

28TH FEBRUARY 2025



FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Welcome back! I do hope you all had a wonderful break with your children. Our theme this week is 'Belonging'. The children have been discussing how they belong to the school community and other local communities; they know that they are valued and accepted within these communities.

Each term the teachers and teaching assistants revisit our behaviour curriculum to ensure we are all polite and respectful to each other. It was wonderful to observe how many of our pupils clearly showed this in their first week back at school.

Our year 6 children were in action this week at the sportshall athletics competition. We came fourth which was a fantastic achievement. The positive attitudes and sense of fair play shown by the children was wonderful, you always make us proud. Next week, we'll be attending the Bee Netball competition.

The parents and carers consultation sessions will take place on Monday 31st March and Tuesday 1st April. During the sessions, teachers will also be talking about behaviour and attitudes to learning.

Star of the week this week was awarded to someone who consistently shows equality for all.

Please note that, due to allergies in school (some of which are severe) we have decided to become a nut-free zone. Please don't send your child to school with nuts or with products with nuts in them. Thank you for helping us to keep our children safe.

This week, we launched the Arbor parent portal and parent app. This allows parents and carers to see what information we hold about your child, their attendance percentage and allows amendments to certain details such as your phone number, address and e-mail address. In the coming weeks, we will add the ability to book parents and carer consultation sessions via this app. Please do log in using the instructions e-mailed out on Wednesday so that you are ready for the next stages of the launch. Thank you!

Have a wonderful weekend. Mrs Chapman.

'God loves you perfectly: He forgives you completely: He cares for you constantly.

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

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

https://www.stmarysnewmills.srscmat.co.uk/catholiclife/r-e/



THIS SCHOOL IS A NUT FREE ZONE



WRAPAROUND CARE

For those parents and carers who use our wraparound care, which includes breakfast club and after school club, please note these important rules which form part of the wraparound policy:

No child has an automatic right to a place at wraparound club. Places are limited and there may not be enough spaces for everyone. Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis. We have strict staffing ratios which we must adhere to.

If a child's behaviour at wraparound club is disruptive, threatening to staff or other children or violent to staff or other children, we require that child to be picked up immediately and they will not be able to have a place at wraparound again. This is at the headteacher's discretion.

If an adult's behaviour is disrespectful, threatening to staff or violent to staff, that child will not be able to have a place at wraparound again. We have the right to ban adults from the school grounds. This is at the headteacher's discretion.

If a child is picked up from after school club late on a regular basis, then that child will not be able to come to after school club again. Late pickups (after 5.35pm) are charged at £8.00. Parents and carers should familiarise themselves with the late pick up procedure, including the after hours phone number as detailed on the wraparound poster and page on the school website.

Children should not arrive for breakfast club if they are not booked in. If a child is not booked into after school club, we may not be able to provide a place for them due to our strict staffing ratios.

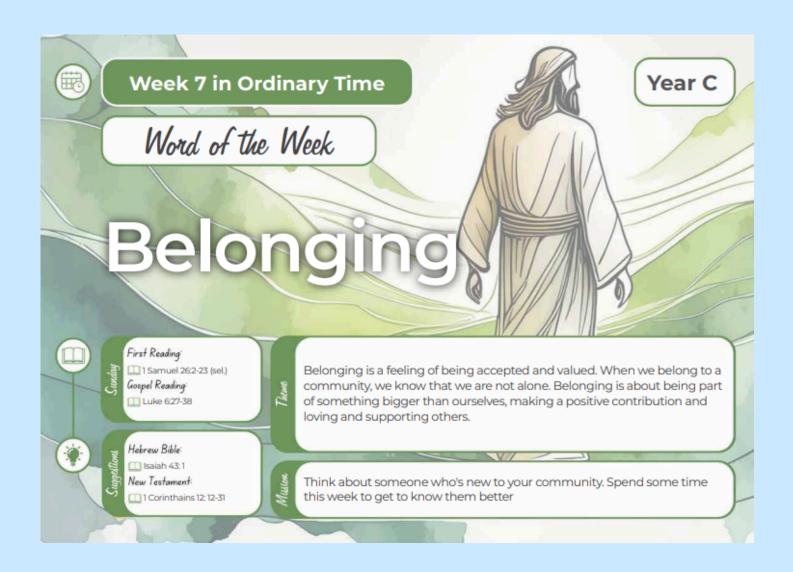
THANK : YOU

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATION OF THE WORD





No Celebration of the Word this week.



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>.



SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS













OUR SCHOOL WEEK

In Global Learning, pupils have been studying the global debt crisis for many of the poorest countries in our world and how we can express our views on this.















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!



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.

	ave to circumstances beyond our control.
Wednesday 5th March	Ash Wednesday service 2.00pm
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
Thursday 27th March	Book fair to arrive
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
Monday 28th April	Year 6 parents and carers are invited in to experience sitting a SATs paper
Friday 2nd May	School photographer
Monday 5th May	Bank holiday
Monday 12th to Friday 16th May	SATs week
Thursday 22nd May	Science collapsed curriculum 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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

WHAT ARE THE RISKS? Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. The UK's Online Safey Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains.



EVOLVING SCAMS

hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency' – plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user they want to message. Therefore, if a child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that the child might be added to a group chat or community (by one of their friends, for example) containing other

FAKE NEWS

CHAT LOCK AND SECRET CODES

users keep their chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind their phone's passcode, fingerprint or face ID. There is an additional feature – 'Secret Code' – where users set a unique password for locked chats. Unfortunately, this creates the potential for

VIEW ONCE CONTENT

The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate material or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't reopen them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this disappearing content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing protection of privacy.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's Live Location feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child is safe while out, for example. However, anyone in a user's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a make regularly.

windisapp's comfectively and ease of use allow news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original ... and might not be entirely factual,

Advice for Parents & Educators

ONLINE

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. You can give permission to My Contacts or My Contacts Except.... Additionally, if a child needs to use Live Location, emphasise that the

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their safety at heart. If you spot a Locked Chats folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've

DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well hat words can be misinterpreted. Encourage them to leave a good impression, to avoid joining in if conversations turn towards bullying, and to respond to such situations in an appropriate way. Make sure they know that it's OK to leave a group chat if it makes

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



THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or user posts to be shared more widely, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to

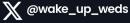
Meet Our Expert

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



National College®

Source:See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp-2025



f /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

Star of the week this week was awarded to someone who consistently shows equality for all.

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 'can a fly cause an aeroplane to grash?

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 know when to ask for help and who to ask for help from. 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 95.1% THIS WEEK!

COMMUNITY NOTICES

We want your books!



Donate nearly new books for our sale in April

Devonshire Library at the Devonshire Dome

Buxton SK17 6RY

Donate books through March: Mon-Thurs 9am - 7pm Fri 9am - 5pm Sat 12 - 4pm

All money raised will be donated to









Book Sale at the Dome



Join us for our spring book sale from

11 - 17 April & 23 - 25 April

(Easter closing 18-22 April)

Devonshire Library at the Dome

Buxton SK17 6RY Contact: h.chiang@derby.ac.uk

Mon-Thurs 9am - 7pm

Fri 9am - 5pm

Sat 12 - 4pm

All money raised will be donated to









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.org.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



GambleAware

