



24TH JANUARY 2025

FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Welcome to this week's newsletter. Following on from our visit to Watford Care Home to see 103 year old Mabel and wish her a happy birthday, the Buxton Advertiser will be publishing an article about school. As a Catholic school we are all part of one family and one community, in which we continually strive to help others. We always support those most in need and instill in all our pupils the need to respect human dignity.

Our focus this week is on English. Class 3 and 4 are completing guided reading, independent reading comprehension, spelling activities, exploring onomatopoeia and synonyms for abstract nouns!

Class 2 are writing about how they can help others and our planet through their actions.

Class 4 are preparing for their visit from our local MP this Friday at school by producing a song on British values – see the video here <https://youtu.be/jRv9aGUXecQ>

Our lunchtime staff have noticed that some children are struggling to use a knife and fork to eat their school meals. Please could we ask that, if your child does struggle, could you spend some time practising at home? Using a knife and fork at home helps all our young pupils to develop and strengthen their fine motor skills, it also helps them to improve their concentration and focus. There are some really helpful videos online, such as this one, which can help – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cau5cevLg2U>

Well done to those children who participated in the cross country event on Wednesday, you were wonderful! Please see the photos below for this and for crazy hair day! Thank you so much for the excellent turn out at the year one transition meeting and the meeting for The Briars residential visit. The powerpoints will be added to the website in due course. A huge congratulations to class one for their outstanding behaviour at mass on Thursday.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Chapman

The Diocesan guide to the Jubilee and more information about the Jubilee can be found here –

<https://www.stmarysnewmills.srscmat.co.uk/catholic-life/r-e/>

We are delighted to say that, from Monday of next week, we will have a school crossing patrol back at the bottom of Longlands Road! We are over the moon, please do make use of this service by walking to school whenever you can.



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/3UQsIdI>

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATION OF THE WORD



The theme this week was 'Discipleship.' The Catholic Social Teaching link was family and community because Jesus performed miracles when he was with his mother and at a family wedding. The mission was to be an example of Jesus, for example to help someone in need, to look after our world and to be kind. The theme linked to the school's virtue of faith. To show discipleship you must show faith and trust in God. This also links to the scripture based on the miracle of Lazarus.

Week 2 in Ordinary Time

Year C

Word of the Week

Discipleship

First Reading:
Isaiah 62:1-5

Gospel Reading:
John 21:12

Hebrew Bible:
Deuteronomy 6:4-9

New Testament:
Matthew 28:18-20

Time
Discipleship is all about learning from Jesus and following his example. It's about putting our faith into action, living out the Gospel in our daily lives. We can learn so much from Jesus' teachings, his compassion, and his love for others. As his disciples, we're called to do the same, to be a light in the world and share his message of hope.

Mission
Think of someone in need in your community who you can help and support this week.

PARISH NEWS



CHILDREN'S LITURGY DATES 2025

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

CATHOLIC SCHOOL INSPECTORATE – PARENT/CARER SURVEY

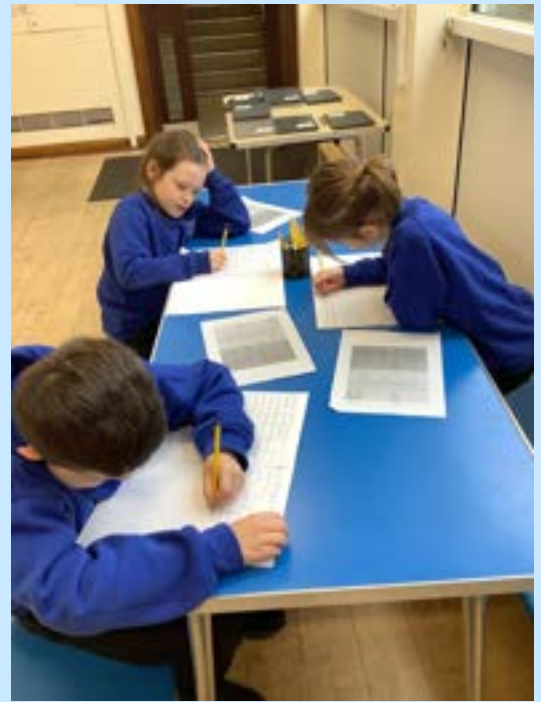
We would be really grateful if you could spend a few minutes completing this short parent/carer survey. Please click on the link here or scan the QR code. Thank you!



[HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM/E/K7BZ2E89GX](https://forms.office.com/E/K7BZ2E89GX)



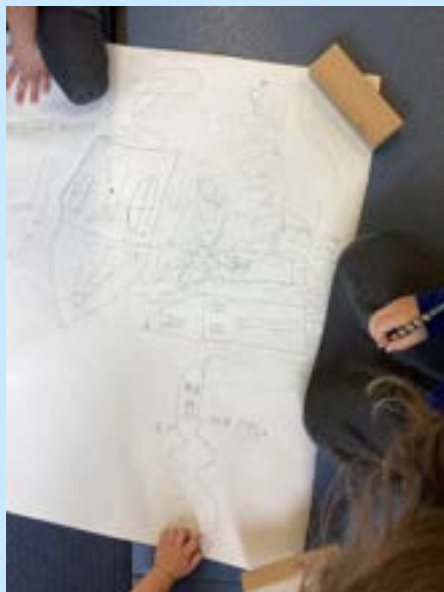
OUR SCHOOL WEEK



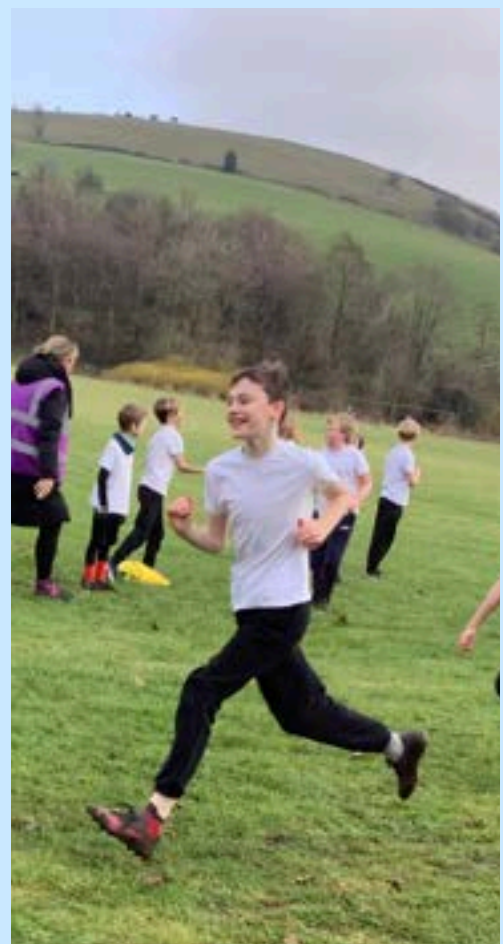
OUR SCHOOL WEEK



OUR SCHOOL WEEK



CROSS COUNTRY



CRAZY HAIR DAY



CRAZY HAIR DAY



CRAZY HAIR DAY



CRAZY HAIR DAY



CRAZY HAIR DAY



CRAZY HAIR DAY



CRAZY HAIR DAY



CRAZY HAIR DAY



CRAZY HAIR DAY



ST. MARY'S CVA

PTA Meeting



Thursday 30th January 2025

7pm

Hare and Hounds Pub, SK22 4LS

Everyone welcome, hope to see you there!
stmaryspta.newmills@gmail.com

A colorful poster for a Valentine's Disco event. It features several cartoon heart characters with faces, arms, and legs. One heart character is wearing sunglasses and giving a thumbs up. Another is peeking out from behind a disco ball. The background is white with scattered pink hearts and small black stars. The text is centered and reads: 'Casual Clothes Day and Valentine's Disco 13TH February'. Below this, the times for KS1 and KS2 are listed. At the bottom, it says '£2 includes drink and crisps'.

Casual Clothes Day
and
**Valentine's
Disco**
13TH
February

KS1 - 3:30pm-4:15pm
KS2 - 4:30pm -5:30pm

£2 includes drink
and crisps

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 27th January	Ball Sports Festival
Monday 27th January	No revision club for year 6 pupils due to staff training
Thursday 13th February	Art and design technology collapsed curriculum day
Thursday 13th February	Valentine's disco and own clothes day. Key stage one is 3.30pm-4.15pm and key stage 2 is 4.30pm-5.30pm. £2.00 per child please.
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
Monday 7th April – Monday 21st April inc	Easter holidays
Tuesday 15th April	Offer day for primary places for September 2025
Tuesday 21st April	Pupils return to school

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>

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HEALTH & FITNESS APPS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

LACK OF PERSONALISATION

Many apps take a one-size-fits-all approach, failing to account for the varying ages and abilities of children. A 16-year-old, for example, will have different physical needs to a child of 10. This can create unrealistic expectations and set exercises which may be too advanced for younger children or too simple for older ones.

NOT DEVELOPED BY EXPERTS

Some fitness and wellbeing apps are developed by experts in the field – but a concerning number of them aren't. As such, these platforms may contain inaccurate information. They may present safety concerns by giving incorrect advice regarding physical activities or might include age-inappropriate content which would clearly cause more harm than good.

REDUCED INTERACTION WITH OTHERS

Physical wellbeing apps can remove the social and interactive elements which physical exercise can offer – for instance, meeting people at fitness classes, at the gym or during any other such activities. Research has found that young people generally dislike this aspect of fitness apps, suggesting that they would rather exercise in the company of friends or other like-minded individuals.

DATA AND PRIVACY CONCERNS

Fitness and wellbeing apps tend to collect a lot of personal information from their users, including name, location, date of birth, details of their physical health and more. It's worth keeping in mind that some of these apps may sell this data to third parties. We'd advise that any apps young people download should have the correct legislation in place to protect their safety and privacy while using the service.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

While many fitness apps are free to download, the initial content is quite basic. Users will only receive more helpful content (such as new workouts, nutrition advice or a personalised plan) by signing up to a subscription or paying for extra features. This can incentivise users to spend money on the service – a cost which can quickly mount up.

DEPENDENCY ON THE APP

While physical wellbeing apps can help motivate young users to manage their fitness, there's a possibility that – without being sent frequent rewards and reminders – children could start to lose their natural drive to be active. Young people may also become obsessed with tracking their exercise, health and eating habits: this can have negative effects on their mental and emotional wellbeing.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EXERCISE AND SOCIALISE

Highlight the importance of children enjoying fitness activities with family and friends, rather than always exercising alone. Emphasise the fun they can have by interacting with others rather than solely relying on an app to maintain their regime. Remind them of the importance of staying active, as well as the benefits of doing so with company.

PROMOTE POSITIVE BODY IMAGE

While we want children to be active and healthy, we must also ensure they don't become fixated on how they look and begin take things too far. During childhood and adolescence, the body is still growing and changing. It's vitally important for young people's wellbeing that we promote a positive body image and a healthy relationship with food, empowering them to make informed decisions about their diet and lifestyle.

REVIEW THE APP FIRST

Before allowing someone under 18 to install a fitness and wellbeing app, check its age rating, read its reviews and scroll through its data policy, to ensure its suitability for younger users. You could also try it yourself, to see if it's appropriate for the child's particular needs and decide if you're comfortable with them using it. Ensure that any privacy-compromising features – such as location tracking – are disabled.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

As with all apps, it's important for parents to familiarise themselves with any controls on the app and to use these on a child's account. The specific settings vary between platforms but – most commonly – these will relate to screen-time limits, disabling or capping in-app purchases, and managing social aspects or features which aren't age appropriate. By utilising these controls, you can help to ensure a child is getting a safe experience.

Meet Our Expert

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 carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

**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

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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

No Star of the Week this week.



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.

Our dinner table discussion this week was 'if I paint over a window, is it still a window?'

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.

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.

Our statement of belief this week was - I co-operate with others in work and play.

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 98.4% 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 AND SEN

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

For more information about Elective Home Education, please see here – <https://www.stmarysnewmills.srscmat.co.uk/information/send/>

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



TRUST NEWS

Current chaplaincy post vacant - we are seeking a dedicated and passionate Lay Chaplain to work across three schools in the Burton area of our trust. This is a reserved post; the successful candidate must be a practising Catholic who is committed to deepening the spiritual life of our school communities.

<https://mynewterm.com/jobs/146235/EDV-2025-BRSCVA-16204>

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