



10TH JANUARY 2025

FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Happy New Year after a very snowy start! Welcome to this week's newsletter.



Thank you for all your wonderful cards, presents and well wishes during the Christmas period. They are truly appreciated. Just a reminder that all parents and carers of reception children are invited to a meeting with Mrs Hodgson and Mrs Mallabar on Tuesday 21st January at 3.30pm. This is to talk about the transition to year one process. Please do try and attend if you can.

From the start of this term onwards, we have taken the difficult decision to no longer allow photos or videos to be taken on personal devices of our pupils. This includes events such as assemblies, sports days, school trips and Christmas productions. The reason for this decision is to ensure that our most vulnerable children are protected from their image appearing on social media, which could jeopardise their safety and their ability to be cared for in a new home, e.g. with a carer or guardian. We have not taken this decision lightly, and we're not taking this decision to be mean or awkward, but the safety of all our children, especially our most vulnerable children, must come first. When we have events such as performances, trips or sports days, staff will take photos of children in their costumes, during their rehearsals, during their sports days etc. that we can share with you via ClassDojo and the school Facebook page. Staff are aware of the children that cannot appear on social media. When you come to watch your child at their events, please enjoy the precious moments and celebrate your child's achievements with them, they love to see you and watch your faces fill with pride! I hope that you can understand and support us in making this decision and help us to protect our most vulnerable children from harm.

The children had their wonderful music lessons with Miss Watson on Thursday – glockenspeils for classes 1 and 3, recorders for class 2 and ukulele for class 4. It sounds wonderful! Please see the videos on Facebook.

Our teacher led school clubs start next week. Revision Club for year 6 pupils is every Monday with Mr Pearson until 4.20pm. Colouring and Audio Story Club with Mrs Mallabar runs every Tuesday lunchtime and Lego Club runs every Tuesday after school for wraparound pupils. Classes 3 and 4 have Active Club with Miss Kemp every Thursday lunchtime. Children don't need to sign up for clubs. All of our year 6 pupils are expected to stay for Revision Club unless Mr Pearson has already discussed this with you.

Swimming for year 5 pupils starts on Monday of next week, 13th January. Thank you all for your support during this very challenging, snowy start to the New Year.

Have a lovely weekend and I hope everyone stays safe and warm!

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




The theme this week was 'Gratitude' and we focused on the Epiphany. The mission was to tell someone that we love them and to be thankful for everything that we have. The Catholic Social Teaching link was solidarity and the common good because the Three Wise Men gave Jesus gifts and worshipped him.


 **2nd Sunday of Christmastide**


Year C


Word of the Week


Epiphany


 *Sunday*

First Reading:
 Isaiah 60:1-6

Gospel Reading:
 Matthew 21:1-2

 *Suggestions*

Hebrew Bible:
 Psalm 67: 1-7

New Testament:
 Matthew 25: 14-30

Theme

Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus Christ to the world. It is a time to reflect on the mystery of Christ's birth and to renew our commitment to following him. For us, Epiphany is a time to recognise that Christ came for everyone and we see this reflected in the visit of the Magi and the gifts that they brought.

Mission

What is a gift that you can give to others? Think of a way to share your gift with your community this week.

PARISH NEWS



CHILDREN'S LITURGY DATES 2025

JANUARY 12TH

JANUARY 19TH

FEBRUARY 2ND

MARCH 2ND

MARCH 16TH

MARCH 23RD

MARCH 30TH

MAY 4TH

MAY 18TH

JUNE 8TH

JUNE 15TH

JUNE 22ND

JUNE 29TH

JULY 6TH

JULY 13TH

JULY 20TH



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.



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.

Monday 13th January	Revision club for year 6 pupils starts, running until 4.20pm EVERY Monday.
Monday 13th January	Swimming lessons for year 5 pupils begin.
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**



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 is awarded to someone who knows how to look after God's creations.

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.

No dinner time discussion this week!

No photography or videos are allowed on personal devices in school. This includes during sports days, assemblies, performances and school trips. This is to keep our most vulnerable 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 know I belong in a community that includes my school.

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 93.2% 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.

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”.



YES



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.



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

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.



Enter our **Super Draw**

**Win a £1,000 Amazon
Gift Card**

OR £1,000 CASH PRIZE



**YOUR
SCHOOL
LOTTERY**

- 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

Search for:

St Mary's New Mills



GambleAware

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