

13TH DECEMBER 2024



FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

A very warm welcome to this week's newsletter. The focus this week in Advent was Love (second Sunday of Advent):

'Lead us in your ways, as together we make a change and shake your peace with all.'

We are now in the throes of Advent with Christmas Nativity plays, carol singing and card making! Please see all our wonderful photographs, including of the panto visit from Friday of last week.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, we had the key stage one and two performances which were all absolutely amazing. Thank you so much for all of your positive feedback, we have passed this on to the pupils and the staff. Our staff work incredibly hard to put these productions together; costumes, music, rehearsals — well done to you all! Please note that these performances cannot be recorded due to safeguarding reasons and copyright laws. Photographs can be taken at the end of the performances as long as they are not shared on social media. Can we also remind adults not to block access roads by parking across them, we have received complaints from neighbours who could not leave their drives during the key stage one morning performance. Thank you for helping us to live in harmony with our neighbours on Longlands Road.

It was also our Christmas dinner day on Vednesday, pupils wore their Christmas jumpers and silly hats. Thank you to the wonderful catering staff for all of their hard work in providing these wonderful meals for our children.

On Thursday, class three and four had a Reconciliation service with Fr. Emmanuel at school and also attended carol singing at a local care home and on New Mills main street. We collected donations to send to the 'Church in Need' fund, to help children in war torn countries. Also on Thursday, key stage 2 pupils had a beautifully spiritual service of reconciliation with Fr Emmanuel. Father blessed all the staff and children throughout school.

Congratulations to St. Thomas More, our local secondary feeder school, who have achieved 'good' in all areas of Catholic Life, Religious education and Collective Worship during their recent inpection. <u>www.stthomasmorebuxton.srscmat.co.uk/catholic-life/our-diocesan-</u> canonical-inspection-report/

Our wonderful PTA held their Christmas carousel acivity day on Friday. The children loved all of the activities. Thank you so much to all our helpers on this day – you really do make a big difference to our school and create wonderful memories along the way. Photos to follow next week!

As a reminder, Friday of next week (20th) is an inset day so school is closed to pupils. On Thursday (19th) we have our Advent service (2.00pm), school then closes at 2.45pm. All children should be collected at 2.45pm on this day. There is no after school club on Thursday.

God Bless and have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Chapman

Click here for a video of the whole school singing last week - https://youtu.be/hWIP4lsVrmk

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/catholiclife/catholic-social-teaching/
Our Trust newsletter can be found here https://bit.ly/3UQsIdI

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATION OF THE WORD





The theme this week was 'Peace'.



PANTOMIME 2024











KEY STAGE ONE CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE





















Christian Christ









































KEY STAGE TWO CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE















CAROL SINGING – JUBILEE DAY CENTRE





CLASS TWO - DESIGNING CHRISTMAS CARDS









THE LITTLE PRINCESS TRUST

Beatrix is doing something amazing! She's following in the footsteps of her older sister and brother and she's going to have her lovely, long locks cut off so she can donate them to The Little Princess trust to be made into a wig for a child or young person who needs one. She would like to raise some money to go towards the cost of making the wig – the cost of making and providing a wig is £700, she would be very grateful for anything she can raise towards that cost – please help her. The Little Princess Trust provides real hair wigs, free of charge, to children and young people who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or to other conditions such as Alopecia. The charity is also one of the largest funders of childhood cancer research in the UK. The Little Princess Trust relies solely on the generosity of its wonderful supporters who help the charity give Hair and Hope to so many children and young people with cancer each year.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/beatrix-hunt-1731926707222?

https://www.justgiving.com/page/beatrix-hunt-1731926707222? utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fbeatrixhunt1731926707222&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share





NEWS FROM THE PTA



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











Follow us for school communication, information and local events!

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



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.

DAILS IO NOIL	due to circumstances beyond our control.
Thursday 19th December	Advent service in school, all welcome. 2.00pm
Thursday 19th December	School closes at 2.45pm for the Christmas break
Friday 20th December	Inset day, school closed to pupils
Monday 6th January 2025	School reopens for the new term
Wednesday 15th January	Primary applications close today
Tuesday 21st January	Meeting for reception parents and carers re transition to year one (3.30pm)
Thursday 23rd January	Meeting for year 5 parents and carers re The Briars residential trip
Friday 24th January	Visit from Jon Pearce MP
Thursday 13th February	Art and design technology collapsed curriculum day
Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February	Half term holidays
Monday 24th February	Inset day, school closed to pupils
Wednesday 5th March	Ash Wednesday service (TBC)
Thursday 6th March	World book day and English collapsed curriculum day
Wednesday 26th March to Friday 28th March	Year 5 residential trip to The Briars
Monday 31st March and Tuesday 1st April	Parents and carers consultation sessions
Wednesday 2nd April	Mission day

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

IN AN EMERGENCY, WHEN THE SCHOOL ANSWERPHONE IS SWITCHED ON, RING 07355 221723 TO SPEAK TO WRAPAROUND STAFF.





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



Use your tax-free childcare vouchers

Speak to the school office for more information!

SCHOOL NOTICES

No star of the week assembly this week



Our dinner table discussion this week was 'are clouds in, under or above the sky?'

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 try to follow our school and classroom rules.

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.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.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING APPS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS? When looking at options for supporting a child's mental health, the sheer volume can be overwhelming.

There are many wellbeing apps available, but unfortunately not all are trustworthy. It's important to
evaluate which resources are suitable, reliable and effective. This guide lets you know what to consider
before installing such an app, to determine just how useful it's going to be.

QUALITY & RELIABILITY

Mental health apps can be a useful starting point when looking for wellbuing advice and strategies and can be a useful extension to the in-person services available. However, they aren's a substitute. Information on the quality of some of these apps is scores. They may look cute and child-friendly, but have they been designed by a mental health professional? Furthermark, do they have research to back up their corriert?

PLACE RESPONSIBILITY ON CHILDREN

Some apps add the words 'kids' or 'children' to their title or use contace itoms to make them more appealing to young people. When signing up for some of these apps, some will speak to the parent directly, saying semething along the lines of "four child is good to go, Let them take it from here". It's important to remain involved in the child's mental health journey, so regular check-ins are recommended.

DISREGARDING APPROPRIATE SUPPORT

Young people who feel ansious and have trouble sleeping may download a minefulness app to help. While this is a good streety initially, it's not addressing the root of the problem. A child could simply try managing these symptoms themselves (as apposed to speaking out and seeking professional help), which could potentially worsen their ansiety in the long run.

LACK OF PERSONALISATION

Mental health or wellbeing apps are useful tools for the short term, teaching users several helpful hobits to manage their condition – such as teeping an illness diary, improving nutrition and practising mindfulness exercises. As every person is unique – and children especially will grow and develop in different ways – these apps struggle to tailor themselves to users' individual needs. For example, many apps don't distinguish between the ages of users and can other extremely generic advice.

DATA SECURITY

As with any other app = not just those for mental health and wellbeing = it's wise to check out the privacy policy before downloading it. Some of these applications may share data with third parties for numerous reasons (such as targeted advertisements), and if a user is sharing personal and semitive information within the app. they probably don't sent it ending up elsewhere without their consent.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Many apps will provide their most basic features for free but will requise you to pay for other aspects – such as a mere tails read experience or access to additional resources. This could be a one-off free or a regular subscription. Consider whether this is actually required, to it benefiting the child, or could they receive the same support from a medical professional?

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHECK THE CREDIBILITY OF THE APP

Before you download a mental health and wellbeing app, investigate the developers. Have they consulted with qualified mental health professionals to create their resource? Also check whether the app is affiliated with any government or mental health organisations, as these are solid indicators of legitimacy. Beviews can also be a useful significant to the app's quality. There are many good apps out there, but there are just as more that miss the mark.

READ THE PRIVACY POLICY

Look into the app's terms of service — especially its privacy policy. Do so by yourself first, then go over it with the child who is considering using the app, to ensure they know what data will be collected and how exactly it will be used. Use all of this information to make an educated decision on whether or not to download that particular app.

trusted mental health and wellbeing apps designed by qualified, reputable organisations can be used alongside the personalised advice and support of fully trained professionals. These apps should never be considered a substitute for counselling or other tailored medical help. If you have real concerns about a child's mental wellbeing, you should seek appropriate advice from a suitable source, such as their GP - or Childine, who can be contacted by calling 0800 1111.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

SEEK PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

Mental health and well being apps can be useful for writing down feelings, tracking your own health and other such activities. These can help if the problem is short-term and temporary – such as a child getting stressed about approaching exams – or if you're currently welling for professional support. Nonetheless, it is important that children aren't solely reliant on the pp and have a safe space to talk about their feelings and excertances in the real world.

Meet Our Expert

Or Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-builtying and cyber safety policies for schools, the has written various academic papers and corried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and setting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Wake Up Wednesday

rne National College

Source See full reference list on guide page at https://nationalcollege.com/guides/mental-health-apps



/www.thenationalcollege



@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

THE ADMISSIONS WINDOW FOR SEPTEMBER 2025
APPLICATIONS CLOSES ON WEDNESDAY 15TH
JANUARY. PLEASE ENSURE YOUR APPLICATION IS
COMPLETED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! DO LET THE
SCHOOL OFFICE KNOW IF YOU NEED ANY SUPPORT.



IF ANYONE YOU KNOW HAS A CHILD DUE TO START SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2025, PLEASE DO RECOMMEND OUR SCHOOL TO THEM! IT ISN'T TOO LATE TO COME TO HAVE A LOOK AROUND AND SPEAK TO MRS CHAPMAN ABOUT APPLYING TO JOIN OUR SCHOOL.



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



GambleAware

