

# 20TH SEPTEMBER 2024



# FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

# SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

A fun filled week has been had by everyone. All of our pupils have voted for a full range of pupil voice groups this week using democratic processes. We now have our new well-being buddies, chaplains, eco team, Fairtrade, Mary's Missionaries as well as our new team, 'Ambassadors 4 Hope.' These groups all come under the title, 'Faith in Small Hearts' (FISH). They have already had their first meeting and have come up with some excellent ideas which we will start to commence next week – watch this space! The Eco Team have been in action by cutting back the overgrown willow tunnels.

The pupils were all outstanding when we practiced our first fire drill on Tuesday. It only took 2 minutes for the whole school to be evacuated.

On Wednesday our year 3 and 4 boys were in action playing football, they did tremendously well and we're very proud of them. Next week, it is the turn of the year 3 and 4 girls football team.

We hope you enjoyed our 'meet the teacher' sessions on Wednesday. The presentations will be uploaded to the school website, look out for the link which will be posted onto ClassDojo.

The children sang beautifully at mass on Thursday and were all impeccably behaved. Well done to all our year 6 pupils who read at mass. You spoke with confidence and each word was clear and accurately spoken.

Our statement to live by this week was, 'I can say how I feel.'

After school sports clubs with Mrs Evans – parents and carers in class 4 will have received invites for their children this week to attend after school sports clubs with Mrs Evans on Mondays or Tuesdays. These will start next week and run until Christmas. The clubs are tailored to the children who are attending them. Children in other classes will get the opportunity to attend in the spring or summer terms. Mrs Evans is also running sports clubs at lunchtimes.

Next week we look forward to the science taster afternoon at New Mills High School for class four pupils as well as the special friends assembly, where our reception pupils will meet their year 6 special friend. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please see ClassDojo for more information.

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/300sldI

#### PEOPLE WHO INSPIRE US

We couldn't be more delighted to announce that one of our former pupils, Daisy, has become Head Girl at St. Thomas More School. We are always so proud of the accomplishments of our pupils, past and present, and Daisy will be an excellent Head Girl and role model to the other pupils. Well done Daisy!



#### Head Boy and Head Girl

We are delighted to introduce our Head Boy and Head Girl for the 2024/25 academic year.....

Head Boy: Archie D 🦮

Head Girl: Daisy B 🦮

Congratulations to you both. You are already excellent role models, and we know you will be fantastic in your new roles.

#BeMore #ASPIRE #Inspirational





### THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATION OF THE WORD

Mary's Missionaries – Erin, one of our Mary's Missionaries, talked about what the children have been learning about in Monday's liturgy.

The theme this week was 'charity' and we showed the children the different charities that we support.

The mission was to find a moment in the day to thank God for all the privileges that we have.

The Catholic Social Teaching link was 'Human Dignity', just like Jesus showed respect and human dignity to all that he met.



# **BOYS YEAR 3 AND 4 FOOTBALL**







# PARENTS AND CARERS INFORMATION MEETING – THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CAME! THE PRESENTATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO VIEW VIA THE SCHOOL WEBSITE. THE LINKS WILL BE POSTED ON CLASSDOJO.





# WHOLE SCHOOL MASS







# **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. Science taster afternoon for class four pupils at New Mills High School - early lunch on Thursday 26th September this day for class four 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. Friday 27th September 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. Open morning for prospective parents, please share with your friends and family! Saturday 12th October 10.00am-11.30am Thursday 17th October Class 2 assembly (Liturgy), 9.10am. Everyone is welcome. Parent/carer consultation sessions Monday 21st OCtober Tuesday 22nd OCtober Parent/carer consultation sessions Thursday 24th October History collapsed curriculum day

## 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

# **NEWS FROM THE PTA**

# STMARY'S CVA PTA AGM

FRIDAY 4TH OF OCTOBER
3:30 - 4:30

The PTA would like to invite you to attend their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the 4th of October held at the school. The AGM is a great opportunity to review the past year and vote on this year's committee. We'd love to see you there!

If you can't attend but would like to be involved in the PTA this year please email stmaryspta.newmills@gmail.com for more info.

It would be great to have as many people attend as possible, there is no afterschool club running on this day so please feel free to bring your child with you to the meeting.

# 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 O) 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-together-to-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.



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

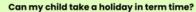
The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be: £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

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.



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.





**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

Use your tax-free childcare vouchers

Speak to the school office for more information!

# **SCHOOL NOTICES**



Star of the week this week was awarded to someone who shows joy.

Our dinner table discussion this week was 'Can you east a shadow in a dark room?'

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 can say how I feel.

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 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 Foregiveness

- 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 <a href="mailto:safeguarding@nmm.srscmat.co.uk">safeguarding@nmm.srscmat.co.uk</a>, 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.



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

**WHAT ARE** THE RISKS? The video game Final Fantasy XIV launched in 2010, and, despite being critically panned, it saw an overhaul that has made it one of the biggest success stories in gaming. Its huge world, epic story and versatile combat system have continued to draw in new players, but there's a lot that trusted adults need to be aware of - not least the cost of paying monthly to play.



#### **ALWAYS ONLINE**

Final Fantasy XIV is an MMORPG, which stands for Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game. Much like World of Warcraft, players create a character in a chosen class and level up by completing quests to gain power and items. The game requires a constant internet connection, whether you're playing on PC, Mac, PlayStation or Xbox, and there's no option to

#### **VOICE & TEXT CHAT**

Final Fantasy XIV lets players send chat messages in-game or speak to each other over voice chat. On the one hand, that provides plenty of choice for how those enjoying the game can interact with their fellow fans. On the other hand, however, it's easier than in many games to receive unprompted messages from a stranger, with whom you constantly share your

#### REGULAR EXPANSIONS

As with similar titles in the genre, players can purchase expansions to unlock additional content for the game. Those without the expansions will be locked out of certain new quests and activities, meaning that young people who play regularly will potentially have the next release earmarked on their calendar, ready to buy it as soon as possible.

#### VIOLENCE

While Final Fantasy XIV has a fairly light tone throughout some of its quests, many involve killing enemies and sometimes even wild animals. The violence isn't especially strong more comparable to a cartoon or anime style but the act alone may make some children feel uncomfortable, if they're not yet able to separate fictional harm from the real kind.

# IN-GAME PURCHASES & SUBSCRIPTION FEE

# POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

As with World of Warcraft, there's an element of addiction to Final Fantasy XIV. The gameplay loop can be quite engrossing, as minutes turn into hours and hours into days while playing alone or with friends. This can potentially lead to missing real-life events, a lack of interest in any activities not related to the game and procrastination around responsibilities like

Users need to pay £8.99 per month to play Final Fantasy XIV, but there is a free trial. If someone stops paying, they'll lose access to their character (although they'll be able to pick up the payments again and resume where they left off). If a player forgets to cancel their payments, however, those subscription fees will continue rolling on automatically.

# Advice for Parents & Educators

#### MANAGE PLAYTIME

Playtime limits are a great way to counter the addictive qualities of games like Final Fantasy XIV. They allow you discuss why it's still important to enjoy things outside of gaming while still letting a child enjoy playing online with their friends when it makes sense to do so. It's all well and good to have fun with a game, so long as they're able to step away and reconnect with the real world.

#### **PLAY TOGETHER**

The free trial makes it extremely easy to jump into Final Fantasy XIV and play alongside a child, provided they're old enough. Not only does that help you ensure that settings are adjusted for their privacy and safety, but it may also end up becoming a bonding experience for you both and any other family members that

#### MAKE USE OF THE FREE TRIAL

The Final Fantasy XIV free trial is a generous one, with no limits on how long someone can play until their character hits level 70. That's easily dozens of hours for a child to go through the game, complete quests, and see if they enjoy it before purchasing expansions or subscribing to a membership. They may well move on to something else before you need to spend so much as a penny.

#### REMEMBER, IT'S A PEGI 16

Despite its often-relaxing nature, Final Fantasy XIV carries a PEGI 16 rating for violence and drugs (although the latter is due to a character smoking a pipe on occasion). There's minimal blood, but characters can attack enemies (and other players) with weapons and spells. Take a look at some gameplay videos to see if

#### Meet Our Expert

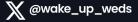
Lloyd Coombes is the Editor-in-Chief of GGRecon, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A longtime fan of online games, he's also a parent, and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has previously been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar and plenty more.

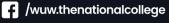


National College

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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/final-fantasy-14









## **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 SCHOOL CHROMEBOOKS THAT CLASS THREE AND FOUR CHILDREN HAVE 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 THEN PROPERLY, WE WILL REMOVE THE DEVICES FOR HOME USE.



## **EXTRA INFORMATION**





We would love to see you at our

# **OPEN DAYS**

Saturday October 12th
10am-11.30am
Wednesday November 6th/13th
9-10am

All pupils, of any faith or no faith, are welcome at Saint Mary's.

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Longlands Road, New Mills, SK22 3BL



Scan the QR code to visit our website

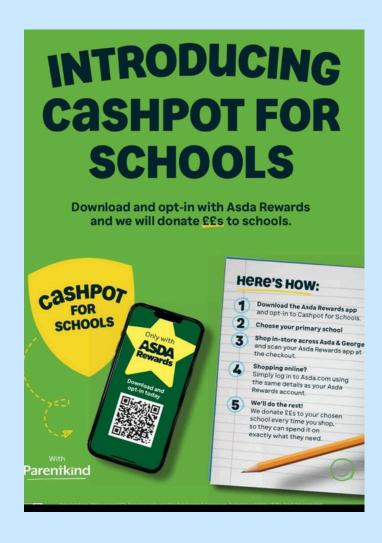








# IF YOU SHOP AT ASDA, PLEASE CONSIDER SIGNING UP FOR CASHPOT FOR SCHOOLS!



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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**











# Super Draw

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- 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:**

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GambleAware

