



**5TH DECEMBER 2025**

# **FRIDAY NEWSLETTER**

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

**A warm welcome to this week's newsletter. Monday was the feast day of St. Ralph Sherwin and the children learnt key facts about his life.**

**We are now in full Christmas preparation. All pupils are practicing their acting and singing ready for their nativities next week. It is a very exciting and heartwarming time.**

**Congratulations to all the pupils involved in this week's sports event, Boccia. You all did really well.**

**Congratulations also to the Fairtrade team for organising and running the fundraising tuck shop. Thank you to all the parents and carers who so generously supported this. The funds raised will be sent to Fairtrade to support the poorest communities in South America, Africa and India.**

**Friday was a wonderful day with our Christmas crafts morning for new starters and then our PTA Christmas Carousel activities afternoon. Thank you so much for all your support.**

**We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Fair on Sunday at New Mills Lesisure centre (10.00am–2.00pm). Please do support us if you can.**

**Looking forward to next week, we have the key stage one Christmas performances on Monday (9.30am–10.30am then 6.00pm–7.00pm), Christmas dinner day on Wednesday, an open morning for new starters also on Wednesday (9.00am–10.00am) as well as key stage two Christmas performances (9.30am–10.30am then 6.00pm–7.00pm) and finally on Thursday we have some carol singing in New Mills in the morning then we will be having an early lunch and heading out for our pantomime treat at New Mills Town Hall! This is a busy but wonderful time of year.**

**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>



# THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATION OF THE WORD





**1st Week of Advent**

**Year A**

*Theological Virtue*

# Hope

**Sunday**

*First Reading:*  
Isaiah 21-5

*Gospel Reading:*  
Matthew 24:37-44

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**Suggestions**

*Hebrew Bible:*  
Jeremiah 29:11-14

*New Testament:*  
1 Peter 1: 3-9

**Theme**

We believe that even in the darkest of times, God's love and light shine through. This hope isn't just wishful thinking, but a confident expectation of God's promises. Hope is a powerful virtue that can give us strength to persevere, even when things get tough, and to trust that God is always with us, guiding us towards a brighter future. In the season of Advent, we hope for the coming of Jesus and that he will bring peace, joy and love to the world.

**Mission**

Think of a reason that you have to be hopeful. Share that hope with someone this week.

## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025 - YEAR A - 1ST WEEK OF ADVENT



# Hope

Virtue Link: **Temperance**  
 CST Link: **Creation and Environment**  
 Mission: **Think of a reason that you have to be hopeful. Share that hope with someone this week.**

To have hope means to trust in God. By having hope, we believe that God is at work in our lives and our world. He created us and wants the best for us. Hope inspires and provides us with the strength to help God in His mission of spreading goodness and love; in ourselves, in the lives around us and in our world.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30TH	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	5TH	6TH
<b>1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 	<b>Monday of Advent Week 1</b> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <b>St Ralph Sherwin &amp; the Martyrs of Derbyshire</b>  <i>Priest, Martyr</i> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  <b>St Ralph Sherwin</b>  <small>Diocese of Southwark</small> </div>	<b>Tuesday of Advent Week 1</b>	<b>St Francis Xavier</b> <i>Priest</i> 	<b>Thursday of Advent Week 1</b> <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <b>St John Damascene</b>  <i>Priest, Doctor</i> </div>	<b>Friday of Advent Week 1</b>	<b>Saturday of Advent Week 1</b> <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <b>St Nicholas</b>  <i>Bishop</i> </div> 

## PARISH NEWS



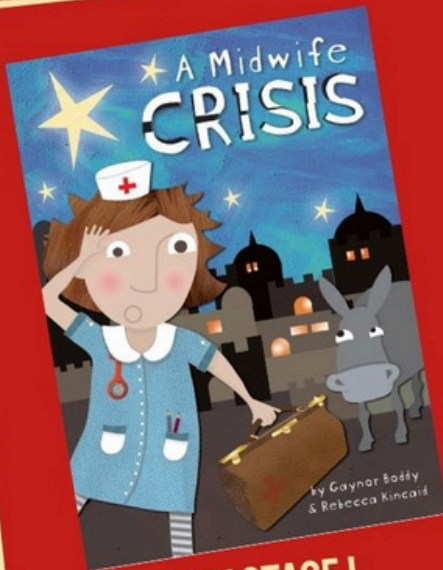
### **CHILDREN'S LITURGY DATES AUTUMN/WINTER 2025**

**DEC. 7TH, 14TH.**



YOU'RE INVITED  
TO COME AND WATCH OUR

# CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES



KEY STAGE 1

FEATURING



KEY STAGE 2

MONDAY 8TH DECEMBER

WEDNESDAY 10TH DECEMBER

Morning Performance: 9:30 - 10:30

Evening Performance: 6:00 - 7:00

(Children should return to school at 5:30 for the evening performance)

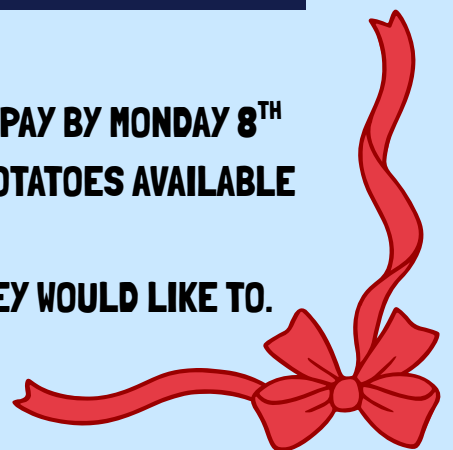
No Tickets Required  
Donations on the night gratefully received.





**WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER. PLEASE ORDER VIA PARENTPAY BY MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER. WE WILL NOT HAVE SANDWICHES OR JACKET POTATOES AVAILABLE ON THIS DAY.**

**CHILDREN CAN WEAR THEIR CHRISTMAS JUMPERS IF THEY WOULD LIKE TO.**



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.



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



No earrings should be worn on PE days. If you cannot remove your child's earrings, please tape them up before school. This helps to prevent injuries.

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



# 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.**





### **Saint Mary's wraparound club (breakfast club and afterschool club)**

**We have made the decision to amend the cut off time for booking wraparound sessions from 48 hours to 5 days. This is due to the current high demand for places and the requirement for us to staff the sessions correctly. All wraparound sessions must be booked at least 5 days in advance from this week onwards.**

**We do have strict limits on the number of children we can have in each session, and we are at capacity at some sessions. This means that we may not be able to accommodate your child/children if you haven't booked in advance.**

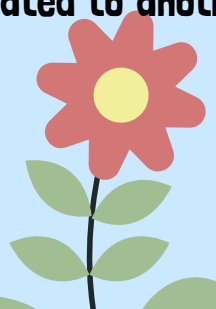
**Please don't bring your child to breakfast club or leave your child at afterschool club unless you have booked and paid for the session. If we are at ratio and your child arrives for breakfast club/is left in afterschool club, we will have to ask you to collect the child.**

**If you need a place for your child at any wraparound sessions and you haven't booked, please contact Mrs Oxley who will do her best to book the sessions you need but this may not be possible if we have reached the limit for pupil numbers.**

**Please also remember that we're not able to cancel sessions if the 5-day limit has passed. If your child won't be attending a booked session, please let Mrs Oxley know but you won't get a refund for the session. This includes for sickness absences. We are also not able to administer medicines (other than emergency medicine such as inhalers or epi-pens) during wraparound sessions.**

**Payments can be made with tax free childcare vouchers; the payment form must be completed before payments can be processed. All payments, whether via vouchers or ParentPay, must be made in advance. Sessions not paid for in advance are cancelled automatically and the place may be allocated to another child.**

**Thank you for your understanding and support.**



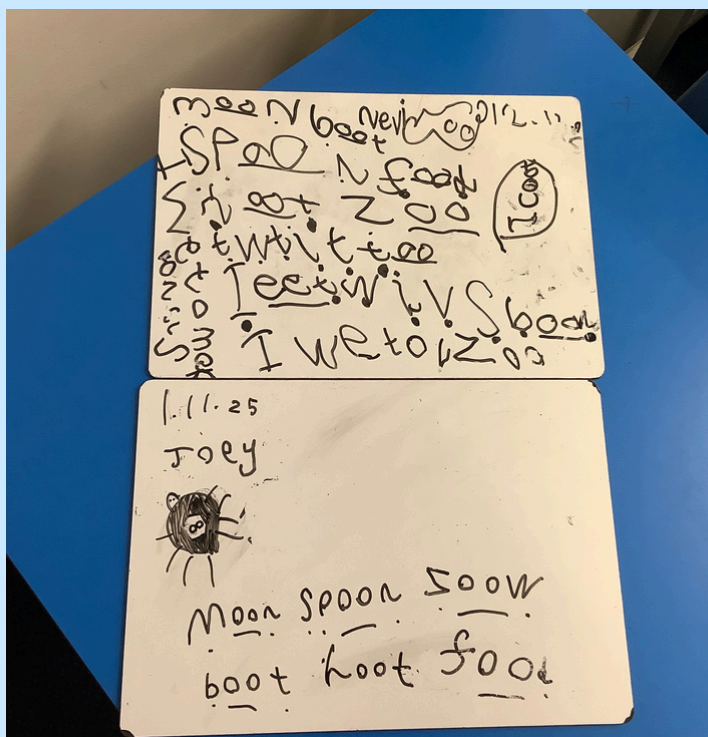
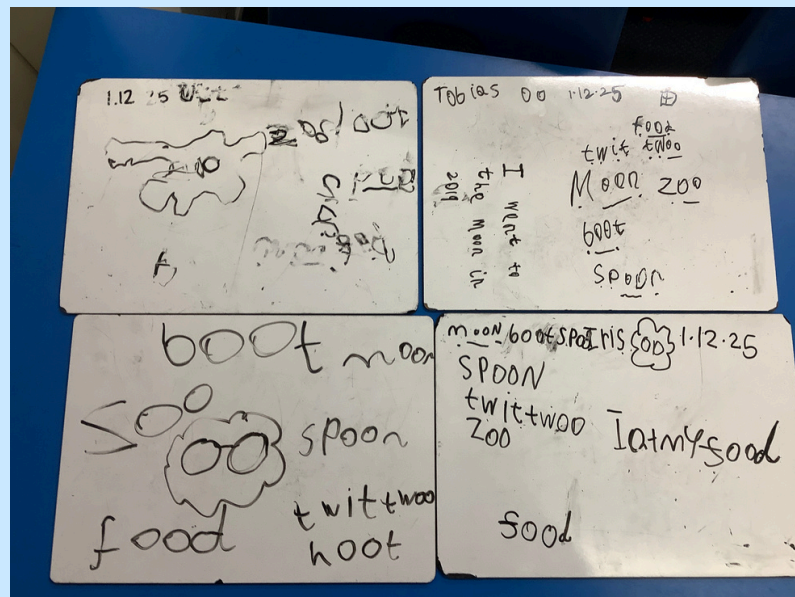
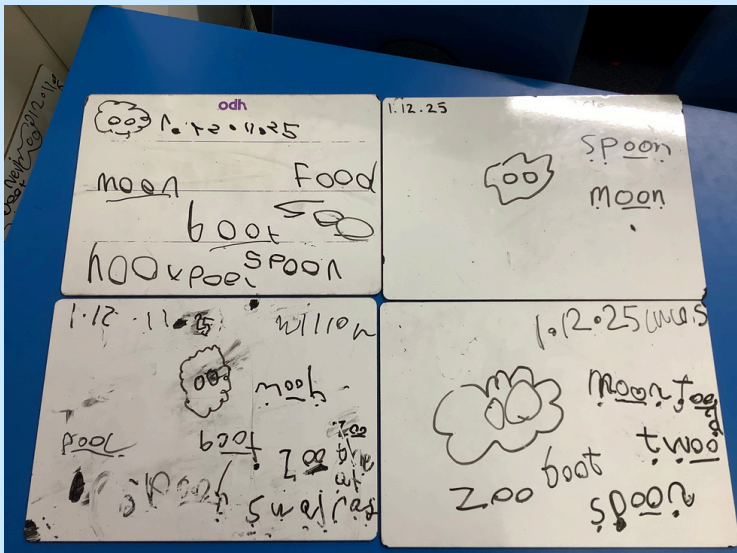
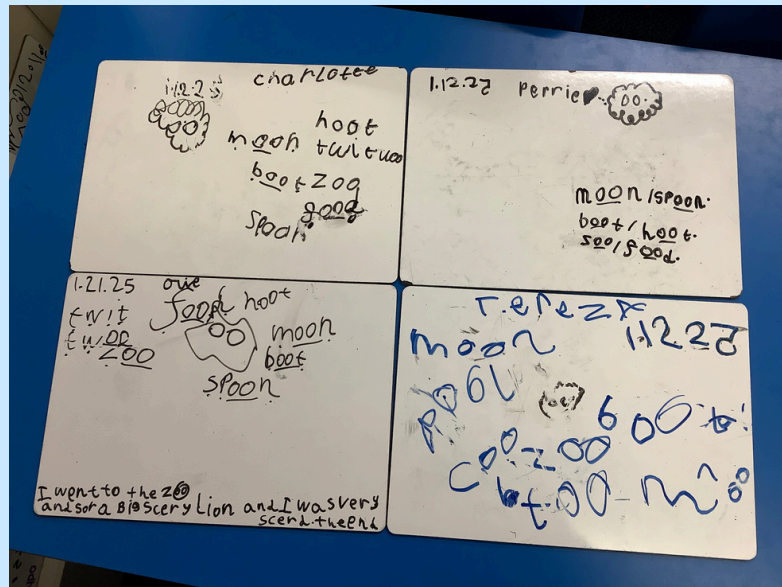
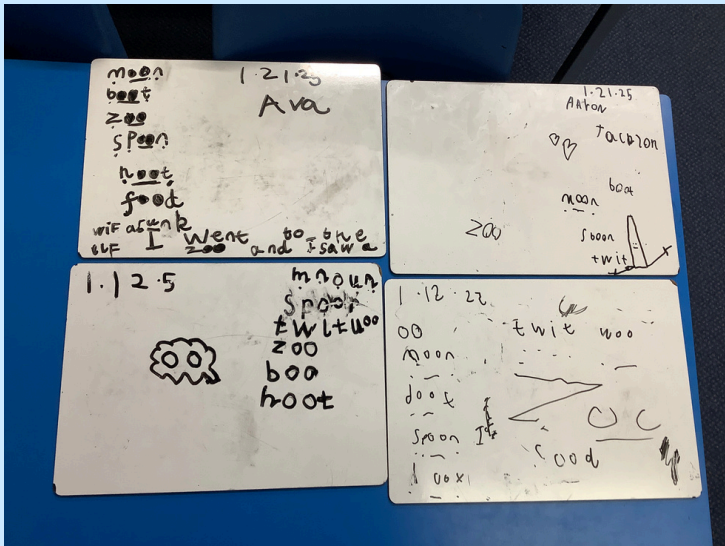


## OUR SCHOOL WEEK – FAMILY MASS



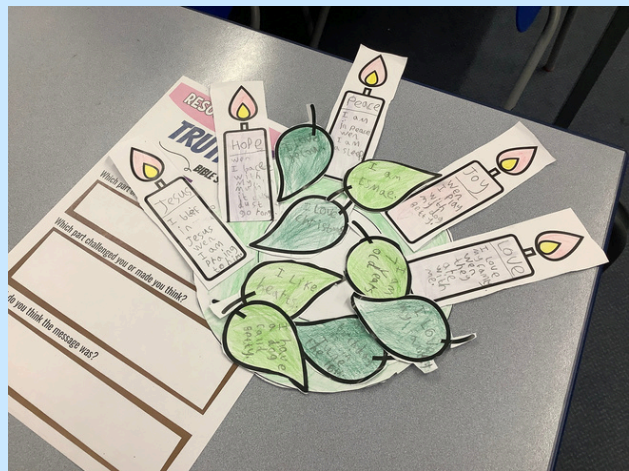
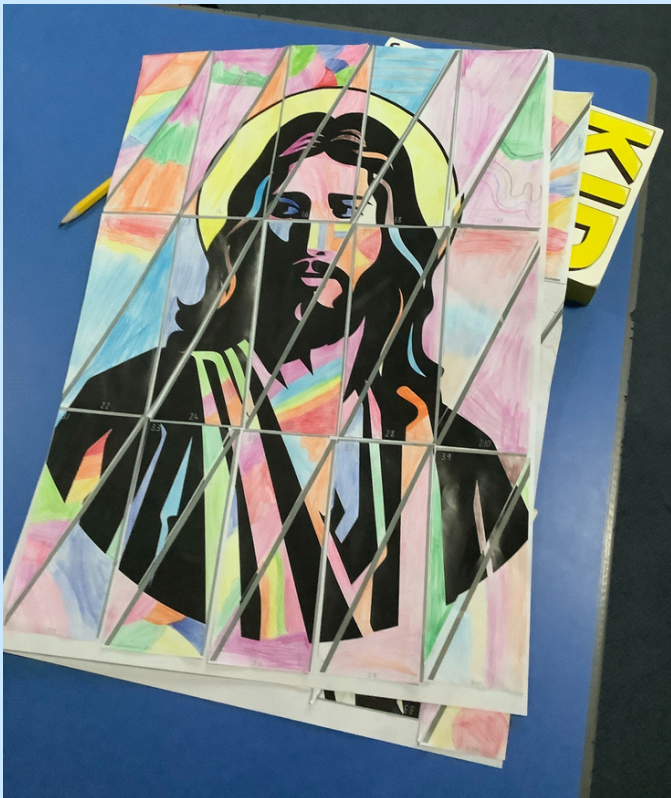


# OUR SCHOOL WEEK - AMAZING PHONICS





# OUR SCHOOL WEEK – MISSION DAY





## OUR SCHOOL WEEK – BOCCIA



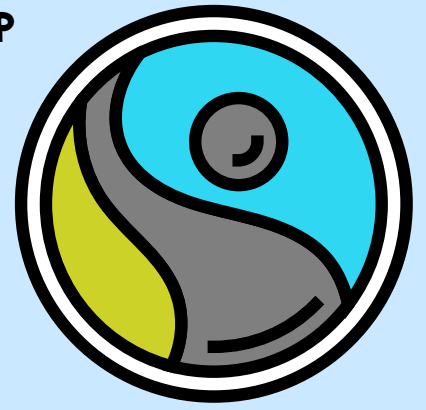


## OUR SCHOOL WEEK – OUTDOOR PROVISION





## OUR SCHOOL WEEK – FAIRTRADE TUCKSHOP





# 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](https://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](https://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 8 <sup>th</sup> December	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
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	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
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Open morning for prospective parents and carers 9.00am–10.00am
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas dinner day (we will not have sandwiches or jacket potatoes on this day)
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Pantomime day
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



# 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 TRACKING DEVICES

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### STALKING AND HARASSMENT

Because of their tiny size and unassuming appearance, tracking devices can easily be hidden in bags or clothing. They've been used to monitor individuals without their knowledge, with a lawsuit in the US labelling AirTags "the weapon of choice of stalkers and abusers". In the UK, use of tracking devices in coercive control and stalking cases reportedly rose by 317 percent between 2018 and 2023.

### TOOLS FOR BULLYING

Tracking devices could allow bullies to follow or locate their targets even outside of school. This makes it difficult for children to find refuge, potentially extending the trauma of bullying into spaces – like home – that should feel safe and secure.

### FALSE ACCUSATIONS

Because tracking devices are linked to user accounts, they could be misused to 'prove' ownership of someone else's possessions. Someone could, for example, plant a tracker on another person's belongings to falsely claim them as their own.

### INVASION OF PRIVACY

These devices are designed to share location data with the user via other people's phones, which can unintentionally broadcast someone's movements without their consent. This makes them vulnerable to being monitored by strangers without realising.

### DIFFICULT TO DETECT

Many tracking devices are designed to be discreet, but that also means they're easy to hide. Without proactive checking or the right tech to detect them, children and young people might not realise they're being tracked.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### WATCH FOR WARNING SIGNS

If a child's peers always seem to know their location – whether in person or hinted at online – it could be worth checking for tracking devices. Some, like AirTags, will eventually make a noise if separated from their owner. Listen out for a chirping sound.

### CHECK LIKELY HIDING SPOTS

Common places where trackers may be planted include jacket linings, bag seams, pockets, or under bike seats. If you find one, take a photo of the serial number before disposing of it – this could help police trace the account it's linked to.

### USE DETECTION APPS

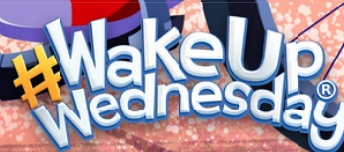
Apple devices running iOS 14.5 or later will notify users of unknown AirTags nearby. Android users can install Apple's 'Tracker Detect' or the third-party app 'AirGuard' to scan for tracking devices from various manufacturers.

### HAVE THE CONVERSATION

Talk to your child about what tracking devices are, what signs to look out for, and how they might be misused. Emphasise the legal consequences of using them to prank, harass, or monitor someone.

## Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a seasoned technology journalist with bylines in Wired, TechRadar, The Guardian, The Evening Standard, The Telegraph, and The New Statesman. He specialises in consumer tech, online safety, and emerging risks in the digital landscape.



The National College®



# SCHOOL NOTICES

*No star of the week assembly this week.*

*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 you stop thinking?'**

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS 94% 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!



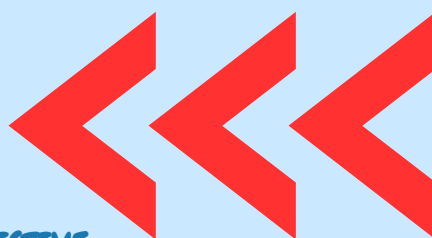
## **NEXT PARENT DROP IN.....**

**WHERE– CLASS 3**

**WHEN– MONDAY 12TH JANUARY**

**TIME– 3:30PM–4:15PM**

**FOCUS: ZONES OF REGULATION AND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY**



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](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.





## 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)



# THE REVIVE GIVING SHOP

Thursdays from 20<sup>th</sup> November – 11<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.revivechurch.uk/christmas)



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**