



# FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

**13TH SEPTEMBER 2024** 

# SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Welcome to this week's newsletter. We have had a very busy week getting back into the stride of learning, please see the class photographs. Pupils are engaged and ready to learn!

The newly named senior chaplains, Mary's Missionaries', have lead their first celebration and prayer this week and I am very impressed with their organisational skills and presentations. Well done to you all. Their focus this week was on the theme of patience. Our statement to live by was, 'I can say one good thing about myself.'

Morning drop off -please note if you have any communications about your child can they be emailed to school. I know you will understand how busy drop off is and the need to ensure all pupils are in class with the class teachers and teaching assistants as quickly and safely as possible and we would not want to miss any communications during the process. Thank you for all your help.

On Thursday we had a visit from Teresa Kehoe a community fundraiser for , 'Aid to the Church in need.' Teresa talked about how we can help raise funds for child refugees. The pupils have suggested some fantastic ideas going foward.

As part of being a healthy school, can we ask all adults to refrain from smoking and vaping near school premises.

Please refer to the termly dates to note for upcoming events— it is a busy schedule! Dates can be viewed on this newsletter, on ClassDojo or on the school website. Everyone is very welcome to the parents and carers meeting taking place on Wednesday 18th September as well as the school Mass on Thursday at church, this begins at 10.00am.

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/ Our Trust newsletter can be found here https://bit.ly/3UQsldI

# HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

We are delighted to inform you about the Holy Communion program starting in September for children resident on the Parish of St Mary's, Marple Bridge.

Sessions for each topic will take place in both St. Mary's New Mills and Marple Bridge primary school from 3.30pm till 4.15pm with our Lay Chaplain Dan Hamilton.

In addition, children will also be expected to attend the Sunday sessions as listed below. These sessions will take place at The Annunciation in New Mills during 9.30am mass and will be led by teachers and catechists. As part of Holy Communion preparation several of these sessions may be in church.

Please see the details below providing the dates for the First Holy Communion sessions in school and the Sunday sessions.

Session	Marple Bridge	New Mills	Sunday
1. All about Me	23/09/24	26/09/24	29/09/24
2. What are the Sacraments	07/10/24	10/10/24	13/10/24
3. Part of God's Family	14/10/24	17/10/24	20/10/24
4. We love one another	04/11/24	7/11/24	10/11/24
5. Better Friends with Jesus	18/11/24	21/11/24	24/11/24
6.The Church	02/12/24	5/12/24	08/12/24
7. We Gather as Part of God's Family	20/01/25	23/01/25	26/01/25
8. Liturgy of the Word	03/02/25	06/02/25	09/02/25
9. Reconciliation- How to receive forgiveness	03/03/25	06/03/25	09/03/25
10. Liturgy of the Eucharist	21/04/25	24/04/25	27/04/25
11. The Last Supper	28/04/25	01/05/25	04/05/25
12. My First Holy Communion	05/05/25	08/05/25	11/05/25

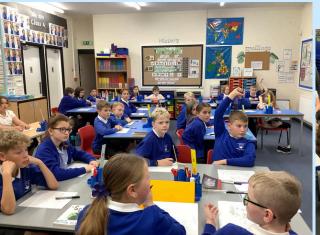
The reconciliation service will be held on: 13th March 2025

First Holy Communion is: 17 May 2025

Kind regards

Mr J Nish and Mrs P Chapman

### SCHOOL IN ACTION























## SCHOOL IN ACTION











# DATES TO NOTE

Upcoming dates can also be seen on ClassDojo and on our website. Please note that dates and times may change due to circumstances beyond our control.

DATES TUNUTE	due to circumstances beyond our control.	
Monday 16th September	Swimming starts for year 6 pupils	
Wednesday <b>18</b> th September	Parents and carers information meeting 3.30pm–5.00pm. There will be a meeting for parents and carers at this time, one meeting per class. If you have children in more than one class, please attend the meeting for one class at 3.30pm then drop into the other class as required. Drop ins run until 5.00pm	
Thursday 19th September	School Nass 10.00am-10.30am, all welcome. Nass will take place in chuch	
Thursday 26th September	Science taster afternoon for year six pupils at New Mills High School	
Friday 27th September	Special friends assembly 2.30pm–3.00pm, Everyone is welcome to attend our special friends assembly where our reception pupils will meet their year 6 special friend.	
Tuesday 1st October	Maths open day 9.10am-10.00am, everyone is welcome	
Thursday 10th October	Flu immunisations	
Thursday 10th October	Class 4 assembly (Liturgy), 9.10am. Everyone is welcome.	
Saturday 12th October	Open morning for prospective parents, please share with your friends and family! 10.00am–11.30am	
Thursday 17th October	Class 2 assembly (Liturgy), 9.10am. Everyone is welcome.	

# **ABSENCES DURING TERM TIME**

The Department for Education (DfE) have introduced some new guidance for schools and Local Authorities (LAs) for managing school attendance. They have also introduced a new national framework for penalty notice and amended the law. These changes come into effect from the 19 August 2024 and all schools and LAs across the country will be expected to follow the new statutory guidance.

### Support first

The importance of regular attendance at school cannot be stressed enough. All schools and LAs are expected to promote school attendance and provide support to remove barriers where a pupil is struggling to attend school. This may mean that the school raises the issue of attendance even if your child has only had a couple of days off ill. This is not because they don't believe you. By working with you, schools can step in early to help to prevent patterns of absence developing. Schools may identify other underlying issues that are making your child reluctant to attend school and be able to help you and your child.

For this to be successful parents need to work with the school. Where it can be demonstrated that a parent/carer is not fulfilling their parental responsibility to ensure that their child receives a suitable full-time education then the school can consider requesting that the LA take further action. This can be in the form of a penalty notice, prosecution, or the school may suggest other formal interventions.

### **National Framework for penalty notices**

To provide consistency, the Government have introduced a new national framework for when schools and LAs believe that they have exhausted all offers of support and the parent/carer is not engaging with the attempt to improve their child's attendance at school.

The threshold for when a school should consider next steps is 10 sessions (5 school days) of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks. A school week means any week in which there is at least one school session. This can be made up of any form of unauthorised absence including late after close (attendance code U) of register and odd days of unauthorised absence (attendance code 0) which add up to 5 days within a 10-week period. At this point the school will consider if it is likely that the attendance will improve with further support. They may then decide to refer the case to the LA for formal monitoring. This may proceed to legal action if the attendance does not improve.

Education Penalty Notices are issued to parents of statutory school age children. They can be issued to each parent or carer who is deemed liable for the child's absence from school. The new costs and process is outlined below:

First Offence – The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be: ±160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days. Reduced to ±80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Second Offence (within 3 years) - The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be: ±160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years) – The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court.

### **Term time holidays**

Pupils should not be taken out of school during term time unless it is unavoidable. Schools are required to consider requests for leave of absence in term time and should only approve the leave if there are exceptional circumstances. If a request for leave is denied and the pupil is absent for 5 days or more then the school is expected to refer the case to the LA. The LA will issue a penalty notice with no requirement for a formal warning to be issued. Penalty notices can also be issued where a pupil is absent for repeated incidents of unauthorised leave in term time that fall below the 5-day threshold. In every case, the request for the Penalty Notice comes in from the school to the LA for the process to be completed.

### New registration codes

You might find that your child's attendance report looks slightly different next year. The DFE have amended some of the codes to include numbers as well as letters. These new codes are to enable schools, LA and the DFE to better understand the reasons for absence. For example:

### Code C: Leave of absence for exceptional circumstance.

Code C1: Leave of absence for the purpose of participating in a regulated performance. The important thing for you as a parent is still the C which means that the absence was authorised. There is also a new code which has been introduced for pupils who are on the school roll but are temporarily being provided with an alternative education by the local authority, such as a home tutor. Code K: Attending education provision arranged by the local authority.

Full details of all of the changes can be found by visiting the Government webpage: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-togetherto-improve-school-attendance



# School attendance update September 2024

Attendance categories 95 to 100% - as expected

### 91 to 94% - at risk of persistent absence

80 to 90% - persistent absence 51 to 79% - at risk of severe absence

#### Less than or equal to 50% - severe absence

#### Support first approach

Missing school means children fall behind. This not only impacts on their future achievement, but also adds additional stress and worry as the pupil attempts to catch up. This can affect their mental health and that of their family.



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Schools will always try to offer support to remove barriers to attendance before considering any form of legal intervention however they can only do this with the support of parents. If you do not engage with this support the school may feel that they have no choice than to request the Local Authority consider taking legal action against you for failure to secure your child's regular attendance at school under section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996

#### Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are Changing

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the below changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines for unauthorised absence after 19th August 2024.

Education Penalty Notices are issued to the parents of statutory school age children and can be issued to each parent or carer who is deemed liable for the child's absence from school.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be: £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days. Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.



#### • Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be: £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

• Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.

### Can my child take a holiday in term time?

The simple answer is NO - pupils can only take leave of absence during term time if this is approved in advance by the school. Leave taken without permission may result in a penalty notice and or prosecution.



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.





Lego and games





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

£4.00 per day



Call Us 01663 742412

Or e-mail



Use your tax-free childcare vouchers

Speak to the school office for more information!

info@nmm.srscmat.co.uk

# SCHOOL NOTICES

# Star of the week this week was awarded to someone who shows

petience

Our dinner table discussion this week was 'If you borrow every book from the library is it still a library?'

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

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 can say one good thing about myself.

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 99% THIS WEEK!

# **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

<u>S - Service and Stewardship</u>

- 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.

### <u>T - Togetherness</u>

- 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.

### <u>M – Mission</u>

- 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.

### <u> A – Awe and Wonder</u>

- 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.
- <u>R Reconciliation and Foregiveness</u>
- 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.  $\underline{Y - Yes!}$
- 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.

### <u>S - Spirituality</u>

- 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/socialhealth/health-and-wellbeing/your-health/childrenand-young-peoples-health/children-and-youngpeoples-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/fa mily-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 <u>safeguarding@nmm.srscmat.co.uk</u>, 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 seperation 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.



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators D):

Disagreement is a natural part of human interaction. This can seem particularly true when dealing with the sensitive issues that arise for secondary-aged pupils. This guide brings you 10 top tips which can help prevent conflicts arising or mitigate their impacts when they do.

#### INSPIRE 1 RESPONSIBILITY

The best approaches to conflict resolution are restorative. This means that rather than adults imposing their own solutions on children who have had a disagreement, they should work with them. Allowing them to handle it can feel empowering to young people and will hopefully teach them to manage their own disputes as they move towards adult life

### ACTIVELY LISTEN 2

Remember to give every child the opportunity to their opinion, regardless of their age, stage of development, special educational needs, or othe ortunity to voice individual requirements. This can be done using a variety of different communication methods. For example, some children find it easier to express how they're feeling using pictures and drawings some prefer to write their ideas down.

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#### KIN IN LX 3 **BE CURIOUS**

92 Demonstrating how to approach conflicts with a mature and empathetic mindset can set a good example to children, which can prove a useful skill for them later in life. Model this by asking inquisitive-yet-respectful questions about the issue at hand. Really try to understand where all parties are coming from, and share information between them when and where appropriate. This should encourage young people to mirror your behaviour, teaching them to be curious about the other sides of a conflict, and thus being more willing to hear them out

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#### PROMOTE 4 DIFFERENCES

Children and young people may come from a range of different backgrounds and cultures or have protected characteristics which may cause them to see things from various angles. Having a school and community culture which scalabrates and community culture which celebrates and embraces diversity in al things – including diversity of opinion – means peop are more likely to feel heard and understood.

#### BE SUPPORTIVE 5

Discussions may be sensitive or, in some cases, even trigger negative emotions. Pupils may have mixed feelings about the issue at hand. They could be nervous or anxious before even coming to the table to talk about it. Try and create a space where all parties feel safe, welcome and comfortable. Allow breaks and time-outs if the conversation gets heated, to prevent anyone from saying something they might later rearet

### Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a neurodivergent former SENCO and advisory teacher. She founded her company, Neuroteachers, to improve inclusion for neurodivergent people. She works with nurseries, schools, colleges and businesses providing consultancy, training and mentoring to create belonging and understanding for people with the full range of neurotypes.

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/supporting-children-to-manage-conflict-effectively

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MENTALLY PREPARE 6

Think of how you can approach the conflict in a calm and regulated manner. Consider taking some extra time to prepare beforehand and finding somewhere quiet to relax. Even if you're not directly involved with the conflict, mediating can be a stressful experience in its own right. Make sure you're hydrated, fed and comfortable, and do the same for the young people involved. These may seem like insignificant factors, but it's important to remember that physical discomfort can trigger dysregulation, which can make it much harder to have a calm, productive conversation.

### GET YOUR FACTS STRAIGHT 7

Make sure you have all the facts, figures and timelines of the situation prior to the discussion. This should be done as objectively as possible with the aim of resolving the ongoing issue. You may want to risk assess any problems that may arise and look for possible eductions during your properties time possible solutions during your preparation time.

#### STICK TO THE POINT R

Make the reason for, and purpose of, any meetings or communications clear prior to setting them up. Provide an agenda. Act as a neutral chairperson who can keep all parties on track. Make sure everyone has a chance to air their concerns about the issue being discussed and try to avoid talking about unrelated incidents. Close off with some action points, detailing what everyone can do to resolve the conflict.

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**BE SOLUTION** 9 FOCUSED

It's often said that the art of diplomacy is about giving others ladders to climb down. This means the main aim of any meeting or correspondence should be finding mutually acceptable and amicable solutions. Parents, carers, teachers and pupils should be aware there may need to be a compromise for the common good – and, most importantly, the good of the children you're supporting

### DON'T IGNORE OR 10 AVOID CONFLICT

No one benefits from allowing concerns and grievances to fester, as this can lead to further division and mistrust, and ultimately doesn't help the children involved. Use our tips to open meaningful lines of communication. These should help you line suitable resolution and minimise the number of conflicts you're faced with mediating overall

# 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 at it does not be and how to set parental controls.

children safe online and how to set parental controls – https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keepingchildren-safe/online-safety/#quides

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.

<u>SCHOOL CHROMEBOOKS</u> – AS A REMINDER, THE SCHOOL CHROMEBOOKS THAT CLASS THREE AND FOUR CHILDREN HAVE ARE <u>ONLY</u> 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



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.



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 functing 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**

# IF YOU SHOP AT ASDA, PLEASE CONSIDER SIGNING UP FOR CASHPOT FOR SCHOOLS!

# INTRODUCING CASHPOT FOR SCHOOLS

Download and opt-in with Asda Rewards and we will donate ££s to schools.



THE LINK TO THE SCHEME IS HERE HTTPS://WWW.PARENTKIND.ORG.U K/ASDA-CASHPOT-CAMPAIGN AND OUR POSTCODE IS SK22 3BL



### Cashpot for Schools is our mission to support primary schools across the UK.

Every time you shop with Asda Rewards from 2nd September to 30th November, we will donate 0.5% of your total spend to a primary school of your choice. Plus, Asda will pop £1 into your school's Cashpot every time someone opts in.

Even more, Asda will get your school started with a further £50. To redeem this, make sure to shop & scan and remind your school to sign up with Parentkind.

For more info, please see our Terms & Conditions.

You won't give up any of your own earnings, and your Cashpot will continue to grow! **Shop. Scan. We donate!** 

# **COMMUNITY NOTICES**







space" in Maori



Youth Matters Community Education Centre, Longlands Road, New Mills SK22 3EL

COMING IN SEPTEMBER WWW.YOUTHMATTERSNEWMILLS.CO.UK

# THE TAKIWATANGA **CLUB**

Tuck shop, lego, arts and crafts, sports, Takiwatanga sensory room, table tennis, pool, air means "In their Hockey and large outdoor space own time and

> A great space for children and young people with Neurodiversity's to have fun and socialise

OUTH

**WEDNESDAYS** 4:30PM | 6PM

PARENT PEER SUPPORT GROUP IN THE CAFE AREA

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT YOUTH MATTERS ON 01663 743487



- 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!



**Gamble**Aware



See website for Terms & conditions. Enter by 29/06/24.