



15TH NOVEMBER 2024

FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Welcome to this week's newsletter. It was wonderful to see some blue sky this week rather than grey clouds! This week's statement to live by was, 'I think before I make choices about my health.'

Remembrance day – On Monday, the whole school held a memorial service at the cenotaph in High Lea Park. We laid poppy wreaths and stood in silence for two minutes to remember those who give us our freedom. Some of the poppies and wreaths are displayed around our school cross.

Christmas carol singing – A huge thank you to the children and parents/carers who came to the parish fair to sing carols. All pupils received certificates and a small gift from school on Monday.

WhatsApp/social media – Please note that school cannot become involved in children using social media outside school time. School cannot control access to these when children are at home. As a reminder, it is strongly recommended that children should not have access to WhatsApp before the age of 13 years. We are finding an increasing number of pupils are upset when they come into school after a weekend due to using social media. Parents and carers are responsible for ensuring children do not access social media, games and apps that are not appropriate, please see the 'keeping safe online' section further down this newsletter and the 'wake up wednesday' page. Please help us to keep our children safe.

What a racket festival – well done to the pupils who participated in the racket festival on Wednesday. Everyone had a fantastic time trying different racket sports at the Leisure Centre. On Thursday the whole school completed a mission day based on God's Creation and stewardship.

School uniform – as a reminder, children should be wearing their jumpers or cardigans in school. Children should only be wearing hoodies, leggings and other PE kit on their PE days. Fleece should not be worn instead of a jumper or cardigan. Please could ALL children come to school with a coat appropriate for the conditions of the day.

Thank you to the PTA and to the Leisure Centre for organising our house winners activity on Friday!

Next week we look forward to our class 4 trip to The Silk Museum and our whole school first aid day on Wednesday. We also have our class 3 assembly on Thursday and our toilet fundraiser on Friday!!

God Bless and have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Chapman

A moment in prayer:

Peace I leave you;

My peace I give you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

(John 14:27)

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-](https://www.stmarysnewmills.srscmat.co.uk/catholic-life/catholic-social-teaching/)

[life/catholic-social-teaching/](https://www.stmarysnewmills.srscmat.co.uk/catholic-life/catholic-social-teaching/)

Our Trust newsletter can be found here <https://bit.ly/3UQsIdI>

A MESSAGE FROM DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Derbyshire County Council Household Support Fund As part of the Department for Work and Pensions' Household Support Fund Scheme,

Derbyshire County Council is distributing funding to household's struggling to pay for food, energy and essential living costs. As part of the scheme, the Council will again be distributing grocery vouchers to low-income families. Information about who is eligible for the vouchers is available on the website and we hope to start distribution in early January 2025. We will update the website when all vouchers have been distributed and provide details of what parents and carers should do if they haven't received their voucher. Full details about the scheme and the support available for those experiencing financial hardship is available on our website at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/householdsupportfund



Next Wednesday (20th) we are having 'red Wednesday'. We are inviting all children to wear something red (it is still a normal uniform day, so red socks, red hair band etc). If you could bring some small change on the day that would be much appreciated. Money raised will go towards supporting families in war-torn countries, particularly displaced children. Thank you.



Busyangwa staff toilet project

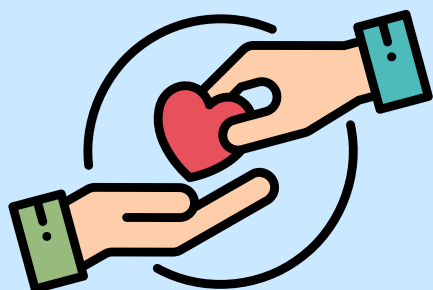
Busyangwa School sits in the foothills of the Rwenzori Mountains ('Mountains of the Moon') in the far west of Uganda. It serves around 500 children who have to walk considerable distances to attend the school. Many of the teachers also have to walk a long way and climb about 800' with books and other materials.

A Staff Accomodation Block is being built by friends of the school to accomodate 4 teachers. This will make the school attractive to younger teachers and also those who walk long distances. St Mary's School (New Mills) is raising money to fund the additional toilet block for the staff which will be 'toilet twinned' with the facilities at the school.

By donating to this project you will help build a lasting facility that improves the lives of many children at a cost that is a fraction of a similar project in the UK.

Take a look at <https://youtu.be/Zy-3J6wjXSc> to see how the project is proceeding so far. Many thanks for considering a donation to this worthwhile project.

The fundaraising page link is [fundraising page for the Staff Toilet project](#).



Pyjama day!



Wear your favourite pyjamas to school!

We are raising funds for the Busyangwa toilet block.

On Friday 22nd November, we will be having some toilet based fun activities in school to raise funds for a toilet block to be built at our twinned school in Busyangwa, Uganda. Everyone can wear their pyjamas on this day! Please donate whatever you can (minimum of £1.00 per child if possible). Please don't bring cash on the day, donations should be made via the link below. This makes sure that all the money goes directly to the school to get the project started as soon as possible!

www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/busyangwa_school or scan this QR code:



Please ensure children are dressed appropriately for the weather conditions on the day, including sensible footwear!!

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATION OF THE WORD




Mary's Missionaries – we have been learning about this in Monday's liturgy.

The theme this week was 'All Saints Day'.

The mission was to say a prayer to thank all the saints for what they have done to help others.


The Catholic Social Teaching link was 'human dignity', the saints worked on what they believed in.


**Week 32 in Ordinary Time**

Year B

Word of the Week

Remembrance

**Sunday**
First Reading:
1 Kings 17:10-16
Gospel Reading:
Mark 12:38-44

**Suggestions**
Hebrew Bible:
Lamentations 3: 19-27
New Testament:
Luke 22: 14-23

Theme
In our faith, remembrance is more than just remembering the past; it's about keeping our connection to God and to our loved ones alive. We remember the saints and martyrs who came before us, their examples guiding us on our own journey. We remember the sacrifices of Jesus and we remember those who have passed away, their love and influence continuing to shape us. Remembrance is a way to honour our past, cherish our present, and hope for our future.

Mission
Spend time in prayer to remember those people who are important to us and who are no longer with us.

Pupil voice – Celebration of the Word:

Elizabeth said she liked St. Carlo Acutis because he was made the patron saint of internet safety. On his deathbed he asked everyone to be 'kind and faithful'.

William said he liked St Francis because he looked after nature.

Joshua said he liked St. Mary, because she was the mother of Jesus.

REMEMBRANCE DAY



SCHOOL CHOIR



WHAT A RACKET FESTIVAL

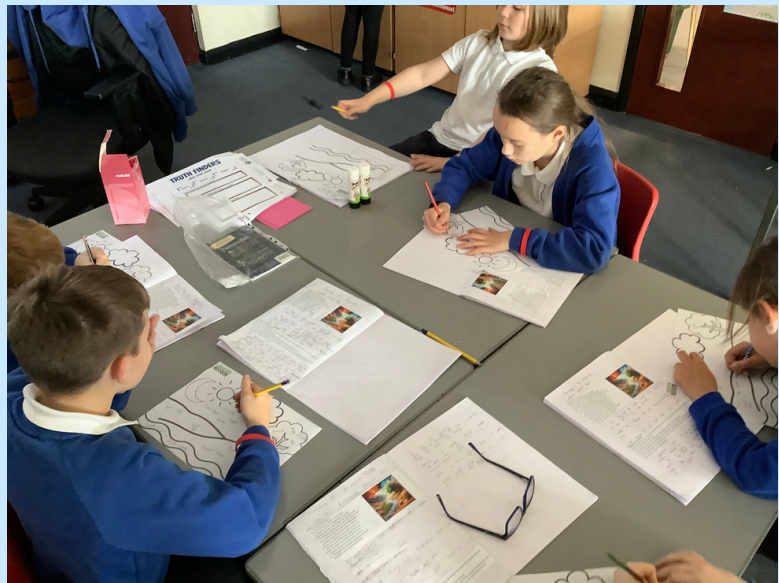
We had a fantastic afternoon of fun at a racket sports festival yesterday afternoon. Pupils from class 3 had a go at pickle ball , squash, tennis, badminton and table tennis. Well done to all those who attended. You did St Mary's proud with your excellent skills and positive attitude.



MISSION DAY



MISSION DAY



CLASS ONE MATHS IN FOREST SCHOOLS



HOUSE WINNERS ACTIVITY SESSION

A huge thank you to New Mills Leisure Centre and to the PTA for organising the house winners activity session this afternoon!



**STAY
ACTIVE**





Colours of Christmas

Casual Clothes Day – 28th November



The PTA will be selling tickets for 4 hampers at the nativities this year to raise money for the school. On the casual clothes day on the 28th of November please **bring in something the colour assigned to your class** to help fill our hampers – you can even wear the same colour to school that day if you like!

Class 1 – please bring in anything red!

Examples: Can of Coca-Cola, Christmas pudding, Maltesers, A red pen, Tomato Sauce, Red wine, A box of celebrations, Skittles, Strawberry Jam, Red lipstick, Red Candle, A red toy, Red lentils, Chilli powder, a candy cane, can of kidney beans, red bubble bath/shower gel, a box of Yorkshire tea, BBQ sauce, jammie dodgers, can of salmon, pringles, anything in a red packet/label...

Class 2 – please bring in anything yellow/gold!

Examples: Chicken supernoodles, gold blend coffee, gold biscuits, thatchers cider, Yorkshire gold tea, pineapple rings, gold decoration, gold frame, yellow candle, packet of pasta, lemonade, Fanta lemon, Twix, Toblerone, marmalade, a yellow toy, a gold notebook, a gold pen, cello tape, yellow shower gel, anything in a yellow packet/label...

Class 3 – please bring in anything silver/white!

Examples: white chocolate, pack of Lovehearts, Lees' snowballs, Dove toiletries, white wine, candle, milkybar chocolate, desiccated coconut, white rice, Vanish white stain remover powder, white digestives, white rum, white sauce, white hot chocolate, toothpaste, white sugar, vinegar, white pepper, flour, white toy, notebook, icing, silver tree decoration, corkscrew...

Class 4 – please bring in anything green!

Examples: a pack of mint clubs, can of apple tango, After Eight Mints, Matchmakers, Mint Aero, Sour cream pringles, jar of green curry paste, onion rings, lime jelly, green bubble bath/shower gel, chicken and mushroom pot noodle, a green toy, a green book, matcha, jar of pesto, olives, green tea, elderflower cordial, green pen, washing up liquid...

All donations must be new/unused, unopened and in date please. Thank you!

St. Mary's CVA PTA Events at a Glance

Oct 18th End of Term Disco £2 per pupil	Nov 28th Colours of Christmas Casual Clothes Day Bring in an item	Dec 13th Christmas Carousel £2 per pupil
Jan 24th Crazy Hair Day £1 per pupil	Feb 13th Valentines Disco £2 per pupil	March Easter Activity No cost
April Whole school Clubbersize! Sponsorship	May Duck Race Carnival Prep No cost	June Casual Clothes Days Bring in an item
July Summer Fair & Colour run! No Cost		

We hope this calendar of events is helpful - more detail for each event will be shared closer to the time.

The biggest strength of our committee is our drive to create the best memories for all children while at school – we look forward to another exciting year!

Feedback is always welcome, please contact us via email: stmaryspta.newmills@gmail.com

A decorative border of gold, glittery stars of various sizes is located in the top left corner, extending diagonally down towards the center.

EVERYONE IS INVITED! STAR OF THE WEEK ASSEMBLY

EVERY FRIDAY WE HAVE A STAR
OF THE WEEK ASSEMBLY
STARTING AT 2.30PM. EVERYONE
IS WELCOME TO ATTEND!

A small cluster of gold, glittery stars is located on the right side of the text block.

Please check ClassDojo for any changes to
the assemblies.

A decorative border of gold, glittery stars of various sizes is located in the bottom right corner, extending diagonally up towards the center.

Saint Mary's family



Follow us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/Saintmarysnm



Follow us for school
communication, information and
local events!

View our school website here -
www.stmarysnewmills.srscmat.co.uk



The website contains lots of useful
information including a school calendar,
details about the curriculum, latest
news, the school dinner menu, links to
ParentPay and information about
wraparound care!



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.

Tuesday 19th November	Class 4 trip to The Silk Museum, Macclesfield
Wednesday 20th November	Mini first aid – whole school
Wednesday 20th November	We are inviting all children to wear something red (it is still a normal uniform day, so red socks, red hair band etc). If you could bring some small change on the day that would be much appreciated. Money raised will go towards supporting families in war-torn countries, particularly displaced children. Thank you.
Thursday 21st November	Class 3 assembly (Liturgy) 9.10am
Friday 22nd November	Pyjama day fundraiser for Busyangwa
Thursday 28th November	Class 1 assembly (Liturgy) 9.10am
Thursday 28th November	PTA colours of Christmas day
Friday 29th November	INSET day – school closed to pupils
Thursday 5th December	Fairtrade tuckshop, please bring 50p for a treat!
Friday 6th December	Christmas crafts
Friday 6th December	Pantomime visit – whole school
Monday 9th December	Last swimming lesson for year six
Tuesday 10th December	Key stage one Christmas performance 9.30am–10.30am then 6.00pm–7.00pm
Wednesday 11th December	Key stage two Christmas performance 9.30am–10.30am then 6.00pm–7.00pm
Wednesday 11th December	Christmas dinner day
Thursday 12th December	Carol singing

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>



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 knows how to treat others with dignity and respect.

Our dinner table discussion this week was 'is a broken down car parked?'

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 think before I make choices that affect my health.

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 93% 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.

YES

S – Spirituality

- We recognise our faith in God and that we are all part of something greater.
- We know that through prayer we discover who we are and why we are here.
- We grow through our Gospel Values, of acceptance, hope, faith, courage, honesty, love, charity, solidarity and truth.
- We all know that “I am Important and Precious because God loves me”.



SCHOOL HEALTH

There is lots of information available about children and young people's health, including the school nursing team, vaccinations and the national child measurement programme here – www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social-health/health-and-wellbeing/your-health/children-and-young-peoples-health/children-and-young-peoples-health.aspx



Information about the neurodiversity hub, which is based in Buxton, can be found here – www.zink.ork.uk

There is also lots of information on our school website, including information about the foodbank here – <https://www.stmarysnewmills.srscmat.co.uk/parents/family-support-and-school-health/>



SAFEGUARDING

If you have any concerns about a child or something else, please contact one of St Mary's designated leads for Safeguarding on safeguarding@nmm.srscmat.co.uk, who are:

Mrs Chapman – Headteacher and Senior Safeguarding lead

Mrs Mallabar – Designated Safeguarding Lead, Class Teacher and Mental Health Ambassador

Mrs Laura Chapman (SENCO) – Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr Matthew Pearson – Designated Safeguarding Lead

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.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IN-GAME CHAT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These 'trolls' often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent was unfair, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

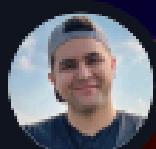
If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coomber is the Editor in Chief of GGRcon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, Techradar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

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 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 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.

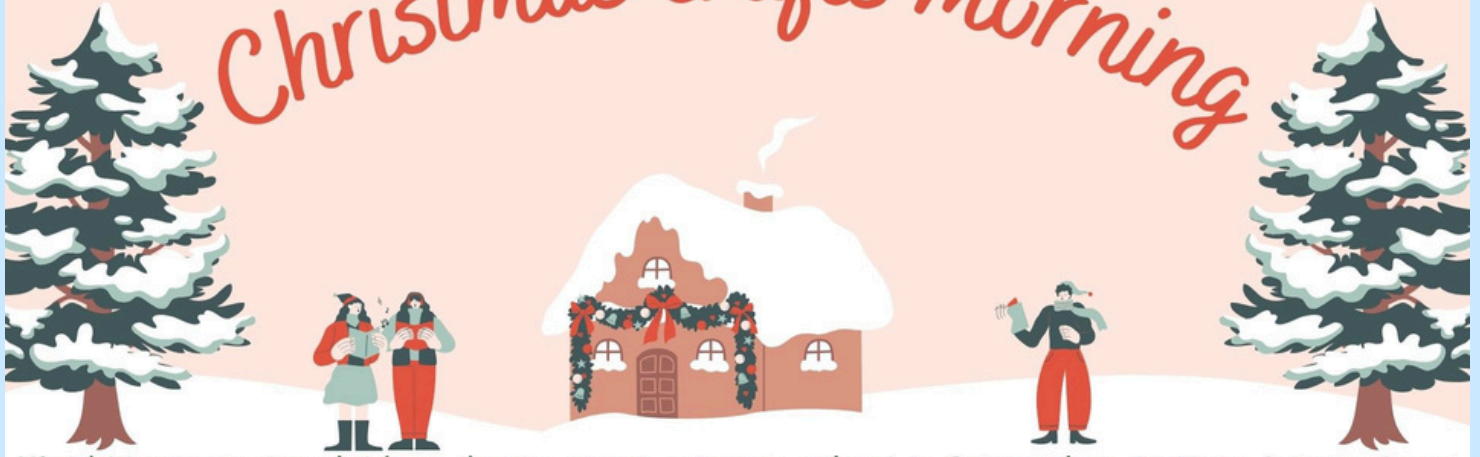
ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

Please do let us know if
you can come!
joxley@nmm.srscmat.co.uk
or 01663 742412

You are invited to a:



Christmas crafts morning



We'd like to invite children due to start primary school in September 2025 to join us for a Christmas crafts morning on Friday 6th December from 9.30am to 10.30am at Saint Mary's Primary School, Longlands Road.

An invite to all children due
to start school in September
2025!



Class 1 and 2 would like to invite you to our Christmas performance. This takes place in school on Tuesday 10th December from 9.30am to 10.30am.



Please let us know if you can come!
info@nmm.srscmat.co.uk

Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Longlands Road, New Mills, High Peak,
Derbyshire, SK22 3BL 01663 742412

COMMUNITY NOTICES

For vacancies in our Trust, please see – www.srscmat.co.uk/work-with-us/vacancies/

Latest vacancy: Premises officer at St Thomas More School in Buxton

<https://www.srscmat.co.uk/work-with-us/vacancies-single/>

**Category=Premises%2Fsite%2FCaretaking&Advert=NwkvxMuEXuJFXKoR3Vqtcw%3D%3D
&Region=StThomasMoreCatholicVoluntaryAcademy**



Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

Join us at St Thomas More for our Senior Citizens' Christmas Party on

Friday 13th December 2024
13:30-14:45

We will be having Carols from the school band, Bingo, cakes and festive fun.
If you wish to attend please contact the school office on
01298 23167
by Monday 9th December

The event is free to attend but we are hoping to fundraise for some of our students to attend the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes

St Thomas More, Palace Fields, Buxton SK17 6AF

RAFFLE

BINGO

St Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy



Structured lessons in a safe environment
With level 1 qualified, DBS checked coaches
All abilities welcome
Equipment provided

JUNIOR SQUASH COACHING

englandsquash.com

When:

Every Saturday	
Age 4-6	9:40-10:20
Age 7-11	10:20-11:10
Age 7-11	11:00-11:40
Age 12-16	11:40-12:20
Every Wednesday	
Age 7-11	16:20-17:00
Age 12+	17:00-17:40

Where: New Mills Leisure Centre

Cost: £4

Contact: Matt - 07731434420
Simon - 07846424835

First session free

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S L2U CONSULTATION 2024/25



Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Nicolle Ndiweni-Roberts, would like to hear views on crime and community safety in Derbyshire.

Throughout the year the Commissioner runs a survey called Listening 2 You, asking for Derbyshire residents' views on crime and community safety. This is done to ensure that the priorities the Commissioner sets for policing, community safety and victim services reflect the issues that matter most to Derbyshire residents, wherever they live in the City or the County. Using the responses from the survey, the Commissioner will work with the Chief Constable to ensure that resources are balanced efficiently with residents' concerns.

We need to hear from as many people as possible to ensure the results are fair.

The survey questions cover feelings of safety, experiences of crime and anti-social behaviour in the area where they live, and opinions on local policing. The survey should take no longer than 4 minutes to complete. The link for the survey is below:

Listening to you | Office of the Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner (derbyshire-pcc.gov.uk) <https://www.derbyshire-pcc.gov.uk/taking-part/listening-to-you/>

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