



21ST NOVEMBER 2025

FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Welcome to this week's newsletter. Winter is definitely upon us this week!

On Monday, Mary's Missionaries delivered a whole school Celebration of the Word on Youth. They asked the pupils within the gathering to think about how we can be kind to each other and support each other as young people. They talked about their unique talents and gifts.

On Tuesday, our health champions were in action. They have an action plan to complete and a target to help the school achieve the gold award status and, if we try really hard, we can go for platinum!

Class 4 had a live stream audience with ACN (Action for Church in Need) on Wednesday. This is their nominated charity this year, so they are learning about the work ACN undertakes and how they can raise funds after the Christmas holidays to support their cause.

Class 1 were all in action at New Mills Leisure Centre on Wednesday, completing a range of multi skills activities and balance routines.

Class 2 delivered a wonderful celebration of the word on Remembrance on Thursday. Well done class 2, you all spoke with such passion and reverence.

On Friday we celebrated World Youth Day with a range of activities and a live stream video from the World Youth Service. We also had the PTA 'colours of Christmas' day, thank you so much for all of your wonderful donations.

Next week, we have our flu vaccinations on Monday, whole school mini first aid on Wednesday, class 1's assembly on Thursday and pyjama day for class 2 on Friday to raise funds for Missio. Please also come to our family mass on Sunday 30th November at 9.15am at church.

**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/>



Copies of both the school newsletters and the Parish newsletters can be found here - <https://www.stmarysnewmills.srscmat.co.uk/news/newsletters/>
Our Catholic life and mission newsletter can be found here <https://www.stmarysnewmills.srscmat.co.uk/catholic-life/catholic-social-teaching/>
Our Trust newsletter can be found here <https://bit.ly/30Qsidi>

APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOOL PLACES SEPTEMBER 2026



ADMISSIONS TO PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

SOME IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOU:

OUR OPEN DAYS ARE SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER 10.00AM TO 11.30AM THEN WEDNESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER AND WEDNESDAY 10TH DECEMBER, BOTH 9.00AM TO 10.00AM. COME AND SEE OUR SCHOOL IN ACTION! WE ALSO HAVE A CHRISTMAS CRAFTS MORNING ON FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER 9.30AM-10.30AM

APPLICATIONS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 2026 OPEN ON **MONDAY 10TH NOVEMBER AT 9.00AM**. A GUIDE ON HOW TO APPLY FOR A SCHOOL PLACE CAN BE FOUND HERE -

[HTTPS://WWW.DERBYSHIRE.GOV.UK/EDUCATION/SCHOOLS/SCHOOL-PLACES/PRIMARY-ADMISSIONS/PARENTSGUIDE/PARENTS-GUIDE-TO-PRIMARY-ADMISSIONS.ASPX](https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school-places/primary-admissions/parents-guide-to-primary-admissions.aspx)

IF YOU NEED ANY HELP WITH THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS OR IF YOU HAVE ANY WORRIES OR QUESTIONS AT ALL, PLEASE JUST LET US KNOW!
INFO@NMM.SRSCMAT.CO.UK OR 01663 742412



The applications process for primary school places opens on **Monday 10th November!**

If you would like to come and look around school, please ring 01663 742412 or e-mail info@nmm.srscmat.co.uk

We also have two open mornings, we'd love to see you then! Please see the posters for more information.

To see our school prospectus, please visit our website: www.stmarysnewmills.srscmat.co.uk/parents/prospective-parents

We would love to welcome you and your child to the Saint Mary's family!



Please do let us know if you can come!
joxley@nmm.srscmat.co.uk
or 01663 742412

You are invited to a:

Christmas crafts morning



We'd like to invite children due to start primary school in September 2026 to join us for a Christmas crafts morning on Friday 5th December from 9.30am to 10.30am at Saint Mary's Primary School, Longlands Road. Everyone is welcome!





THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATION OF THE WORD



Mary's Missionaries

The Catholic Social Teaching strand was family and community. The school virtue was inclusion and the mission was to celebrate our individuality.

Week 33 in Ordinary Time

Year C

Word of the Week

Youth

Sunday

First Reading:
Malachi 3:19-20

Gospel Reading:
Luke 21:5-19

Suggestions

Hebrew Bible:
Ecclesiastes 11: 9

New Testament:
Matthew 19: 13-15

Theme

Young people have a vital role to play in the life of the Church and in the world. They offer hope, inspiration and courage. The Church needs young people's voices, involvement, and leadership for it to grow and we are all called to be young in our outlook and our attitude so we can live life to the full.

Mission

Make the effort to have a positive and youthful attitude this week. Help others to see hope in difficult situations.

NOVEMBER 2025 - YEAR C - 33RD WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Youth

Virtue Link: Justice

CST Link: Dignity of the Worker

Mission: Make the effort to have a positive and youthful attitude this week. Help others to see hope in difficult situations.

Young people have a vital role to play in the life of the Church and in the world. They offer hope, inspiration, and courage. We are all called to be young in our outlook and our attitude and we can see in young people an example of how to live life to the full.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
16TH	17TH	18TH	19TH	20TH	21ST	22ND
<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">33</div> <div style="font-weight: bold;">ORDINARY TIME</div>	<p>ST HUGH OF LINCOLN <i>Bishop, Patron of the Diocese</i></p>	<p>Tuesday of Week 33,</p> <div style="border: 1px solid white; height: 50px; width: 100%;"></div> <p>Dedication of the Basilica of Ss Peter & Paul</p>	<p>St Elizabeth of Hungary, <i>Religious</i></p> <p>Red Wednesday <i>Aid to the Church in Need</i></p>	<p>Thursday of Week 33</p> <div style="border: 1px solid white; height: 50px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</p>	<p>St Cecelia <i>Virgin, Martyr</i></p>

PARISH NEWS



CHILDREN'S LITURGY DATES AUTUMN/WINTER 2025

NOV. 23RD, 30TH

DEC. 7TH, 14TH.

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 WEDNESDAY

CLASS THREE- THURSDAY AND FRIDAY

CLASS FOUR- MONDAY AND FRIDAY



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

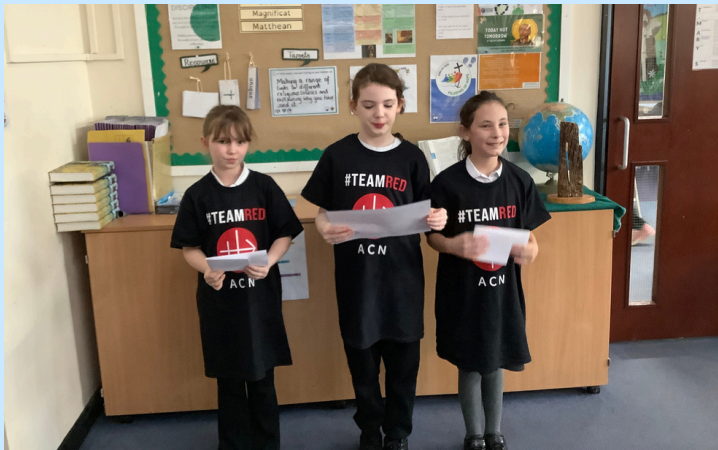
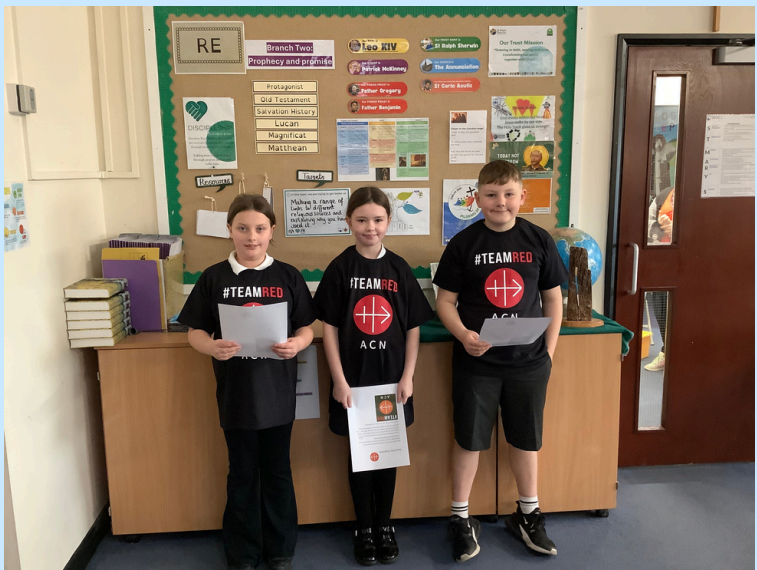
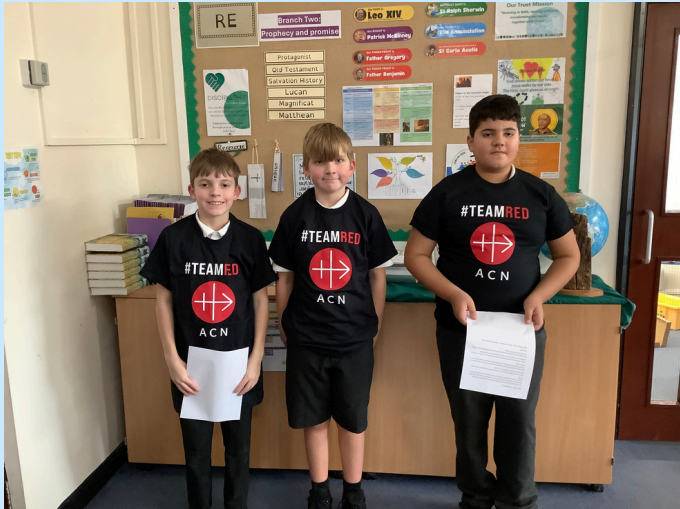


On non PE days, girls should wear their school sweatshirt or cardigan, a white shirt or polo shirt, a grey pinafore, skirt or trousers or a blue gingham summer dress in summer. Boys should wear a school sweatshirt, grey trousers, a white shirt or polo shirt, grey or black socks and grey school shorts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

All items of clothing should be labelled with your child's name.
Active wear shoes should be worn every day.



OUR SCHOOL WEEK – RED WEDNESDAY



OUR SCHOOL WEEK – RECEPTION ACTIVITY DAY



OUR SCHOOL WEEK – OUTDOOR PROVISION



OUR SCHOOL WEEK – FOREST SCHOOL







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.

School attendance

The importance of school attendance

We want our children at Saint Mary's to enjoy coming to school and to love their learning. Our attendance target for the whole school is 95% or above.

Research shows that there is a high correlation between school attendance, academic performance and success. Absence from school is often the biggest single cause of poor performance and achievement.



Why is it so important to attend every day?

- Learning is a progressive activity; each day's lessons build upon those of the previous day(s). Each missed lesson is a missed learning opportunity.
- Reading the material and completing work independently does not compensate for direct interaction with a teacher.
- Teachers often use whole class discussions, demonstrations, debate, experiments and small group work as part of their daily learning activities, and these cannot be caught up by those who are absent.
- Parents and carers have a legal duty to ensure that their child receives an education.

Are there other benefits to my child?

- Pupils with good attendance records generally achieve higher grades and enjoy school more.
- Having a good education will help to give your child the best possible start in life.
- Regular school attendance patterns encourage the development of other responsible patterns of behaviour including independence skills and life skills.

What are the risks of frequent absences?

- A child who does not attend school regularly will be unlikely to keep up with the work.
- The more a child misses school, the lower their grades; the lower their grades, the less they want to stay at school. The only way to break this cycle is regular, high levels of attendance.

What can parents do to help?

- Parents and carers must model how they value education, including the importance of regular attendance, good punctuality, being respectful to teachers etc.
- If your child starts missing school, work with us to put things right. We are here to support you.
- If your child is ill or must miss school for some other reason, contact school immediately.
- Take an interest in your child's schoolwork and be involved in the school as much as possible – your child will value school more if you do. Come to assemblies, join the PTA, attend parent consultation appointments etc.
- Read with your child/children every night. Reading helps to build a strong and rich vocabulary. It increases empathy, showing children new perspectives and new worlds. Even five minutes per night is hugely beneficial.
- If you are not sure if your child should attend school due to illness, contact the school office who will advise you.

Check your child's attendance percentage on the Arbor app and compare it to this grid!

If you don't have access to Arbor, please let the school office know.



If you need help to increase your child's attendance, speak to your class teacher or the school office.

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION-FUNDED

HOLIDAY CLUBS IN DERBYSHIRE

it's about me

Derbyshire's Holiday Activity and Food Programme

2025/26

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 area?

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.

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

1

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

2

Go to our website
itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk

3

Follow our handy
How to Book Guide

4

Sign-up to receive It's About Me updates



*See website for full eligibility criteria.



MORE INFORMATION:
itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk



DATES TO NOTE

Upcoming dates can also be seen on [ClassDojo](#) and on our website. Please note that dates and times may change due to circumstances beyond our control.

Monday 24 th November	Flu immunisations – all afternoon
Wednesday 26 th November	Whole school mini first aid training
Thursday 27 th November	Class 1 assembly – 9.10am. All welcome
Friday 28 th November	<p>On Friday 28th November, class 2 children should wear their pyjama's to school for a voluntary donation of £2.00. This money will go towards their class charity, Missio.</p> <p>Missio work alongside global communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. Sometimes this need might be very specific: a motorbike for a Priest to celebrate Mass in remote villages; a simple community hall so people can gather together; vaccinations to protect vulnerable children. Whatever our missionaries need to help them share the joy of the Gospel, Missio strives to provide it.</p>
Thursday 4 th December	Fair trade tuck shop
Friday 5 th December	Christmas crafts session for prospective parents/carers and their child
Monday 8 th December	<p>Key stage one Christmas performances: Dress rehearsal 9.30am–10.30am (all welcome) Main performance 6.00pm–7.00pm (all welcome) Children should arrive back for 5.30pm in readiness for the evening performance</p>
Wednesday 10 th December	<p>Key stage two Christmas performances: Dress rehearsal 9.30am–10.30am (all welcome) Main performance 6.00pm–7.00pm (all welcome) Children should arrive back for 5.30pm in readiness for the evening performance</p>
Wednesday 10 th December	Open morning for prospective parents and carers 9.00am–10.00am
Wednesday 10 th December	Christmas dinner day (we will not have sandwiches or jacket potatoes on this day)
Thursday 11 th December	Pantomime day
Thursday 18 th December	Advent service in school 2.00pm
Friday 19 th December	School closes for the Christmas holidays

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>

**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**



Call Us
01663 742412
Or e-mail
info@nmm.srscmat.co.uk



Use your tax-free childcare vouchers
**Speak to the school office
for more information!**

SCHOOL NOTICES

Star of the Week this week is teacher's choice.

If you don't currently have access to ClassDojo, ParentPay or Arbor but you would like to, please speak to the school office.



You can check your child's attendance percentage on Arbor! This is updated daily. Please let the school office know if you need any help with this.

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.

We will start using Arbor app notifications very soon so please log in!

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.

If you need to drive to school, please drive and park considerately, avoiding the zigzags. We regularly get complaints from neighbours about poor parking, especially parking across the lane towards the top of Longlands Road. The police have confirmed that this lane is classed as a road, so blocking it is illegal. The people that live there are unable to leave if cars are blocking the lane, which means people are being made late for work, not able to get their own children to school, being late for appointments etc. This isn't fair. Please don't block this lane and please park using consideration.

Parking is available at the church and higher up Longlands road where the youth club is. If you can walk to school, or park a little further away, please do so. Thank you for reading this.

Our dinnertime discussion this week was –
'Do animals have rights?'

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS 95.2% THIS WEEK!

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.

T – Togetherness

- 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 potential.



A – Awe and Wonder

- 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.

R – Reconciliation and Forgiveness

- 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.

YES

S – Spirituality

- 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 SEND

The **SEND** page of our school website can be found here –

<https://www.stmarysnewmills.srscmat.co.uk/information/send/>

There is lots of useful information about our **SENCO**, our **SEND** offer and support we can offer.

Please also see our **SEND** newsletter here –

<https://www.stmarysnewmills.srscmat.co.uk/news/newsletters/>



Latest news from Mrs Chapman – SENCO

Once a half term, I will also be offering an informal parent drop session, with a key focus. This is an opportunity for parents to chat, share experiences, ask for advice and support one another. I will aim to share resources at the drop-in and share some quick information about our **SEND** area focus before allowing parents to connect over coffee and cake!



SEND Triage Form



Please see the following link or scan the QR code here if you would like to at any point arrange a meeting with myself regarding any **SEND** matters.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=0FYclXnjhUaRUhyDCcoxafbPDpgmS79Ln-OUTxOe7hZUMU4ISOJKQU5ZNU9XNFZSRUxTUDZVMOE2UC4u>

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/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/>



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 and class teacher – Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr Matthew Pearson – Designated Safeguarding Lead, Class Teacher

Mrs Amy Hodgson – 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 separation 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 THEM PROPERLY, WE WILL REMOVE THE DEVICES FOR HOME USE.



EXTRA INFORMATION

EVERY MINUTE COUNTS



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 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.

A message from the PTA

We have been busy planning the christmas markets taking place on
Sunday 7th December 2025 at MyActive New Mills.

The Santa's Grotto is now available to book!
Spaces are limited so please use the link to book in to avoid
disappointment

www.ticketsource.co.uk/saint-marys-catholic-voluntary-academy-pta



THE REVIVE GIVING SHOP

Thursdays from 20th November – 11th December, 9am, – 2pm

At Revive Hub, Market Street, New Mills

This Christmas we are back for our second year, and this year it's bigger and better, as we look to spread some joy in our community!

We're collecting new or good condition toys, gifts, confectionery, and wrapping paper. Anyone can give to the shop and anyone can come and choose gifts, free or by donation!

We want every child to be able to wake up to a gift this Christmas, and we want to create a space where people can recycle good quality toys for other families to enjoy!

Who Stole Christmas?

CHRISTMAS AT REVIVE

www.revivechurch.uk/christmas



COMMUNITY NEWS

Does your child love singing, dancing, acting... or using their imagination to create new worlds?
Do they shine when they feel safe, supported, and encouraged?
If so, your child is the hero of this story — and we would love to welcome them to our joyful, wellbeing-led Take Part Stage 1 Saturday School in New Mills.

★ What We Do at Take Part

At Take Part, we help children build:

Confidence
Creativity
Emotional resilience
Self-expression
Teamwork
Joy and imagination

We are fully inclusive, diverse, and welcoming.

Every child belongs here — whether they're shy, energetic, sensitive, imaginative, or performing for the very first time.

There are no auditions and no experience needed.

Just a warm, nurturing space where every child can shine.

🌿 This Spring... Your Jungle Adventure Begins!

Our Stage 1 company (Pre-School-Year 2) will be performing:

🎭 Disney's The Jungle Book KIDS

📅 **Saturday 21 March 2026**

📍 New Mills School, Church Lane, New Mills

This delightful musical features Mowgli, Baloo, Bagheera, Shere Khan, King Louie, Kaa, Elephants, monkeys & jungle friends. This show is perfect for young performers.

🐾 **Jungle Book Workshop & Taster Session**

📅 **THIS Saturday, 22 November 2026**

🕒 **9.30am - 11.00am**

📍 New Mills School, Church Lane, New Mills.

This taster session gives your child a magical introduction to Take Part:

Meet our nurturing team

Try singing & dancing from the show

Explore characters through fun, creative activities

Build confidence in a warm, supportive environment

Make friends

Experience the joy of performing arts

Every child is welcome to continue into our Spring company if they enjoy the session.

🎁 **Special Gift for Families Attending This Saturday**

Everyone who attends the Jungle Book Workshop receives:

🎟️ **TWO FREE TICKETS** to our Christmas Showcase "Dare to Dream"

📅 **Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 December 2025 at New Mills School**

A lovely way to see Take Part in action before joining us in the Spring.

★ **Your 3-Step Jungle Adventure Plan**

1. Book your child's taster session for **THIS Saturday** – <https://take-part.classforkids.io>

2. Come along to our Jungle Book Workshop on **Saturday 22 November, 9.30–11am** at New Mills School, Church Lane.

3. Join our Stage 1 company and perform in Jungle Book KIDS next Spring
Simple. Supportive. Joyful.

Your child's confidence and creativity will grow from the very first session.

🌟 **Don't Miss Out**

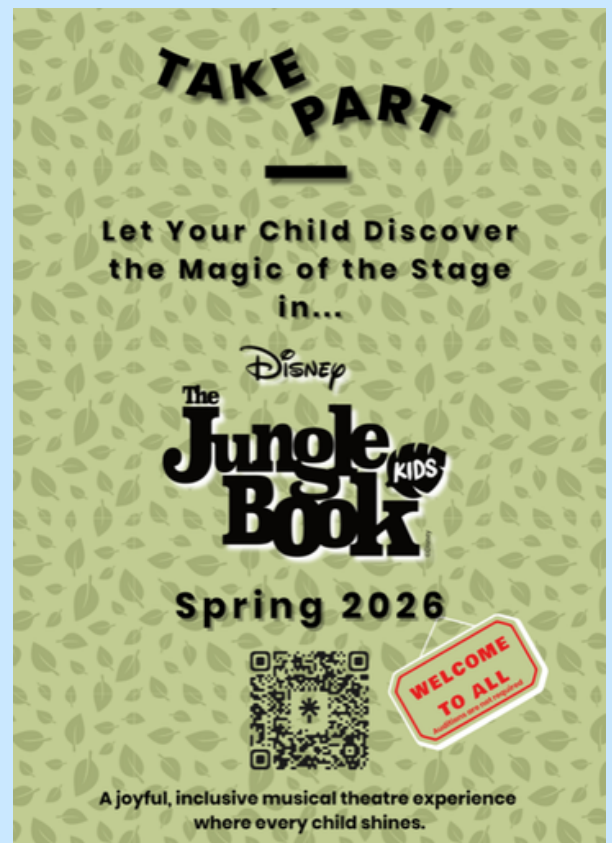
Stage 1 fills quickly — and Jungle Book KIDS is our most exciting and inclusive production of the year.

If your child loves performing — or needs a gentle confidence boost — Take Part is the perfect place for them.

🌿 **Ready to Join the Jungle?**

👉 Book your Saturday taster session here: <https://take-part.classforkids.io>

We can't wait to welcome your child to Take Part and begin this magical Jungle Book journey together.



Enter our **Super Draw**

**Win a £1,000 Amazon
Gift Card**

OR £1,000 CASH PRIZE



**YOUR
SCHOOL
LOTTERY**

- 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



GambleAware