

8TH NOVEMBER 2024



FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

A warm welcome back to everyone, I do hope you enjoyed half term with your families. It has been a busy week as always, we have been making Diwali crafts, doing bonfire and firework activities and designing poppies ready for remembrance day. Preparations are already underway for our Christmas performances, please see the 'dates to note' section for upcoming dates, these can also be seen on ClassDojo and the school website calendar.

On Saturday, some of our class 3 and 4 children will be performing carols at the Parish Christmas fair. Thank you to all of you for giving up your time, I'm sure you will be wonderful!

Next week is anti bullying week, we will be completing work around what bullying looks like and how to be kind and forgiving. Please see the poster below which talks about ways to help children to choose respect.

We look forward to the applications for primary school places opening on Monday. If you have friends or family who have children due to start school next year, please do recommend us.

We will also be visiting High Lea Park on Monday for remembrance day. On Wednesday, we have another open morning for parents and carers of children starting school in September 2025 and on Thursday we have our Mission Day.

Holidays in term time – we are noticing an increasing number of children who are being reported as absent due to illness who then tell us that they have been on holiday. Please do be honest with us and ensure that you tell us if you are going on holiday. Not being honest does damage the relationship between school and our families. Absence request forms should be completed, these can be picked up from the office.

This week you should have received your child's Christmas card designs, please do place any orders by Tuesday at 12 noon.

As part of our charitable support to our sister school in Busyangwa we are hoping to raise ±350 to fund a staff toilet block, please see the information below.

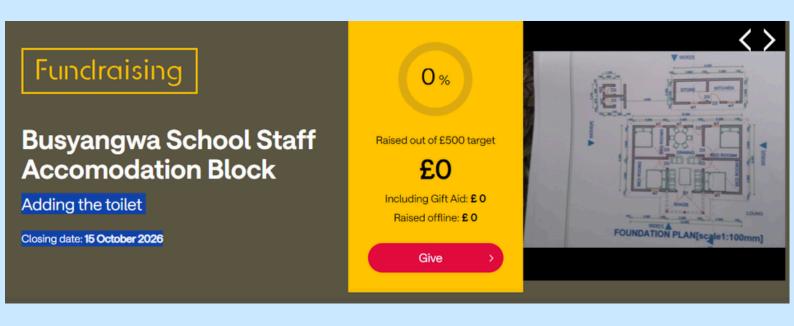
God Bless and have a lovely weekend. **Mrs Chapman**

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.stmarusnewmills.srscmat.co.uk/catholiclife/catholic-social-teaching/

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



The fundaraising page link is <u>fundraising page for the Staff Toilet project</u>.

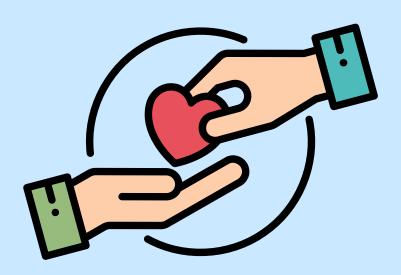
Story

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.



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:



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



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.

MAKING POPPIES AND DIWALI CRAFTS

















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MAKING POPPIES AND DIWALI CRAFTS





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.

	and to the companies and controls.
Monday 11th November	Applications for primary places for September 2025 open
Wednesday 13th November	Open day for prospective parents and carers, 9.00am-10.00am
Thursday 14th November	Mission day
Tuesday 19th November	Class 4 trip to The Silk Museum, Macclesfield
Wednesday 20th November	Mini first aid – whole school
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
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

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 is just and fair.

Our dinner table discussion this week was 'can I cheat if I don't know the rules?'

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 tell you how I look after 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.

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.

<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.

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 pote

<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.

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/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 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 ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO CHOOSE RESPECT

Sometimes, differences between children can escalate into bullying, potentially impacting their mental health in a way that can persist into adulthood. While it's natural to disagree sometimes, teaching children the importance of respect is essential – especially in difficult situations. This guide provides strategies for encouraging considerate behaviour, even during a dispute, to foster a kinder, more inclusive environment for everyone.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

As adults, we play a crucial role in modelling respectful behaviour for children: they observe and learn from our actions every day. Be mindful of the way you interest with others in front of children. Keep in mind that you should always approach others with an attitude of mutual respect, even if you disagree with them, bemeinstrating this tehaniour can influence young people and help them to handle their

AGREE TO DISAGREE

Make sure children know that it's fine to have differing opinions = and that disagreeing with someone deesn't mean you can't get along or respect each sometimes we can 'agree to disagree'. Using active listening skills when doing this can also help to build empathy and understanding of others.

PROMOTE ACTIVE LISTENING

Teach children about the importance of active ing: that is, making a genuine effort to listen to the other person's perspective without interrupting, before responding in a way that shows you understand their viewpoint, even (or perhaps especially) if you disagree with it. This makes people feel respected and allows for a better comprehension of their point of view, which in turn can make it easier

ENCOURAGE THE USE OF "I" STATEMENTS

someone, it can be useful to encourage them to use "i" statements during the discussion. Framing their thoughts and feelings using statements like "I feel ..." or "I think ..." can help them avoid an accusatory tone and encourages them to take responsibility for their

FOCUS ON BEHAVIOUR, NOT CHARACTER

When disagreements happen, encourage children to locus on critiquing and addressing the specific actions or behaviours that caused this upset, rather determs or benowburs that caused this upset, rather than attacking the person's character. For example, "I didn't like how you interrupted me" is better than "You're so rude". This can help children avoid hurting someone's leetings, which is likely to inflame the

STAY CALM AND TAKE BREAKS

It's perfectly normal to feel upset during a disagreement – especially lift's getting heated. Remind children that if they feel overwhelmed, they should try to take deep breaths or even go for a short break to help thom stay composed. If a conversation becomes too intense, remind them it's CK to suggest continuing it later or in a different setting. This can prevent things getting out of hand, allowing cooler heads to prevail.

START CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RESPECT

Talk openly to children about what respect means to you and to them. Discuss how they might show respect to each other, to friends, to strangers and even to people we might disagree with. You could use examples of considerate or inconsiderate behaviour in books, films or TV to open discussions about the importance of giving others due regard.

SEEK COMMON

When a disagreement has occurred between children, they may find it hard to move past it. You can support them in finding a more positive way forward by helping identify creas of agreement or common ground with the other party. This can help to build bridges between differing opinions and fester a more cooperative atmosphere, as well as preventing those involved from demonising each another.

AVOID MAKING THINGS PERSONAL

It's important that we make it clear to children they in a important incident make it clear it constraint may must avoid name-calling, swearing or derogatory remarks in a disagreement eith others. Respectful language sets a positive tone and helps keep the conversation productive. Reminding children to stay caim and take breaks – as mentioned previously can help them avoid getting too emotional and

10 REFLECT AND LEARN

After a child has had a disagreement, encourage them to reflect on the experience and think above what they can learn from it. What did they handle well? How might they improve their communication skills to handle conflicts more effectively in the tuture? You could use role play, writing and drawing pictures, or hypothetical examples to further develop their skills in showing respect during a disagreement

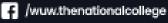
Meet Our Expert

The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) co-ordinate Anti-Bullying Week each year. ABA is a unique coalition of organisation (AUA) co-creations fine-fielding Week each year. ABA is a unique coalition of organisations and individuals, working together to achieve their vision to stop bullying and create serier environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn. They welcome membership from any organisation or individual that supports this vision and support a free network of thousands of schools and colleges.

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at







(O) @wake.up.wednesday



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.

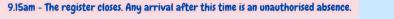
Please also be alert to children watching films or playing games which are not appropriate for their age and stage. Always follow the age guidance and be mindful of young children watching upsetting or violent films or playing games not meant for their age, This can be very distressing and can cause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







ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025



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.



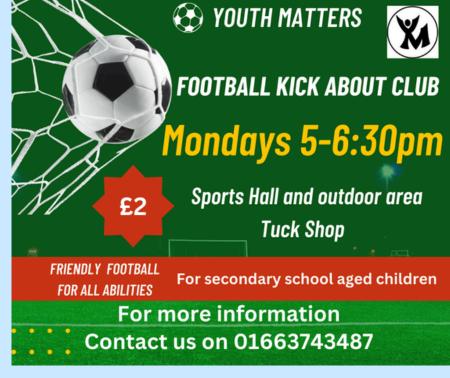
COMMUNITY NOTICES











Super Draw

Win a £1,000 Amazon Gift Card

OR £1,000 CASH PRIZE







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

PLAY NOW:

Go to

www.yourschoollottery.co.uk St Mary's New Mills



Gamble Aware

