

28TH MARCH 2025



FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Welcome to this week's newsletter. Another busy week!

There was a different start to Monday this week with a special birthday being celebrated with all the children!

On Wednesday, class three started their first session of cheerleading training. We look forward to seeing how they progress over the term.

Year 5 had a fantastic time at the Briars. We hope you enjoyed seeing the updates on ClassDojo.

Thank you to the PTA for organising this term's house winners event with New Mills Leisure Centre. We enjoyed mini games and challenges. Thank you so much to the adults who supported the children for this session. We'll post the photos next week!

Parents and carers of children in class 2 - just a quick reminder that no parents should be going around to the back of class 2 in the mornings. When the adult opens the doors for children to come in (8.45am), class 2 children can make their way to class 2's door where staff will meet them. This helps to keep everyone safe. If you need to speak to staff urgently, please let Mrs Oxley know.

Next week we have the parent/carer consultation sessions on Monday and Tuesday (no SATs club on Monday after school), the Lenten service on Thursday at 2.30pm (all welcome) and the CAFOD whole school walk (all welcome, please come along if you can!). We then break up for Easter until Tuesday 22nd April.

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/

PILGRIMS W. Ht

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.lu/3UQsIdI

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION-FUNDED

HOLIDAY CLUBS

Derbyshire's Holiday Activity and
Food Programme

IN DERBYSHIRE

2025/26

it's about me

MORE INFORMATION

Did you know that as well as free school meals during term time, your child can also benefit from **Department for Education-funded** spaces at holiday clubs in your local

Thanks to the Holiday Activity and Food Programme, known in Derbyshire as 'It's About Me', your child can experience holiday clubs filled with fun, learning and healthy meals at no cost to you!

If your child is aged between 4-16 years old* and is eligible to receive benefits-related free school meals, they're entitled to access It's About Me holiday clubs.

With a wide range of activities such as sports, arts and crafts, cooking, dance, music and more, there's something for everyone! Plus, every session includes a nutritious meal to keep them energised and happy throughout the day.

Each club offers a unique programme depending on its location and type there's so much to explore! Not eligible? Many clubs also offer paid

places, so every child has the chance to join the fun.

IAM CODES HAVE BEEN SENT OUT BY THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

IMPORTANT DATES

SPRING

Bookings open: 17th March 2025 Holiday clubs open: 7th April 2025 -

17th April 2025

SUMMER

Bookings open: 30th June 2025 Holiday clubs open: 28th July 2025 -

3rd September 2025

WINTER

Bookings open: 1st December 2025 Holiday clubs open: 22nd December 2025-

2nd January 2026

All dates exclude bank holidays and weekends.

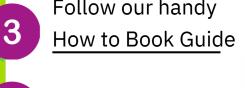
HOW TO BOOK

Get your unique IAM/ HAF code from your child's school

Go to our website itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk

Follow our handy How to Book Guide

Sign-up to receive It' About Me updates



*See website for full eligibility criteria.









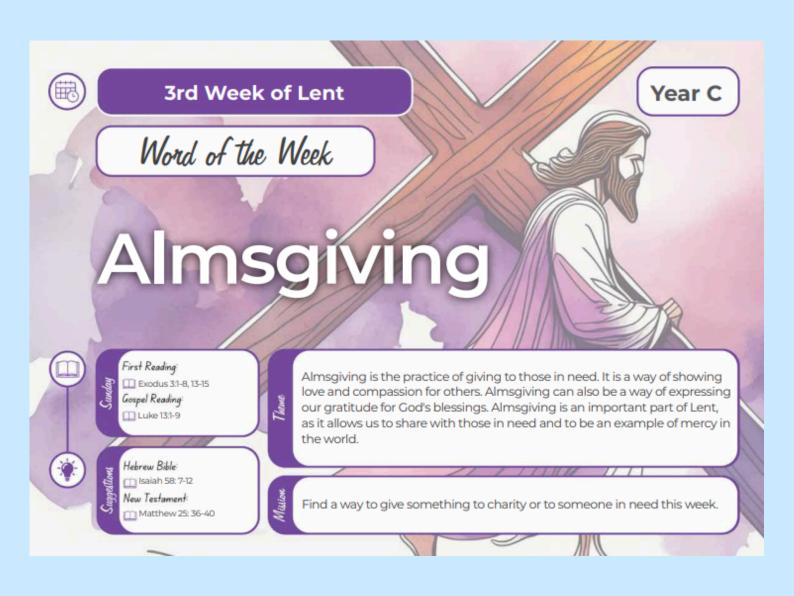
itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk



THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATION OF THE WORD







PARISH NEWS



CHILDREN'S LITURGY DATES 2025

MARCH 30TH

MAY 4TH

MAY 18TH

JUNE 8TH

JUNE 15TH

JUNE 22ND

JUNE 29TH

JULY 6TH

JULY 13TH

JULY 20TH

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>.



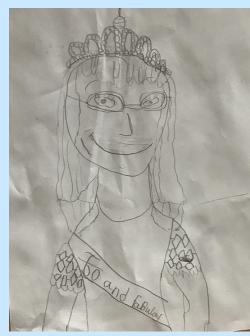
MRS CHAPMAN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS















OUR SCHOOL WEEK







CLASS 2 SCIENCE





WRAPAROUND - CRAFTS

















































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 31st March and Tuesday 1st April	Parents and carers consultation sessions
Thursday 3rd April	Mission day
Friday 4th April	Whole school walk in aid of CAFOD
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 BLUESKYSOCI

GE RESTRICTION

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

While Bluesky has been around since 2019, it's suddenly taken off in a big way thanks to a significant exodus from X (formerly Twitter). Indeed, it looks and behaves a lot like Twitter before Elon Musk bought the platform. Bluesky has been touted in recent months as a safer, more open-minded alternative to X - but like any social media site, it still has its share of risks.

NO PRIVATE **ACCOUNTS**

accounts to be private, at the time of writing, all Bluesky accounts must be public. The development team has indicated this might change in the future, but the app is built on a public-first protocol. If private accounts are ever introduced, it may only be in a limited way – such as through the implementation of group chats.

INTERACTIONS WITH **STRANGERS**

Every account being public means that anyone can be contacted by anyone else. While users don't have to respond and can easily block people and move on, it does mean that youngsters are at particular risk of being conned by scammers, messaged by predatory adults or exposed to others with ill intentions. These hazards can be compounded by the fact that Bluesky doesn't require its users to provide

TROLLING AND BULLYING

While Bluesky currently feels a lot friendlier than X seems to have become, its lack of private accounts means that there's nothing to stop users from trolling and cyberbullying younger people. While accounts can be blocked and reported, a persistent bully could simply create

DANGEROUS MISINFORMATION

Established news organisations have fact-checking and editing processes, but social networks have no such controls and can often serve as breeding grounds for misinformation and disinformation. Bluesky will

ADULT TARGET AUDIENCE



and there aren't many parental controls on the platform. In an interview with the BBC, Bluesky's CEO originally said that the app would only allow users aged 18 and above to sign up, but a spokesperson later clarified its age restriction as 13+. This could imply the app was originally

RAPID GROWTH

At the time of writing, Bluesky seems calm in comparison with other social networks where moderation is lax and the atmosphere toxic – but that's due at least in part to its smaller community. The app has recently been adding as many as a million users

a new profile, potentially making their victims feel unsafe in continuing to use the app.

Advice for Parents & Educators

18

USE THE ADULT CONTENT FILTER

Bluesky doesn't have much in the way of parental controls, but there are

ENCOURAGE BLOCKING AND REPORTING

and blocking accounts. The former prevents you from seeing a specific user's content, while the latter stops them from seeing yours. If a child is encountering trolls or bullies on the platform, encourage them to use this function, while also reporting the

LOOK OUT FOR FAKES

Impersonation is a problem on all social networks. While the consequences are usually

KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

As with all social media platforms, moderation and content filters can only do so much;

Meet Our Expert

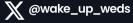
Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.





National College®

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



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(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!

No star of the week this week.

SCHOOL NOTICES

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 understand what trust means. 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.



NEW MILLS CRICKET CLUB FUN TRAINING FOR SCHOOL YEARS 2 TO 10 ON FRIDAY EVENINGS GIRLS' AND MIXED TEAMS ANY EXPERIENCE, ANY ABILITY, ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED QUALIFIED COACHES EASTER - SEPTEMBER FOR ONE LOW PRICE FREE TRAINING SHIRT FOR ALL PRIMARY-AGED PLAYERS MALE STOCKSLAST

E-MAIL: NEWMILLSJUNIORCRICKETCLUB@GMAIL.COM

PHOTO: ROB OAKES PHOTOGRAPHY

MESSAGE: 07949 970250

COMMUNITY NEWS

JOIN BIRCH VALE & THORNSETT UNDER 11's CRICKET CLUB!

🖒 Fun, Friends & Cricket – Sign Up Today! 🍗

Is your child ready to play cricket, make new friends, and have fun? Birch Vale & Thornsett Cricket Club is looking for young players (Under 11s) to join our exciting youth team! No experience necessary—just enthusiasm and a love for the game!

- * TRAINING DETAILS
- Location: Birch Vale & Thornsett Cricket Club (on the pitch & in the nets)
- 📅 Training Starts: Mid-April
- Open to all children Under 11
- 🔪 Sessions run by On Target In Sport (OTIS) www.ontargetinsport.co.uk
- *Led by a professional Australian cricket player!
- 🜟 EXCITING OPPORTUNITY

We're working with the ECB All Stars Cricket Programme, giving kids the perfect introduction to cricket in a fun and safe environment! Find out more: www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars

SET INVOLVED!

To register your child or learn more, contact Josh:

💹 josh.bannister@norwood.co.uk

Come and be part of the future of cricket! 🦫 🥕



DONATIONS WELCOME

SATURDAY 14TH JUNE 2025

MYACTIVE NEW MILLS
HYDE BANK RD, NEW MILLS

SEND SEND RESOUR 2025 SEND RESOURCES FUNDRAISER

11.00AM-2.00PM

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ST MARYS SCHOOL, NEW MILLS

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
KIDS CLASSES • FACE PAINTING •
THROW A SPONGE AT A STAFF
MEMBER • BOUNCY CASTLE • PT A PT







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, Class Teacher

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





CHILDREN FIND ARRIVING LATE FOR SCHOOL UPSETTING AND THEY MISS OUT ON IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITIES. PLEASE WORK WITH US TO PROVIDE YOUR CHILD WITH THE BEST CHANCES OF LEARNING BY ENSURING THEY ARE IN SCHOOL EVERY DAY AND ON TIME.

Your child has arrived in good time to meet friends and get ready for morning work in class.

8.45AM

The school day begins at 8.45am with soft start for key stage one. The classrooms are open and children should come into school.



8.55AM

The register is completed. Children should be ready to start their learning.

9.00am - Your child is late and has missed the beginning of the school day. 5 minutes late means 3 days lost per year.

9.10AM

The teacher has explained the learning and lessons have started.





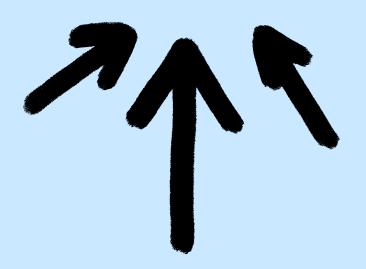
9.10am - 15 minutes late means 9 days lost per

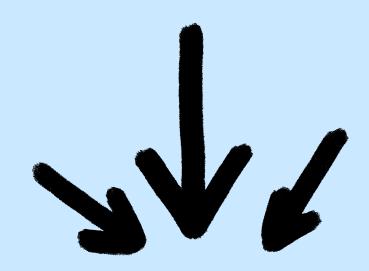


9.15AM

Lessons are well underway and work is being produced.

9.15am - The register closes. Any arrival after this time is an unauthorised absence





Could your child be entitled to Free School Meals?

For every pupil registered, the school will receive additional funding in the school budget called Pupil Premium which is used to help raise achievement levels.

By ensuring that as many eligible families as possible have applied for free school meals, we will receive our maximum Pupil Premium funding which enables us to provide the best education for our

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 Search for: St Mary's New Mills



