

14TH FEBRUARY 2025



FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Welcome to this week's newsletter.

We have come to the end of our first Lenten term and what a busy one it has been. On Monday and Tuesday, we were very lucky to have the lovely Mrs Reynolds back in school on behalf of CAFOD, working with the children in Key Stage 2. The children were learning all about the Jubilee Year of Hope and had a wonderful session.

On Tuesday this week, all the children took part in Safer Internet Day activities, learning (in an age appropriate way) how to keep themselves safe on-line and know how to recognise online scams and fake news.

We have been very lucky to welcome some local artists into school on Thursday, as part of our Art Collapsed Curriculum day. Christine Emck and Matilda Simon have been busy working across all four classes, where the children have been sculpting with clay, sketching animal print and wood grain patterns, and using willow to create their own animal creations. Thank you so much to Christine and Matilda for the time they have volunteered and to Miss Kemp for arranging these sessions. We have included further details should you wish to find out more about these artists and their work in the gallery.

Thank you to our wonderful PTA for all your efforts in arranging the Valentine Disco for our children. They had a wonderful time and created some excellent heart decorations. After such a busy term, the children all enjoyed some well-being activities with their teachers on Friday afternoon. What a wonderful few days to end the term!

Mrs Mallabar is still accepting donations of good quality books for our class library areas, so please continue to send in anything you wish to donate.

Please also remember that Monday 24th February is an inset day, so school will be closed to pupils on this day.

We hope our children all have a wonderful half term break and we look forward to welcoming them back after the holiday, as we enter our season of Lent and begin our preparations for Eastertime.

God bless.

Mrs Chapman.

The house winners this time are fatima!!

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/



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/3UQsIdI

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATION OF THE WORD





The theme this week was 'diversity.' The Catholic Social Teaching link was human dignity because even though we are all different this is a good thing and we should celebrate it. The mission was to show diversity to others.



PARISH NEWS



CHILDREN'S LITURGY DATES 2025

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!

THANK : YOU

HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM/E/K7BZ1E89GX

















ANCHOR 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.



DEADLINE

MONDAY 10TH MARCH

Our PE kit is: a plain white t-shirt and black shorts, black jogging bottoms and a royal blue hoodie or sweatshirt. Trainers should be designed for sport, well fitting and in good condition.







No earrings should be worn on PE days. If you cannot remove your child's earrings, please tape them up before school. This helps to prevent injuries.



All children with long hair should have their hair tied back every day.



SAINT MARY

OUR PE DAYS ARE:

CLASS ONE - MONDAY AND FRIDAY
CLASS TWO- MONDAY AND FRIDAY
CLASS THREE- TUESDAY AND THURSDAY
CLASS FOUR- MONDAY AND TUESDAY



ACTIVE WEAR SHOES TO BE WORN EVERY DAY



PE KIT TO BE WORN ON PE DAYS



WATER BOTTLE NEEDED EVERY DAY





COAT SUITABLE FOR THE CONDITIONS ON THE DAY NEEDED EVERY DAY

On non PE days, girls should wear their school sweatshirt or cardigan, a white shirt or polo shirt, a grey pinafore, skirt or trousers or a blue gingham summer dress in summer. Boys should wear a school sweatshirt, grey trousers, a white shirt or polo shirt, grey or black socks and grey school shorts in summer.

All items of clothing should be labelled with your child's name.

Active wear shoes should be worn <u>every day</u>.



Work by Christine Emck and Matilda Simon, the artists who worked with our pupils on Thursday.



















https://www.facebook.com/newmillsgallery/

















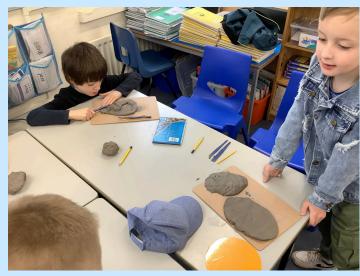
































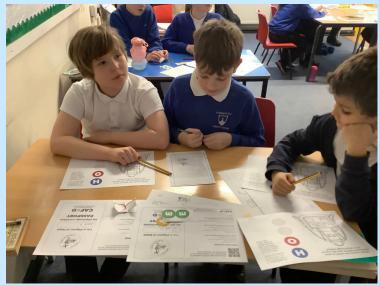




CAFOD WORK WITH MRS REYNOLDS











VALENTINE'S DISCO









PTA HEART DESIGN COMPETITION WINNERS













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!



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!

The 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

https://take-part.classforkids.io

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



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.

	due to circumstances beyond our control.
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 22nd 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

UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL AVOIDANCE Emotionally Based School Avoidance is a term used to refer to reduced attendance or non-attendance at school by a child or young person. It's often rooted in emotional, mental health or wellbeing issues. The rate of children who miss school more than 10% of the time in England has more than doubled since before the pandemic: rising from 10.9% in 2018-19, to 22.3% in 2022-23.

IMPACT OF SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

REASONS FOR ABSENCE

School avoidance is sometimes underpinned by several factors rather than one single cause. This could include something going on for the child or young person within the family or at school. A child may have caring responsibilities at home, for instance, or a change in family dynamics; bullying and friendship difficulties at school; pressure to achieve in schoolwork and exams; or moving from primary school to





School refusal can negatively impact a young person's learning and development. Attending school on a regular basis not only supports the development of key life skills and the growth of children and young people as citizens.

PATTERNS OF ABSENCE

You may notice patterns in regular absences or children regularly expressing that they don't want to attend school (particularly being reluctant to leave home on school days). If a child or young person is neurodiverse, there is some evidence to suggest there are more aspects of school life which can cause distress such as changes in the environment, changes of routine and sensory stimuli.

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

The difficulties associated with school non-attendance can be far reaching and n have a negative impact on long-term outcomes. It may, for example, lead to reduced future aspirations, poor emotional regulation, mental health difficulties, limited academic progress and restricted employment

COMPLAINTS ABOUT PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS

ere may be an increase in a child or young person's complaints about physical symptoms, particularly on school days or the evening before school. These could include complaining of a tummy ache, headache, or saying they feel ill when there doesn't appear to be a medical cause. Always check with the GP first to rule out medical causes or illness.

CYCLE OF ABSENCE

sustained school avoidance over time. Further to this, the longer a pupil is out of education, th more likely it is that there is a rise in their ongoing need to avoid the activity which is making them anxious – increasing their desire to stay at home.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WORK TOGETHER

If there's a concern about a child's absence and emotional wellbeing, it's important that there is clear communication and a consistent approach between the child's parents and the school, so you can take a child-centred approach together towards a plan of support or reintegration. This ensures a consistency of approach from both home and school, creating better outcomes for the child.

MANAGING OVERWHELMING FEELINGS

While there may be times you feel frustrated or angry, try to stay calm; acknowledge the child's worries, listen and discuss a range of coping strategies together to help them face the discomfort and overwhelming feelings. These could include mindfulness, deep breathing or going for a walk and practice the strategies in less overwhelming situations first.

FOLLOW REGULAR ROUTINES

Children can benefit from a regular and consistent routine. This could be a morning routine, from waking up and having breakfast through to getting dressed, packing their bag and leaving the house. A consistent evening routine which is calm and limited time on screens can also give children much needed predictability and familiarity. Schools can help create a timetabled routine for the child's school day, if required.

REDUCE STIMULATING ACTIVITIES AT HOME

If a child is avoiding school, reduce their access to more stimulating activities (such as watching television, playing games and spending time with friends) during school hours, where possible. This reduces the potential for the child having rewarding experiences at home, which could be interpreted as a positive aspect of avoiding school.

Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bateman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.

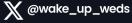




National College®

D@*#!

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: nationalcollege.com/guides/school-avoidance



/wuw.thenationalcollege



(O) @wake.up.wednesday



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





Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy, New Mills.

Wrap Around Club

Our wraparound club includes lots of enrichment activities including gardening, sports, free play and homework support.





Arts and crafts



Lego and games



Sports and Fitness

Breakfast club runs Monday to Friday from 7.30am and includes cereal, toast and a drink. £4.00 per day

After school club runs Monday to Thursday (not Fridays) to 5.30pm and includes snacks, such as wraps, cheese and crackers, yogurts and a drink. £8.00 per day

BOOK VIA PARENTPAY FOR THE SESSIONS YOU NEED



Use your tax-free childcare vouchers

Speak to the school office for more information!

SCHOOL NOTICES



The house winners this time are Fatima!!

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 'can you touch the wind?'

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

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

S - Service and Stewardship

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

<u>T - Togetherness</u>

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

M - Mission

- We ensure all of our pupils receive the best learning opportunities through the provision of a broad and diverse curriculum.
- We bring Christ to all of our children, ensuring that he is front and centre in everything we do 'Rip of the Roof'.
- We are the living Gospel.
- We strive to be the best we can be and achieve our God given pote

<u>A – Awe and Wonder</u>

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

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

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

Y - Yes!

- We are Saying 'yes' to God by following in His footsteps and accepting Him into our hearts.
- We are Saying 'yes' to opportunities that present themselves to us.
- We are saying 'yes' to new challenges and persevering when they prove difficult.
- We are saying 'yes' to helping those in need.
- We are saying 'yes' to achieving our best through the provision of our broad and diverse curriculum.
- We are saying 'yes' to celebrating our differences.

<u>S – Spirituality</u>

- We recognise our faith in God and that we are all part of something greater.
- We know that through prayer we discover who we are and why we are here.
- We grow through our Gospel Values, of acceptance, hope, faith, courage, honesty, love, charity, solidarity and truth.
- We all know that "I am Important and Precious because God loves me".





SCHOOL HEALTH 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.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 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/#guides

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

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

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



EXTRA INFORMATION



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.

Super Draw

Win a £1,000 Amazon Gift Card

OR £1,000 CASH PRIZE







- Tickets cost just £1 a week
- Chance to win up to £25,000
- Play weekly, or just play the Super Draw!
- Think about what you could spend it on!

PLAY NOW:

Go to

www.yourschoollottery.co.uk St Mary's New Mills



Gamble Aware

