



**12TH DECEMBER 2025**

# **FRIDAY NEWSLETTER**

## **SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY**

Welcome to this week's newsletter. It is hard to believe there is only one week left in school. The school nativity performances have been absolutely amazing. Pupils sang, read and performed with such confidence, from our four-year-olds all the way up to our eleven-year-olds. Well done to you all, you always make us feel so proud of you. Thank you to all the parents, carers and visitors for making this such a memorable occasion. We are now definitely ready for Christmas.

Christmas dinner day was a festival of colour with the pupils in their Christmas jumpers. They certainly enjoyed their lunch and the Christmas songs. Thank you to our catering staff for the wonderful meal.

Thursday included our whole school celebration, carol singing in New Mills and the pantomime at the Town Hall. Thank you also to our PTA for all of your time and efforts to make this happen.

Our Health Champions were in action on Friday for Star of the Week assembly, informing us all how to be healthy and talking about their action plan for next year. Our Star of the Week award was for someone who makes healthy choices.

I suspect the pupils will sleep very well this weekend after such a busy week.

Looking forward to next week, we have singing at Watford House on Monday for some of the children, the Advent service in church on Thursday at 2.00pm and then we close for the Christmas break on Friday at 2.30pm. All of the children should be picked up at 2.30pm on this day.

Hoping you all have a wonderful 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>



# THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATION OF THE WORD



2nd Week of Advent

Year A

Word of the Week

Peace

*Scripture*

**First Reading**  
Isaiah 11:1-10

**Gospel Reading**  
Matthew 3:1-12

*Suggestion*

**Hebrew Bible**  
Isaiah 26: 2-5

**New Testament**  
John 16: 25-33

*Theme*

In a world that's often filled with conflict and turmoil, we're called to be peacemakers. This doesn't mean simply avoiding arguments, but actively working towards reconciliation and understanding. In the season of Advent, we pray for peace in the world. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and he calls us to follow his example and to be peacemakers too.

*Mission*

Find a way to bring peace to a difficult situation or relationship this week.

DECEMBER 2025 - YEAR A - 2ND WEEK OF ADVENT



# Peace

Virtue Link: **Prudence**  
 CST Link: **Peace**  
 Mission: Find a way to bring peace to a difficult situation or relationship this week.

Peace means communal friendship and harmony in the absence of violence. In a social sense, peace is commonly used to mean a lack of conflict. This is true for the world, but as Christians we recognize peace is not the absence of trouble, but the presence of Christ."

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7TH	8TH	9TH	10TH	11TH	12TH	13TH
<b>2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 	<b>IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR LADY</b> <i>Solemnity</i> <i>Principal Patron of the Diocese</i> 	Tuesday of Advent Week 2 <b>St Juan Diego</b> <i>Visionary</i> 	Wednesday of Advent Week 2 <b>Ss Augustine Webster, Eustace White &amp; the Martyrs of Lincolnshire</b> <b>OUR LADY OF LORETO</b>	Thursday of Advent Week 2 <b>St Damascus I</b> <i>Pope</i> 	Thursday of Advent Week 2 <b>OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE</b> 	<b>St Lucy</b> <i>Virgin, Martyr</i> 

## PARISH NEWS



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

**DEC. 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 – KEY STAGE ONE NATIVITY









## OUR SCHOOL WEEK – KEY STAGE TWO NATIVITY





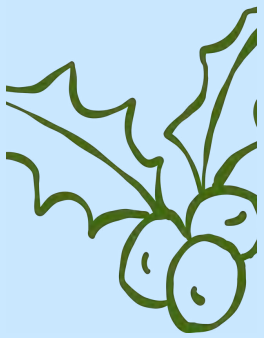




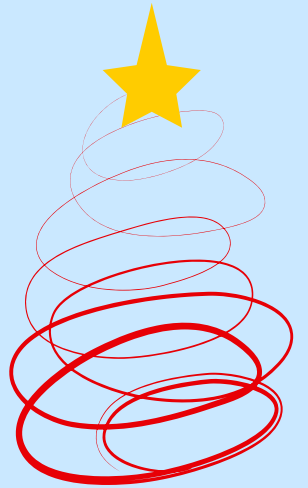
## OUR SCHOOL WEEK – CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY



















# Christmas Dinner





# OUR SCHOOL WEEK – CAROL SINGING IN NEW MILLS







# 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?

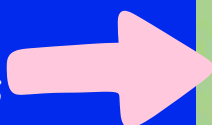
- A child who does not attend school regularly will be unlikely to keep up with the work.
- The more a child misses school, the lower their grades; the lower their grades, the less they want to stay at school. The only way to break this cycle is regular, high levels of attendance.

## 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.

Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Advent service in church 2.00pm
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	School closes at 2.30pm for the Christmas holidays. All children should be collected at 2.30pm
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Inset day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Children return to school
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	SEN parents/carers drop in session with. Mrs Chapman, SENCO, will be hosting our second SEN drop in session with a focus on zones of regulation and assistive technology.
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	Swimming lessons start for year 4 children
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Applications for primary school places for September 2026 close today
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Class 4 trip to the National Justice Museum, Nottingham
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Half term holidays
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Inset day – school closed to pupils

**MORE DATES TO BE ADDED WHEN WE RETURN IN JANUARY!**



# CHRISTMAS MASS

AND CHILDREN'S  
CANDLELIGHT  
PROCESSION



## SAINT MARY'S CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE - IN NEW MILLS, CAROLS BEGIN AT 5.30PM  
AND THE PROCESSION BEGINS AT 6.00PM, FOLLOWED BY  
FAMILY MASS.

THE CAROL SERVICE AT MARPLE BRIDGE IS AT 7.30PM  
FOLLOWED BY VIGIL MASS AT 8.00PM.

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS IS AT 9.30AM AT NEW MILLS.  
AT MARPLE BRIDGE, THE CAROL SERVICE BEGINS AT  
11.00AM FOLLOWED BY MASS AT 11.30AM.

EVERYONE IS VERY WELCOME.



# 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](mailto:info@nmm.srscmat.co.uk)



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



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

**AGE RESTRICTION**  
**13+**

(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

## AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

TikTok's Following Feed shows videos from known creators, while the default For You Feed serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but unsuitable content can still appear, and watching for long enough signals interest to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans illegal or inappropriate uploads, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.

## BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Ofcom reports that most online harms for girls involve body image, while boys more often see dangerous stunts. Both types appear frequently on TikTok and spread quickly through its engagement-driven algorithm. Harmful challenges have included the "blackout" trend, where users held their breath until passing out. Families filed lawsuits after children died linked to the trend, showing how extreme or risky content can rapidly reach young people and negatively influence them.

## IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but children can still spend money. TikTok coins, costing £9.99 to £224.99, let users buy gifts for creators. TikTok Shop adds risk by allowing purchases from influencers or companies, sometimes leading to poor-quality items driven by persuasive marketing. A Canadian investigation found TikTok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may lose control over their personal information.

## CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Between 1.6 and 1.9 billion people use TikTok, meaning there's a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public view by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and allows anyone to download or comment on them.

## MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

TikTok's short videos may appear lighthearted, but they can expose young people to harmful ideas. Misinformation is common, and Ofcom reports that nearly one third of 12-15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source, increasing the chance of seeing racist, misogynistic, extremist or conspiracy material. Even brief clips can influence impressionable users and shape their worldview, making discussions about critical thinking, propaganda and online influence especially important for parents and educators.

## ADDICTIVE DESIGN

TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability, and distract from healthier activities. Constantly skipping between short clips may also affect attention span, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's in order to manage settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children cannot alter these settings without parental approval.

### DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to dangerous trends, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.

### BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through TikTok Shop. If a disappointing purchase occurs, turn it into a discussion about influencer marketing and how online promotions can be misleading.

### READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

## Meet Our Expert

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



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

X @wake\_up\_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Release date: 26.11.2025



# SCHOOL NOTICES

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Star of the week this week was  
awarded to those who know how to  
make healthy choices.**

*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 –  
'can a sheet of red paper be  
blank?'**

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS 96.8% 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!



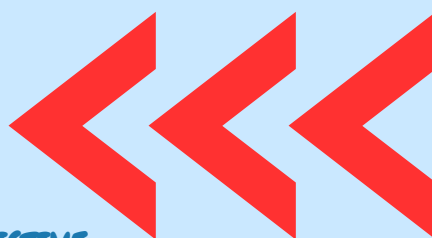
## NEXT PARENT DROP IN.....

WHERE– CLASS 3

WHEN– MONDAY 12TH JANUARY

TIME– 3:30PM–4:15PM

FOCUS: ZONES OF REGULATION AND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY



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.

SEND Triage Form



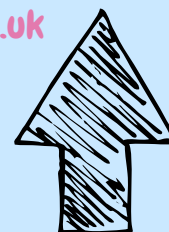
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=0FYclXnjhUaRUhyDCcoxafbPDpgmS79Ln-OUTxOe7hZUMU4ISOJKQU5ZNU9XNFZSRUxTUDZVMOE2UC4u>

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](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social-health/health-and-wellbeing/your-health/children-and-young-peoples-health/children-and-young-peoples-health.aspx)

For more information about Elective Home Education, please see here –

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

Information about the neurodiversity hub, which is based in Buxton, can be found here – [www.zink.org.uk](http://www.zink.org.uk)



# **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.





## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Join us for a free  
'crafternoon'**

*Make a winter lantern to light the night!*

**Sunday 14th December  
12-3pm**

Rock Mill Centre, Rock Mill Lane, SK22 3BN

Please bring a clean small water bottle if you have one. All materials provided.



**LUNCH AND SNACKS INCLUDED**

# Christmas Famfest 2025

**22<sup>ND</sup> 23<sup>RD</sup> 29<sup>TH</sup> 30<sup>TH</sup> DEC**  
**11AM-3PM**  
**At New Mills Youth Centre**

Funded Places for children on free school meals  
• £5 Per day for those who aren't.

Christmas crafts, Christmas party on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Multisports, Pool table, Table tennis Board games, Animal handling and more!

To book your **FREE** funded places go to [www.itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk](http://www.itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk)  
Paid for places are to be booked directly with Youth Matters New Mills CIC  
01663743487  
[Youthmattersnewmills@gmail.com](mailto:Youthmattersnewmills@gmail.com)



# 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**