



FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

31ST JANUARY 2025

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Welcome to this week's newsletter, another busy, fun and faith filled week!

Well done and a huge congratulations to all the pupils who attended the panathlon event and the ball sports festival this week. The pupils said: Joseph – 'I really liked the games and it made me feel happy', Ava – 'I really enjoyed this, there were lots of different games and we got a trophy', James said, 'It was amazing and it was the best day ever'. Elizabeth said she felt really happy, whilst Raven said 'It was fun with lots of good games' and Henry said, 'I felt amazing.'

The FISH (Faith in Small Hearts) groups met this week and identified more than fifteen action points to be completed before the end of the academic year. Ideas included; a prayer garden for Mary, fundraising for Watford House and pupil well-being resources. We are going to be very busy!

Thank you so much for all of the positive feedback we have received so far in our survey on Catholic life and mission. We are still gathering responses and will publish these once completed. It isn't too late to complete the survey if you haven't already (details below).

On Sunday 16th March, the whole school has been invited to lead and sing at mass at 9.30am. What a fantastic event it will be! Can you please email Mrs Oxley to let us know if you and your child/children can attend? Once we have this information, we can practice songs and readings. Thank you so much for all your help in making this such a special event for all our children.

Just a quick note to remind everyone that any overnight/weekend bags that children need to bring into school should be taken to the office and collected from there at the end of the day. Thank you.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Chapman.

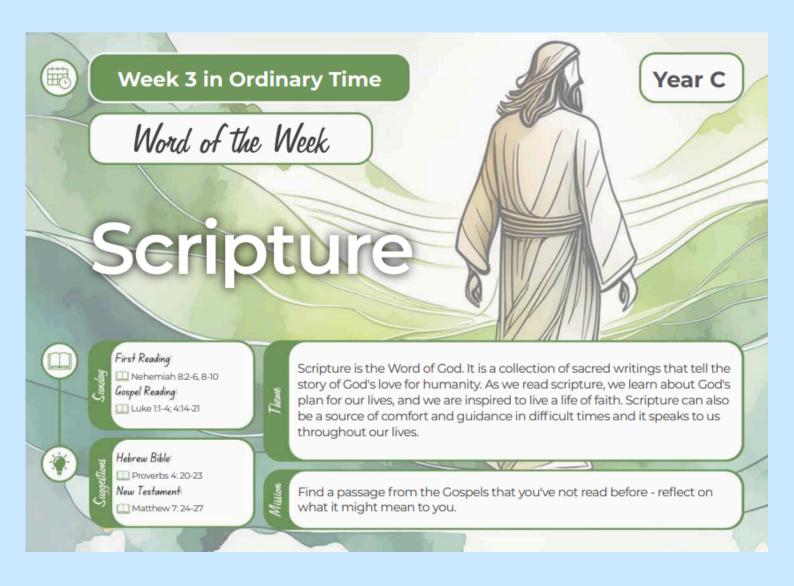
The Diocesan guide to the Jubilee and more information about the Jubilee can be found here https://www.stmarysnewmills.srscmat.co.u k/catholic-life/r-e/



Copies of both the school newsletters and the Parish newsletters can be found here – https://www.stmarysnewmills.srscmat.co.uk/ne ws/newsletters/ Our Catholic life and mission newsletter can be found here https://www.stmarysnewmills.srscmat.co.uk/ca tholic-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 'Scripture.' The Catholic Social Teaching link was human dignity becuase Jesus, in our bible reading today, did what was right for others no matter what. The mission was to give a compliment to someone you love, for example, 'I am grateful for you because of the love you show me'.





PARISH NEWS

CHILDREN'S LITURGY DATES 2025

FEBRUARY 2ND MARCH 2ND MARCH 16TH MARCH 23RD MARCH 30TH MAY 4TH MAY 4TH MAY 18TH JUNE 8TH JUNE 8TH 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!



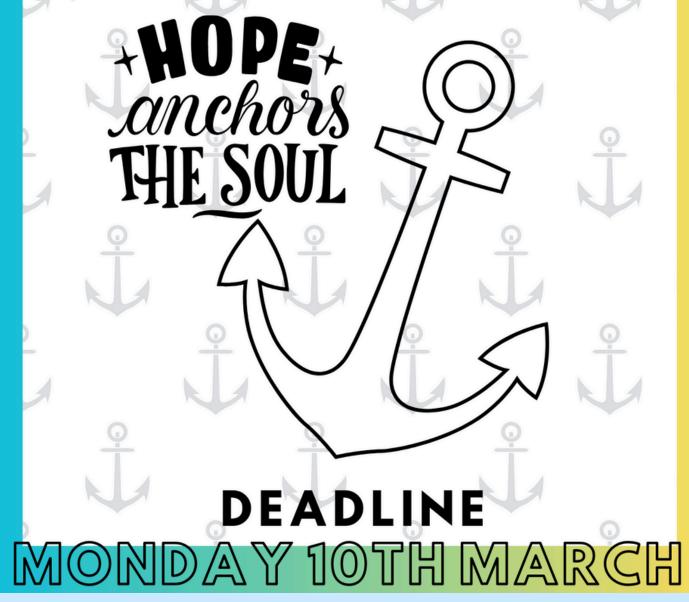
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COMPETITION PILGRIMS OF HOPE

2025 is a Jubilee year in the Catholic Church, the theme is Pilgrims of Hope. A symbol of Hope that is used in the Jubilee logo is the Anchor. Sailors sometimes use the phrase the 'anchor of hope' which is an extra, reserve anchor that ships use to keep themselves steady during storms. For this art competition you need to draw a design, on the entry sheet, that links to the theme of Hope. The winning entry will be asked to reproduce their design on a wooden anchor which will be put on display in school. Think about these questions to support your designs.



BALL SPORTS FESTIVAL













PANATHLON EVENT















FAITH IN SMALL HEARTS











NEWS FROM THE PTA

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!

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COMMUNITY NOTICES

Subject: Last Chance to Join Take Part New Mills & Be in High School Musical! 🐾 🛧

Dear Parents/Carers,

We're excited to announce that Take Part New Mills is gearing up for an incredible term – and there's still time for your child to get involved!

🐾 Join the Cast of High School Musical

Take Part is bringing Disney's much-loved High School Musical to life on stage at New Mills School on Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 March. This fun-filled, energetic production is the perfect opportunity for children to build confidence, make friends, and

shine on stage!

📅 Limited Spaces Available

We currently have limited availability in our Reception & Year 1 classes, so don't delay! Unfortunately, Year 2 and Year 4 classes are already oversubscribed, and waiting lists are now in place.

🍀 Try a Free Class This Saturday!

We'd love to invite your child to experience the magic of Take Part with a FREE trial class this Saturday. To book a trial, visit

Take Part has a strong reputation for nurturing young talent and creating unforgettable experiences. Don't miss this chance for your child to be part of something truly special!

For any questions, feel free to contact us at info@wearetakepart.com.

#TakePartNewMills #HighSchoolMusical #PerformingArts

#ConfidenceThroughCreativity

NNES CATHOLIC VOLUNTAR

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Booking Page

HOLIDAY CAMPS THIS FEBRUARY

CofE VC PRIMARY

SCHOOL

MONDAY 17TH FEB- FRIDAY 21ST FEB 2025

WWW.PAS.UK.COM

COMMUNITY NOTICES

We are delighted to have a school crossing patrol back at the bottom of Longlands Road.

This road is a busy junction. with cars coming from several directions. and the crossing patrol will help to keep everyone safe.

If you would like to provide feedback to the council about the crossing patrol. the address is: roadsafety@derbyshire.gov.uk



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.

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 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

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEVELOP EMOTIONAL LITERACY

Emotional literacy refers to the ability to recognise, understand and express our feelings effectively. It plays a crucial role in strengthening a child's wellbeing by enhancing their relationships and resilience. However, emotional literacy is not necessarily an innate talent, and its development may present challenges. This guide gives parents and educators practical tips on supporting children to cultivate this essential skill.

1 NAME THE EMOTION

Encourage children to identify and name their emotions. This helps them understand what they're feeling and why. Use simple language and relatable examples to make it easier for them to share their emotions. This builds a foundation for emotional understanding and open communication.

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2 MODEL EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION

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Demonstrate healthy emotional expression by sharing your feelings visibly. When children see adults properly displaying how they're doing and what they're thinking, they learn to do the same. Discuss how you handle emotions in different circumstances, providing a real-life framework for young ones to follow.

3 MINDFULNESS ACTIVITIES

Teach children mindfulness practices to help them stay present and manage their emotions during more challenging moments. Activities like deep breathing, meditation or yoga can reduce stress and enhance emotional regulation. Regular practice can improve focus and emotional stability, which can significantly help children both as they're growing up and throughout their adult life.

4 USE STORYTELLING

Incorporate storytelling to help children understand emotions. Stories can offer relevant scenarios illustrating how the characters experience and manage their feelings. Discuss the emotions depicted in stories and ask children how they might leel in similar situations.

5 PRACTISE EMPATHY

Teach children to consider others' views and emotions – and to explore why they might think or feel this way. Role-playing and discussing various scenarios can enhance their ability to empathise. Understanding others' emotions helps children to develop compassion and improves their social interactions.

Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice-Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, an organisation that supports schools in improving their mental health provision. 6 ENCOURAGE JOURNALING

Suggest keeping a journal to make note of thoughts and emotions, as writing can provide an outlet for self-reflection and emotional processing. Encourage children to write about their daily experiences and feelings, helping them gain insight into their emotional world. Do this alongside them, so they can see and experience how to do it effectively.

7 TEACH PROBLEM-SOLVING

Do what you can to help children develop problem-solving skills to assist in managing emotional challenges. Discuss potential solutions to emotional conflicts and encourage them to think critically about what they (and others) can do to process their feelings in a healthy way. This empowers children to handle emotions positively and build resilience.

8 CREATE A SAFE SPACE

Establish an environment where children feel safe to display their emotions without judgement. Encourage open exchanges and reassure them that all feelings are valid. This supportive atmosphere promotes trust and encourages children to express themselves with confidence.

9 USE VISUAL AIDS

Take advantage of visual aids like emotion charts or mood meters to help children identify and express their feelings. Use these tools regularly in your interactions. They provide a visual representation of emotions, making it easier for children to communicate their emotional state.

10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL GROWTH

Acknowledge and celebrate progress in emotional literacy, and praise children for expressing their emotions and handling them effectively. Positive reinforcement is a useful tool that will encourage continued growth and reinforces the importance of emotional literacy – encouraging young people to maintain the good habits and healthy behaviours that you've taught them.

> The National College

@wake_up_weds f /wuw.then

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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

Star of the Week this week was awarded to someone who is an excellent communicator.

> 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.

> Our dinner table discussion this week was 'is black a colour?'

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 try to use words that make the world a better place (please, sorry, thank you).

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 96.3% 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 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-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

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 <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.



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



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.

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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



- 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.