side. There are several moments where cute animals use these guns to kill other Pals or fight against bosses. The violence is cartoonish and bloodless, but it's present.

## SUGGESTIVE WRITING

Some of the Pals' descriptions – found in the game menu – can be very suggestive and adult in nature. The game makes a joke of balancing on the line between age-appropriate and mature content: playing on the contrast between the two while never being outright explicit. While it's possible that younger players won't notice this content, it's just as conceivable that they will.

## ONLINE PLAY

Palworld can be played with other people online. On Xbox, players can only play with people on their friends list. On PC, however, up to 32 players can share in the same game, playing in a large online world, and these players may not necessarily be known to the host beforehand. It can be quite complicated to set up these servers. However, it can be quite complicated to set up these servers (online worlds) and they cost money to keep active.

## DIFFICULTY

Despite its endearing visuals, Palworld is actually an extremely difficult game in places: defeating bosses, catching Pals and exploring the environment can all be very tricky. It takes a lot of skill – or working together with a friend – to be successful, which could be off-putting or even aggravating to a player expecting something more like Minecraft or Pokémon.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### WATCH GAMEPLAY

Watching gameplay and reviews for Palworld on sites like YouTube is the best available means of gathering information on it, second only to playing it for yourself. Currently, there are plenty of videos showing this game off to the internet at large, along with detailed breakdowns of what can be found or done within it.

### LEND A HAND

By learning the basics of the game – Pal catching, battling, crafting items and building up a base – you can help to lower the difficulty for younger players. This, in turn, decreases the likelihood that such players will need to look online for tips and tricks, where they could quite easily stumble across more violent and mature content associated with the game.

### SET CONTENT LIMITS

As Palworld is available on Xbox Game Pass, it's easy for players to access it. Any player subscribed to this service can simply find the title on Game Pass and hit the download button. If a child or young person isn't allowed to play Palworld, the best way to prevent them downloading it regardless is to enable age limits on their account. Setting the limit below 12 will not allow users to install Palworld.

### PLAY TOGETHER

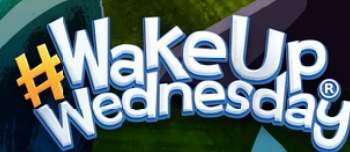
By playing Palworld yourself, you'll have the best chance of catching any content that you don't think is suitable for children, as well as getting an idea of how violence is presented in the game. The conflict is cartoonish in nature – until players and Pals unlock the ability to use guns, at which point it can become more intense. It's likely best for you to give it a look and form your own opinion.

### PLACE BOUNDARIES

Limit options when it comes to online play. For players on PC, they'll still be able to cooperate with friends through the game's multiplayer option, much like Xbox users. Just because they have the option to run a dedicated server that's open to anyone doesn't mean they need to take it. The risks of interacting with strangers can be significantly lowered or even eliminated entirely by playing on servers which are restricted to friends only.

## Meet Our Expert

Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon, Lloyd Coombes has worked in the games media industry for five years. He's played every Tekken title since the series began and, as a parent, also values the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



The National College®

# SAFEGUARDING ONLINE

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.**

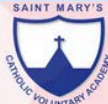
Please also be alert to children watching films or playing games which are not appropriate for their age and stage. Always follow the age guidance and be mindful of young children watching upsetting or violent films or playing games not meant for their age, This can be very distressing and can cause long term harm.

**SCHOOL CHROMEBOOKS – AS A REMINDER, THE CHROMEBOOKS THAT CLASS FOUR 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.**



# EXTRA INFORMATION

## 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.

# COMMUNITY NOTICES



**YOUTH MATTERS**  
**SUMMER FAMFEST**  
Free fun activity program

Jul 22nd- Aug 9th  
MON-FRI  
11AM-3PM

Multi sports in our sports hall, arts and crafts, musical theatre workshops, animal therapy, outdoor secure Playground, bouncy castle and much more!

Bookings live on  
[www.itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk](http://www.itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk)

The poster features a bright blue background with a smiling sun in the top left, a strawberry character with sunglasses in the top right, and a pineapple character with sunglasses in the bottom left. It includes four photographs: a group of children playing outdoors, a child in a bouncy castle, a child in a sports hall, and a child in a playground. A small logo with a stylized 'M' is in the bottom right.



**KIDS ART CLUBS**  
make your mark

BOOKING NOW OPEN  
**SUMMER WORKSHOPS**  
with Rachel

PhotoJENIX, Albion Road  
New Mills

Tuesday & Wednesdays  
throughout the Summer Holidays  
10am-3pm  
(please check booking link for exact dates)

Early drop off &  
late pick up available

Online Booking Essential  
<https://kidsartclubs.class4kids.co.uk>

The poster has a white background with a palm tree on the left and a sun in the top right. It features a grid of four photos showing children engaged in various art activities. A small octopus illustration is on the right. The Kids Art Clubs logo is in the top left and bottom left.



**FAMILY**  
**BLACKPOOL**  
**TRIP**

ITS THAT TIME AGAIN FOR OUR ANNUAL COACH TRIP TO BLACKPOOL. COME ALONG AND SPEND A GREAT DAY BY THE SEA!

FREE COACH SETTING OFF FROM NEW MILLS AT 09:00 AND WE WILL BE LEAVING BLACKPOOL AT 17:00

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK YOUR PLACES PLEASE CONTACT US ON FACEBOOK AND POP INTO THE OFFICE FOR A CONSENT FORM

**2nd August 2024**

CONTACT US ON  
01663743487

The poster has a tropical beach theme with a blue sky, palm trees, and a blue sea in the background. In the foreground, there are two ice cream sticks (one green, one red), a pair of red sunglasses, and a pair of white sunglasses. A red and white patterned bag is on the bottom left, and a green patterned bag is on the bottom right. A logo with a stylized 'M' is in the top right.

# Enter our **Super Draw**

**Win a £1,000 Amazon  
Gift Card**

**OR £1,000 CASH PRIZE**



**YOUR  
SCHOOL  
LOTTERY**

- Tickets cost just £1 a week
- Chance to win up to £25,000
- Play weekly, or just play the Super Draw!
- Think about what you could spend it on!

**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 29/06/24.