



7TH MARCH 2025

FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Welcome to this week's newsletter. It is wonderful to see the sun shining and the start of spring.

Our little FISH (Faith in Small Hearts) groups were in action this week completing a litter pick around school and identifying where they would like our new prayer garden.

Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent and we had a wonderful service with parishioners at school led by Father Emmanuel. Also on Wednesday we sent out our new Easter Prayer bags so children can spend time at home with you talking about their content.

Please note that school reports will be sent electronically this summer. We are moving towards a paperless model to improve our sustainability practice. We are looking forward to our book fair, please be aware this this will be cash only.

Thursday was World Book Day. The children had the opportunity to listen to a wide range of published authors through live streams. They all visited the library to read and share books, whilst in class they completed a range of activities on reading. It was amazing to observe the pupils being fully immersed in reading books and the love of reading. Thank you to Mrs Mallabar for organising a wonderfully successful day. Please enjoy the photos on ClassDojo!

Cases of Norovirus are very high at the moment, we are reminding children to wash their hands regularly and before eating. As a reminder, no one should come to school for 48 hours after any symptoms, e.g. diarrhoea and vomiting, to help us control infection rates in school.

A special mention for Ralphie M, who has been litter picking in the local community. Well done Ralphie!

Last 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. Please do log in as soon as you can using the instructions e-mailed out so that you are ready for the next stages of the launch. Thank you!

Have a lovely weekend, Mrs Chapman. May God rekindle the passion in your dreams, and fill you with the desire to see them come true.'

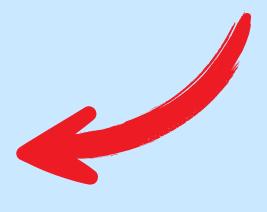
The Diocesan guide to the Jubilee and more information about the Jubilee can be found here https://www.stmarysnewmills.srscmat.co.uk/catholiclife/r-e/



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.lu/3UQsIdI



Please note that, due to maintenance work being carried out at the Leisure Centre, there will be no school swimming lesson on Monday 17th March. Thank you.

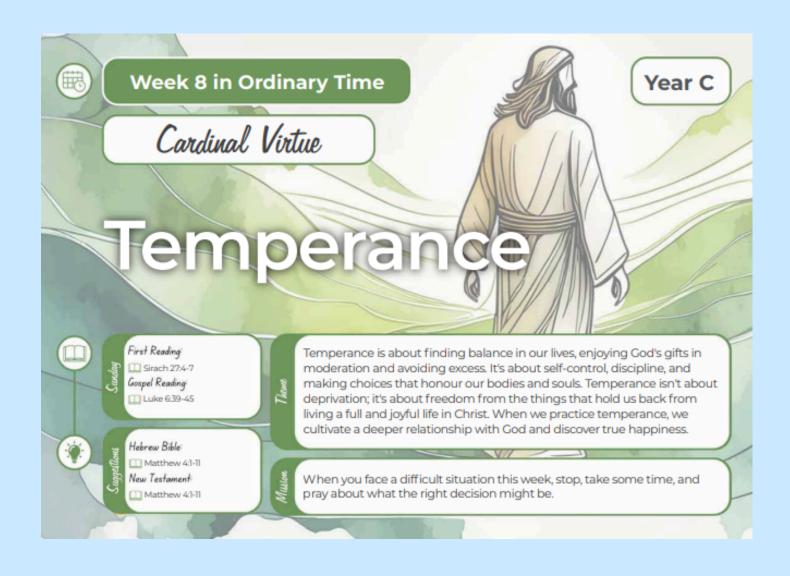




THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATION OF THE WORD



This week's theme was temperance. The Catholic Social Teaching Link was Solidarity and the Common Good because Jesus taught us to be a good person and to do as you are told. Our mission was to show your manners to others which shows respect and temperance.





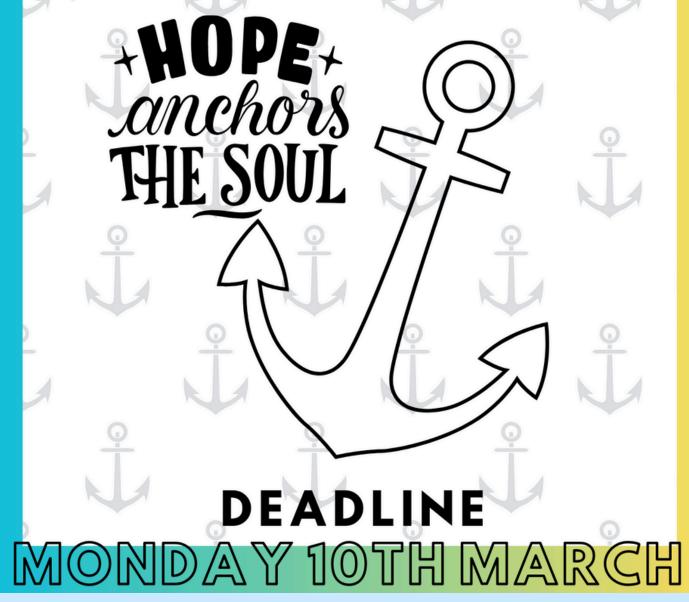
PARISH NEWS

CHILDREN'S LITURGY DATES 2025

MARCH 16TH MARCH 23RD MARCH 30TH MAY 4TH MAY 18TH JUNE 8TH JUNE 15TH JUNE 22ND JUNE 29TH JULY 6TH JULY 13TH JULY 20TH

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.



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.





Children should not be wearing Ugg style boots, Converse style trainers or leggings on non PE days.

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



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>.



LITTER PICKING AROUND SCHOOL







WE (KNOW WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO LOOK AFTER OUR SHARED PLANET.







Hednesday







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.

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.

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 Nay	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 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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MARVEL RIVA

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Marvel Rivals launched in December 2024 and amassed a player count of nearly 150,000 in mere weeks. This player versus player (PvP) shooter packs in a host of recognisable comic-book characters, pitting two teams of six against each other. Despite the game's cartoonish nature, there are several

IN-GAME CHAT

Voice chat allows players to speak to teammates and opponents within the game but in a competitive environment, some conversations can become unpleasant. Text chat is equally prominent among those playing on PC and will be shown on the side of the screen. Moderation on chats is relatively lax, so it's important to recognise that potentially inappropriate messages could arrive at any

IN-GAME PURCHASES

While Marvel Rivals is free, there is an in-game store, selling character skins from recognisable movies and comic-book titles. Each season also ncludes a £10 Battle Pass (much like those seen in Fortnite and Call of Duty), offering a series of exclusive cosmetic items. These passes don't expire – but they can't be purchased once the next season rolls around, creating a fear of missing out.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With such a huge player base, it's impossible to predict whom your child will be teaming up with or playing against. They're virtually certain to run into strangers through voice and text chat, for starters. Most of these people will just be ordinary empered any inc the section but there ordinary gamers enjoying the action, but there s the risk of some users behaving inappropriately with younger players – either intentionally, or because they don't realise that

they're speaking to a child.

potential risks for parents and educators to be aware of.

GERESTRICTION PEG

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VIOLENT CONTENT

There's no gore in Marvel Rivals, and the violence depicted is comparatively cartoonish but the playable characters available vary between more traditional superheroes and supervillains, and figures like Black Widow and The Punisher, who use more realistic firearms. Given the game's nature as a shooter, this may make some parents and carers uncomfortable as some players will be firing these weapons at

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The game includes some innuendos and mature themes in the dialogue, which could expose youngsters to content unsuitable for their age letracting from a safe and family-friendly gaming experience. As we mentioned previously, the content of the in-game chat could also be age-inappropriate, ranging from swearing to mature themes to potentially harmful content.

FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

The inclusion of iconic characters might make Marvel Rivals appear more approachable than other games in the genre, with recognisable heroes and villains like Spider-Man and Venom. This could lead to more interest from younger players, increasing the likelihood of children playing the game without properly understanding the risks.

Advice for Parents & Educators

FOLLOW ESRB RATINGS

The ESRB rating for Marvel Rivals says the game shouldn't be played by anyone under 13. Most children of that age will be able to appreciate the moral compass of the roster of characters (people can play as Hela, the Goddess of Death, for example), while also ensuring that the violence, ver cartoonish, won't overwhelm them.

Voice and text chat can both be adjusted within the in-game settings. If you're

to play alongside friends, remind them that they can use their console's party chat feature or host a call on a third-party service like Discord.

MONITOR OR TURN OFF CHAT

@wake_up_weds

particularly concerned about exposing children and young people to them, however, you can disable both forms of chat in the game's settings. If a child wants

UNDER

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

The game's inclusion of fan-favourite characters like Iron Man and the Hulk, plus its increasing popularity, means that younger Marvel fans will likely be eager to see what the fuss is about. Since it's free, consider playing Marvel Rivals yourself to gauge how you feel about a child playing it. Alternatively, you could let them play against the game's Al in Practice Mode, until they're old enough to compete online.

DISCONNECT PAYMENT OPTIONS

Parents should ensure that no payment options – such as debit cards - are linked to the game, to prevent unauthorised purchases and charges. Children can be tempted by enticing in-game offers without fully understanding the costs. Removing payment methods avoids impulsive in-game spending and instils a sense of financial awareness, teaching young people to be careful with their money.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor at the Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, he has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and plenty more.

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 26.02.2025

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

No Star of the Week this week.

If you don't currently have access to ClassDojo but you would like to, please speak to the school office. Please be very careful when parking outside school. Please drive slowly and don't park on the zigzags, even just to drop off. This helps to keep our children safe.

Our dinner table discussion this week was 'are heroes ever scared?

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 can recognise comfortable and uncomfortable feelings.

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 97.1% THIS WEEK!

COMMUNITY NOTICES

We want your books!

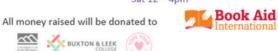


Donate nearly new books for our sale in April

Devonshire Library at the Devonshire Dome

Buxton SK17 6RY

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



Book Sale at the Dome



torning Rays by Lisa Gras Jensen - courtesy of Bridgeman Education

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 All money raised will be donated to











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.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 <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 at it does not be and how to set parental controls.

children safe online and how to set parental controls – https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keepingchildren-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 WE FIND THAT CHILDREN ARE NOT USING THEM 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.



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 year



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 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.



- 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