



**7TH NOVEMBER 2025**

# FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

## SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Welcome to this week's newsletter. On Tuesday, class 3 went to Manchester Museum to look at Egyptian artefacts. They completed a dinosaur dig in addition to touring the exhibition. The pupils were excellent role models throughout their trip.

On Wednesday, classes 2 and 4 were busy learning about fire safety with Derbyshire Fire and Rescue. Also on Wednesday some of our class three pupils took part in the racket skills festival at New Mills Leisure Centre. Our Ambassadors for Hope informed the whole school about their first Teams meeting with all 25 Trust schools.

We had our lockdown practise this week. The children were fantastic and behaved perfectly, the practise was completed in less than five minutes.

Just a quick reminder that our school uniform requirements can be seen here:

<https://www.stmarysnewmills.srscmat.co.uk/parents/school-uniform/> and our policy on school uniforms can be seen here: <https://www.stmarysnewmills.srscmat.co.uk/information/school-policies/>

It isn't mandatory for children to have badged uniform items (such as jumpers) but we do ask that all items are labelled with your child's name.

As we move into the colder months, this is a good time to remind everyone about our snow and challenging weather procedures which can be found on our website here:

<https://www.stmarysnewmills.srscmat.co.uk/parents/snow-procedures/>

Communication about school closures in the event of poor weather conditions, such as snow, will be made via ClassDojo, the school Facebook page (please follow us) and, in the weeks to come, via the Arbor parents app. If you don't already have the app, please do download it, log in and allow notifications for messages to appear.

Order forms came home this week for both the Christmas cards and for the school photos. Please stick to the deadlines on the cards if you can!

Please do come along to our Parish Fair tomorrow, we would love to see you there. Applications for primary school places for September 2026 open on Monday of next week. Please do recommend our school to anyone you know who has a child this age. Thank you.

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

APPLICATIONS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 2026 OPEN ON **MONDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> November!**

If you would like to come and look around school, please ring 01663 742412 or e-mail [info@nmm.srscmat.co.uk](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup> 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

Mary's Missionaries delivered a whole school celebration of the word on All Saints Day, the word was 'counsel' and the Catholic Social Teaching strand was peace.

**Week 31 in Ordinary Time**

**Year C**

*Gift of the Holy Spirit*

# Counsel

**Sunday**

**First Reading:**  
Wisdom 11:22–12:1

**Gospel Reading:**  
Luke 19:1–10

**Hebrew Bible:**  
Proverbs 20:18

**New Testament:**  
Acts 9:1–19

**Theme**

Counsel, sometimes called 'right judgement' is the way in which the Holy Spirit enables us to make the right decisions in our lives. It's a gift of the Holy Spirit, a supernatural wisdom that guides us towards what is good and true. It's the inner voice that helps us discern God's will in our lives, especially when faced with difficult decisions.

**Mission**

Pray before making an important choice this week.

**NOVEMBER 2025 - YEAR C - 31ST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

# Counsel

Virtue Link: **Justice**  
CST Link: **Peace**  
Mission: **Pray before making an important choice this week**

Counsel, sometimes called 'right judgement' is the way in which the Holy Spirit enables us to make the right decisions in our lives. It's a gift of the Holy Spirit, a supernatural wisdom that guides us towards what is good and true. It's the inner voice that helps us discern God's will in our lives, especially when faced with difficult decisions.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>2ND</b>	<b>3RD</b>	<b>4TH</b>	<b>5TH</b>	<b>6TH</b>	<b>7TH</b>	<b>8TH</b>
<b>ALL SAINTS</b> <i>Solemnity, Holy Day of Obligation</i> 	<b>ALL SOULS</b> 	<b>St Charles Borromeo</b> <i>Bishop</i> 	<b>Tuesday of Week 31</b> 	<b>Wednesday of Week 31</b> <b>Bl. Alphonsus of Navarete</b>	<b>Thursday of Week 31</b> <b>All Saints of the Dominicans</b>	<b>Saturday of Week 31</b> <b>Memorial Blessed Virgin Mary</b>

# Message from the immunisation team – Derbyshire

Dear Parent/Carer,

If you would like your child to receive the flu vaccine in school this year, please follow this link to complete an online consent form. If you would like to decline, please complete a no consent form on the attached link.

<https://nhsImms.azurewebsites.net/session/dd3dle98>

The vaccinations will take place at your child's school on the 24/11/2025. The link will close on the 10/11/2025. If your child has already had the Flu vaccine elsewhere since Sept 2025, please disregard this message. If you have any problems accessing the link, please telephone 0333 3583 397 option 5 option 2.

Service provided by:



Derbyshire School Aged  
Immunisation Service

[WWW.INTRAHEALTH.CO.UK/DERBYSHIRE](http://WWW.INTRAHEALTH.CO.UK/DERBYSHIRE)

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/DERBYSHIRE](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/DERBYSHIRE)







**CHILDREN'S LITURGY DATES AUTUMN/WINTER 2025**

**NOV. 9TH, 16TH, 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**

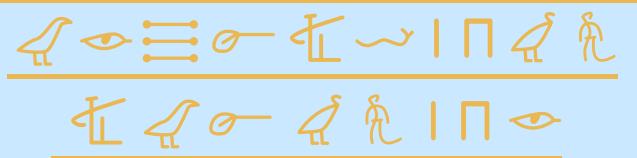
- ✓ **ACTIVE WEAR SHOES TO BE WORN EVERY DAY** 
- ✓ **PE KIT TO BE WORN ON PE DAYS**
- ✓ **WATER BOTTLE NEEDED EVERY DAY** 
- ✓ **COAT SUITABLE FOR THE CONDITIONS ON THE DAY NEEDED EVERY DAY** 

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.

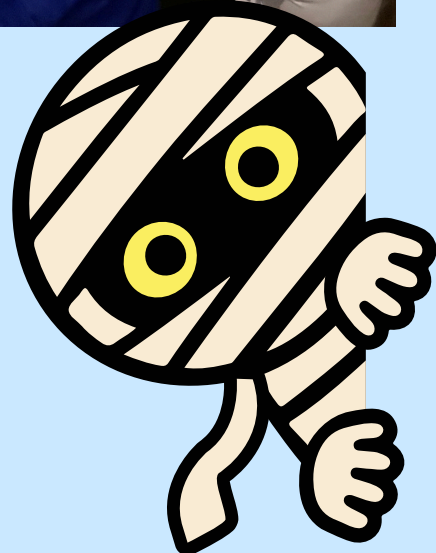
**All items of clothing should be labelled with your child's name.**  
**Active wear shoes should be worn every day.**















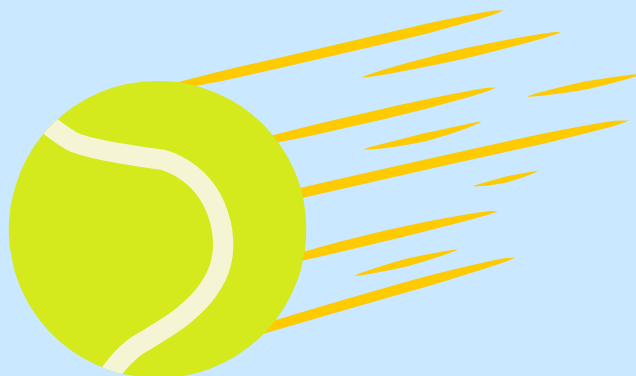


## OUR SCHOOL WEEK – FIRE SAFETY EVENT





## OUR SCHOOL WEEK – WHAT A RACKET FESTIVAL





## OUR SCHOOL WEEK – OUTDOOR PROVISION





## OUR SCHOOL WEEK – ALTAR SERVERS TRAINING WITH DAN





## OUR SCHOOL WEEK –LACROSSE EQUIPMENT

**A huge thank you to Devonshire Physiotherapy Clinic for funding Lacrosse balls and a carry bag. We are very grateful and can't wait to get started learning this sport!**





# 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.**



# 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.

<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Parish Christmas fair 10.00am–1.00pm</b>
<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Primary school admissions window opens</b>
<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Anti bullying week</b>
<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Open day for prospective parents/carers 9.00am–10.00am</b>
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Mission day</b>
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Reception activity day</b>
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Class 2 assembly – 9.10am. All welcome</b>
<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Flu immunisation – all afternoon</b>
<b>Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Whole school mini first aid training</b>
<b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Class 1 assembly – 9.10am. All welcome</b>
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Fair trade tuck shop</b>



# **Buxton** *Advertiser*

## **FIRST CLASS 2025 SOUVENIR EDITION** **20th NOVEMBER 2025**

Dear Parent/Guardian

The Buxton Advertiser is delighted to be producing a special 'First Class' souvenir edition on 20th November 2025, marking your son or daughter's all-important first days at primary school.

This edition will feature full colour photographs submitted to us from schools across the local area. This is a fantastic opportunity to commemorate your child's early years in school, and a keepsake that you and your family can treasure for years to come.

The copies will be available in local retail outlets from the 20th November 2025 for a week, but demand will be high, so to avoid possible sell out disappointment, or for family members out of the area, we are giving you the chance to pre-order your postal keepsake edition/s.

**Postal Pre-order Price** is just £4.75 for one copy or £7.25 for two. Includes a 20% discount on the cover price plus postage.

**Order by Phone:** Call 0330 403 3004, lines open 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday

**Order Online:** Visit [buxtonadvertiser.eventbrite.co.uk](https://buxtonadvertiser.eventbrite.co.uk) . Please note that website orders are subject to additional fees which are set and charged by Eventbrite.

**Order Deadline :** 16th November 2025

**Delivery:** Copies will be posted to the address supplied in your order via Royal Mail's Tracked 24 service on the day of publication. You will be notified via email/SMS once dispatched with your Tracking Number.

If you do not want your child to appear in the photograph, please contact your school office. Photographs will be published in the newspaper, may appear online, and may be promoted via social media.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us on 0330 403 3004 or via email at [specialitions@nationalworld.com](mailto:specialitions@nationalworld.com).

Yours faithfully

**Amy Best**  
**Buxton Advertiser**



# 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 POKÉMON TCG POCKET

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?



Pokémon TCG Pocket is a mobile version of the hugely popular Pokémon Trading Card Game, downloaded over 100 million times on Android and iOS. Players collect cards, battle others online, and open packs of cards – known as booster packs – to expand their decks. While the core game can be fun and helps develop tactical and numeracy skills, its design encourages spending and can feed addictive behaviours – making it important for adults to understand the risks.

### ADDICTIVE PACK OPENING



Booster packs rely on probability to provide rare or powerful cards. The excitement of opening them – and the dopamine rush when finding a sought-after card – can become addictive. Unlike purely cosmetic loot boxes, the cards here are integral to competitive gameplay, adding extra pressure for serious gamers to collect more.

### QUICK BUT ABSORBING



Card battles last around five to six minutes, making it easy to fit in “just one more game”. This quick format, combined with the drive to win, can lead to prolonged play sessions and increased screen time without noticing. With limited-time Ranked Match seasons constantly being refreshed – an opportunity to accumulate points and earn profile emblems – players may find themselves drawn into this game mechanic repeatedly.

### PREMIUM PASS PRESSURE



A monthly subscription gives players access to exclusive missions, rewards, and an extra daily booster pack. Missions and rewards are replaced each month, providing an incentive to stay subscribed. While some premium rewards are exclusive, others are available through free play – making the pass more about faster progression and obtaining cosmetic items than true necessity.

### ENDLESS PACK LOOPS



New themed sets of cards are released each month, ranging from around 85 to over 370 cards per expansion. This constant cycle encourages players to keep opening packs in an effort to complete collections or improve their battle decks, potentially promoting unhealthy spending habits. With the introduction of limited-time booster packs, some players may feel increased pressure to collect these cards while they're still available.

### COST OF BOOSTER PACKS



Although free to play, with set rewards and two free booster packs given daily, players can exchange Poké Gold if they wish to open more, and a small amount of Poké Gold is rewarded for free as the player levels up. Poké Gold is also sold in bundles that are often just short of what players need to open extra packs, encouraging them to buy additional bundles.

### COMPETITIVE ONLINE PLAY



Interactions in Pokémon TCG Pocket are relatively safe – there's no messaging between players, friend requests require player approval, no real names are used, and card trading is restricted to fair trades between friends. On the other hand, the competitive nature of online play can still cause frustration, over-investment, and isolation if children spend too much time focused on the game.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### MONITOR SPENDING HABITS



Set clear boundaries around in-game purchases. Treat Poké Gold as an occasional rather than routine reward, helping children develop healthier attitudes towards digital spend.

### SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS



Talk about the unpredictable nature of booster packs and prepare children for disappointment when duplicates appear or rare cards don't surface. Understanding probability can help minimise disappointment – use the game's built-in offering rates guides to find out more about it.

### PLAY TOGETHER



Card battles can help children learn tactics, problem-solving, and rule-following, as well as numeracy skills. Playing alongside them is a great way to share in their enjoyment, while also modelling balanced play and keeping an eye on how much they're investing in the game.

### TEACH FAIRNESS



Losing a battle can be discouraging, especially when money has been spent on collecting the cards to build a deck. Support children in recognising the importance of fairness, learning from both wins and losses, and making considered choices when trading cards.

### Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and children's book author with over 15 years of experience. Specialising in technology and gaming, he has written extensively on how digital platforms affect young people and has been playing games for more than three decades.



The National College®



**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](mailto: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 –  
'which is more important, being right or being nice?'

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS 93.7% 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!



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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/saint-marys-catholic-voluntary-academy-pta)



# COMMUNITY NEWS

**MyActive**  
New Mills

**BOOK NOW**



**Introduction to Swimming Lessons**

AN INTENSIVE BOOSTER COURSE SUITABLE FOR BEGINNERS

AGES 6-11 YEARS.

COURSE DATES: MONDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> UNTIL FRIDAY 31<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

COURSE TIME: 09:00-09:45

Bookable at reception or online @myactive.uk



**NEW MILLS JUNIORS**

**Soccer School 2025/2026**

Free "taster sessions" for Year 1 boys and girls.

Sat 11th Oct & Sat 18th Oct  
9am to 10am

Ollersett Playing Fields  
(Watburn Rd)

**WE CAN PLAY** 

To enquire, email: [secretary@nmjfc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@nmjfc.co.uk)



 **FOR ALL**


**JUNIOR HOCKEY**


@ Buxton Hockey Club

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS!**


- £4 a session
- Equipment available to borrow











**CONTACT US** ➔

 Buxton Community School Astro


 6-7pm

 Ages 4 -13

 Everyone welcome!

 Social Media  
Buxton Hockey Club

SCAN ME!





# 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](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk)**

Search for: St Mary's New Mills



**GambleAware**