



FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

GTH DECEMBER 2024

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Welcome to this week's newsletter. Our photographs this week are a snapshot of school life! Class 1 are demonstrating how active they are during a multi skills lesson. Class 3 are using their ICT skills to create animations. Class 4 are designing their Christmas cards whilst Class 2 are creating their dream jars as part of their 'All about me' lessons.

Our Ambassadors For Hope attended a meeting at Fenny Bentley this week to review our new logo, prayer and plan for the Trust vision in 2030! Thank you so much to everyone who attended our Christmas crafts day today. We also visited Buxton today to attend the panto, thank you to our wonderful volunteers for your support. We had a wonderful time.

The last swim for year 6 takes place on Monday of next week, 9th December.

Year 5 will be attending school swimming lessons on Monday afternoons starting on Monday 13th January 2025 at 2.45pm. Please note that your child can only be excluded from school swimming on medical grounds, as this is a part of the PE national Curriculum. Their last swim takes place on Monday 31st March 2025.

Children will finish their swimming session at 3.15pm, please pick your child up from the leisure centre on these days, please aim to pick up at 3.30pm. Children will be brought outside by staff ready to be collected. If someone other than a parent/carer will be picking up your child, please let school know in plenty of time to alert staff before they leave, ideally not on the day.

Next week, we have our key stage one and key stage two Christmas performances. Please see the 'dates to note' section or ClassDojo for more information. Everyone is very welcome to attend but please note that we do not allow photographs or video of the performances. We will make time for you to take a photo of your child/children at the end of the performance, but we politely ask that this image is not uploaded to social media. It is very important that you, and all other visitors, are aware of our safeguarding rules around images of children. We enforce this to protect our most vulnerable children. Please abide by these very important rules as we do everything we can to keep our children safe.

Also next week we have our Christmas dinner day (Wednesday), please order via ParentPay. We cannot take orders on the day for this meal. On Friday we have our PTA Christmas carousel, please see the poster below!

God Bless and have a lovely weekend. Mrs Chapman Copies of both the school newsletters and the Parish newsletters can be found here – https://www.stmarysnewmills.srscmat.co.uk/news/newsletters/ Our Catholic life and mission newsletter can be found here https://www.stmarysnewmills.srscmat.co.uk/catholic– life/catholic-social-teaching/ Our Trust newsletter can be found here https://bit.ly/3UQsldI

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATION OF THE WORD



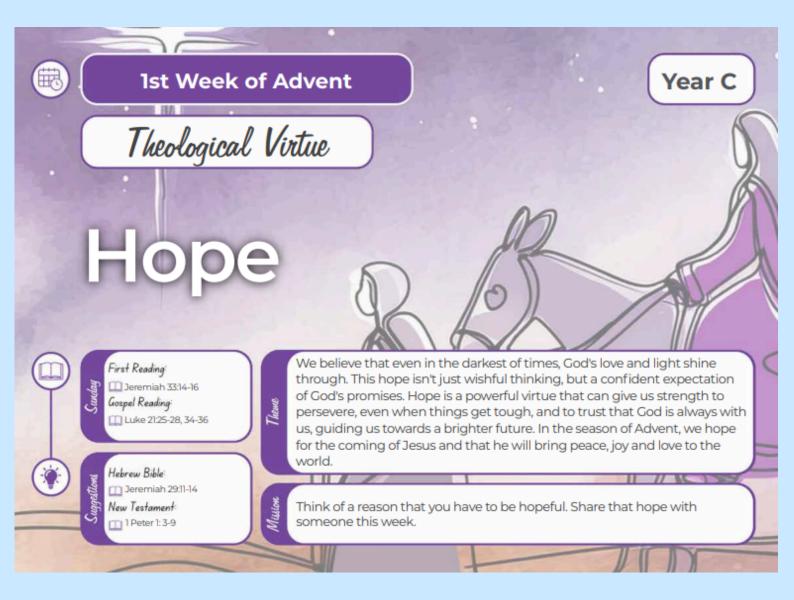


Mary's Missionaries - we have been learning about this in Monday's liturgy.

The theme this week was 'Hope'.

The mission was to find a time in the day to say a quiet prayer for someone in need.

The Catholic Social Teaching link was 'Family and Community', we talked about the coming of God's son, Jesus.





















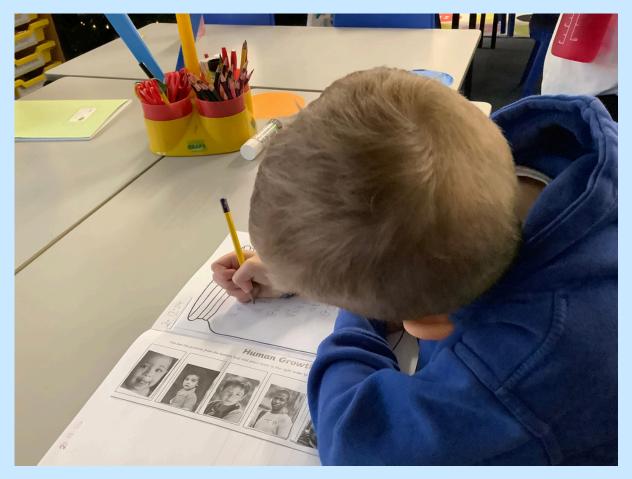










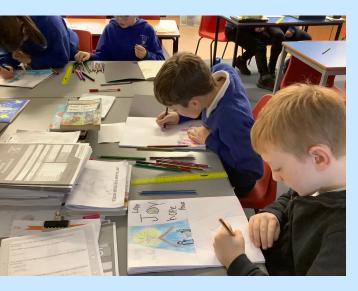






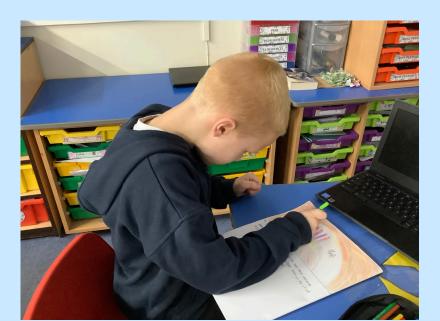














FAIR TRADE TUCKSHOP











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? utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fbeatrixhunt1731926707222&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share





NEWS FROM THE PTA

St. Mary's CVA PTA Évents at a Glance



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





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

Please check ClassDojo for any changes to the assemblies.





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!

MMMMM

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.

Monday Sth 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
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

ABSENCES DURING TERM TIME

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

Support first

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

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

National Framework for penalty notices

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

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

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

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

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

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

Term time holidays

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

New registration codes

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

Code C: Leave of absence for exceptional circumstance.

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

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



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







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?' Please be very careful when parking outside school. Please drive slowly and don't park on the zigzags, even just to drop off. This helps to keep our children safe.

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

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.

If anyone has changed their name,

Our statement of belief this week was - I try to love others as I love myself.

High attendance is vitally important to every child, educationally, socially, and legally. This is a good opportunity to remind everyone holidays should not be booked during term time. Headteachers are not permitted to authorise absences unless there are exceptional circumstances. This does not include reduced holiday costs. If a child is not in school and the absence is not authorised, we are under a duty to report this to the Local Authority who may issue you with a penalty notice.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS 96% THIS WEEK!

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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

- We care for each other 'Love one another as I have loved you'
- We understand our obligation and responsibility to other in our local. national and world wide communities.
- We are learning to become global citizens. courageously following in Jesus' footsteps.
- We are working together to Building God's Kingdom on Earth.
- We are helping to look after the most vulnerable in our communities.

<u>T - Togetherness</u>

- We work together for the greater good.
- We work together cooperatively as a team.
- We are disciples of Christ and we show this through our actions.
- We are stronger together.

<u>M – Mission</u>

- We ensure all of our pupils receive the best learning opportunities through the provision of a broad and diverse curriculum.

- We bring Christ to all of our children. ensuring that he is front and centre in everything we do - 'Rip of the Roof'.

- We are the living Gospel.

- We strive to be the best we can be and achieve our God given potential.

<u> A – Awe and Wonder</u>

- We are inspiring our pupils to be future leaders.
- We recognise the awe and wonder in God's creation.
- We recognising our uniqueness in the eyes of God.
- We are being inspired to learn more. know more and understand more.

<u>R - Reconciliation and Foregiveness</u>

- We know how to say sorry and recognise when we have done something wrong.
- We know how to ask God and others for forgiveness.
- We know how to forgive others as God forgives us.
- We know that we can learn from our mistakes and this enables us to become closer to God.

<u>Y - Yes!</u>

- 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-andwellbeing/your-health/children-and-young-peopleshealth/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 <u>safeguarding@nmm.srscmat.co.uk</u>, who are: Mrs Chapman – Headteacher and Senior Safeguarding lead Mrs Mallabar – Designated Safeguarding Lead, Class Teacher and Mental Health Ambassador Mrs Laura Chapman (SENCO) – Designated Safeguarding Lead Mr Matthew Pearson – Designated Safeguarding Lead

As a school, we are always here to support you and your family. If your family circumstances have changed, for example a loss of a loved one, a seperation or even a house move, please do let us know. Changes like these will impact children and it would really help if we knew about your changing circumstances to help us best support you all.



At The National College, our Weskelp/Wednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and aducators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please shilt national college.com.

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



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 wellbaing advice and strategies and can be a useful extension to the in-perton services available. However, they aren't a substitute. Information on the quality of some of these apps is scoree. They may look cuts and child-thendly, but have they been designed by a mental health professional? Furthermore, do they have research to back up their content?

PLACE RESPONSIBILITY ON CHILDREN

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

DISREGARDING

Young people who feel analous and have trouble alsoping may download a minefulness cap to help. While this is a good strategy initially, its not addressing therator of the peoblem. A child could simply try manoging these symptoms themselves (as opposed to speaking out and seeking professional help), which could potentially version their analety in the long run.

LACK OF PERSONALISATION

Mental health or wellbeing apps are useful tools for the short term, teaching users overal helpful habits to manage their condition – such as teeping an illness diry, improving nutrition and practising ministruiness exercises. As every person is unique – and children especially will grow and divestop in different ways – these apps struggie to tailor themselves to users' individual needs. For example, many apps don't distinguish between the apps 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 their particle for numerous reasons (such as targeted advertisements), and it a user is sharing personal and sensitive information within the app, they probably don't eent it ending up elsewhere without their consent.

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IN-APP PURCHASES

Many apps will provide their most basic leatures for the but will require you to pay for other aspects – such as a mere tailered experime or access to additional resources. This could be a one-off fee or a regular subscription. Consider whether this is actually required, to it bonofiting the child, or could they receive the same support from a medical professional?

Advice For Parents & Educators

CHECK THE CREDIBILITY OF THE APP

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 opp, to ensure they know what data will be callected and how exactly it will be used. Use all of this information tomake an educated decision on whether or not to download that

Before you download a mantal hoalth 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. Reviews can also be a useful signpost to the app's quality. There are many good apps out there, but there are just as many that miss the mark.

READ THE PRIVACY POLICY

SEEK PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

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 counseling or other tailored medical help. If you have real concerns about a child's mental wellbeing, you should seek appropriate advice from a substitute source, such as their OP - or Childline, who can be contacted by calling 0800 1111.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Mental health and wellbeing 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 examp – or if you're currently waiting for professional support. Konetheless, it is important that children aren't solely reliant on the app and have a safe space to talk about their feelings and esperiences in the real world.

Meet Our Expert

porticular app

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

Source, see full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollega.com/guides/mental-health-apps.



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Upons of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 04.12.3034

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/#quides

They also have guides about social media platforms and how to help children stay safe when using them. As a reminder, no primary school age pupils should be accessing social media at all. Primary aged children aren't able to understand the consequences of decisions made when using social media, they are at risk because of WHAT THEY MIGHT SEE, WHO THEY MIGHT SPEAK TO and HOW THEY MIGHT BEHAVE. Please help to keep all of our children safe by ensuring that none of our children are using social media.

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

<u>SCHOOL CHROMEBOOKS</u> – AS A REMINDER, THE SCHOOL CHROMEBOOKS THAT CLASS THREE AND FOUR CHILDREN HAVE ARE <u>ONLY</u> TO BE USED FOR LEARNING. IN SCHOOL, THE CHROMEBOOKS ARE FILTERED TO ENSURE THAT NO INAPPROPRIATE SITES CAN BE ACCESSED BUT ONCE THE DEVICE IS TAKEN HOME, WE DO NOT HAVE CONTROL OF WHAT IS VIEWED AS THIS IS LINKED TO YOUR HOME WI-FI CONTROLS. CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE ACCESSING SITES SUCH AS TIKTOK, YOUTUBE, FACEBOOK ETC. ON THESE DEVICES. CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE LEFT UNSUPERVISED ON THEIR CHROMEBOOKS. IF VE FIND THAT CHILDREN ARE NOT USING THEM PROPERLY, WE WILL REMOVE THE DEVICES FOR HOME USE.

EXTRA INFORMATION



9.15am - The register closes. Any arrival after this time is an unauthorised absence.



For every pupil registered , the school will receive additional funding in the school budget called Pupil Premium which is used to help raise achievement levels.

By ensuring that as many eligible families as possible have applied for free school meals, we will receive our maximum Pupil Premium 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



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.

COMMUNITY NOTICES





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/



- 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!



GambleAware



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