



16TH JANUARY 2026

# FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

## SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

A warm welcome to this week's newsletter. Mary's Missionaries delivered a whole school celebration on the conclusion of the year of Hope, Pilgrims of Hope. We are now going to focus on being Ambassadors for Hope this year and our mission is to live out the Jubilee message.

This week, our health champions were in action and are planning their next activity to share with the school. The spotlight in our Little Fish newsletter was on our Health Champions as well as the Eco team. Well done to you all for driving forward important messages about being healthy and active.

Class 3 had an external sports coach delivering key skills about dodgeball on Tuesday, ready for the dodgeball event on Wednesday. Eight class 3 pupils took part in the event and played really well, we were proud of your good sportsmanship.

Thank you to Mrs Chapman, SENCO, for the drop in session on Monday which was really informative. Please see ClassDojo for the presentation and the link.

As a reminder, please do be considerate when you park. We have had reports of dangerous parking on both Longlands and the surrounding roads, including blocking the junctions. Please do be mindful of other road users as well as those who use the footpaths. Parking is available at the church.

If you have any messages or questions that need to be passed on to teaching staff, please do this through the office rather than at the door at drop off and pick up times. This helps us to keep the children safe. It is best to address any questions or concerns via e-mail to the office rather than via ClassDojo if possible.

Looking forward to next week, we have the parents and carers of reception children meeting on Tuesday after school. Please attend if you can. Lacrosse sessions for year 3 pupils start after school with Miss Baythorpe and we have the PTA crazy hair day on Friday. Please see the poster for more information!

Have a lovely weekend,  
Mrs Chapman.

**CHOOSE Kindness**  
A prayer for thought -  
May you see the 'just because' messages  
from God in your day;  
a timely word, a kindness, a warm  
smile, a favour, or anything that brings  
joy into your life.

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



Week 1 in Ordinary Time

Year A

Word of the Week

# Baptism

*Sunday*  
First Reading:  
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7  
Gospel Reading:  
Matthew 3:13-17

*Suggestions*  
Hebrew Bible:  
Exodus 19:10  
New Testament:  
Mark 1:8

*Theme*  
Baptism is a sign of God's love and forgiveness, it marks a fresh start and a new beginning. When we are baptised we are welcomed into the Church community of believers who love us, support us and help us grow. During baptism we are anointed as priest, prophet and king and called to live like Jesus did.

*Mission*  
Think of one way you can be more like Jesus this week.

JANUARY 2026 - YEAR A - 1ST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME



# Baptism

Virtue Link: Charity  
CST Link: Solidarity  
Mission: Think of one way you can be more like Jesus this week.

Baptism is a sign of God's love and forgiveness; it marks a fresh start and a new beginning. When we are baptised we are welcomed into the universal Church. During baptism we are anointed as priest, prophet and king, freed from original sin and called to live like Jesus did.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
11TH	12TH	13TH	14TH	15TH	16TH	17TH
<b>BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b> 	<b>Monday of Week 1</b>  <b>St Aelred of Rievaulx, Abbot</b>	<b>Tuesday of Week 1</b>  <b>St Hilary, Bishop, Doctor</b>	<b>Wednesday of Week 1</b>	<b>Thursday of Week 1</b>	<b>Friday of Week 1</b>	<b>St Anthony Abbot</b> 



# OUR SCHOOL WEEK – VISIT FROM CAFOD





## OUR SCHOOL WEEK – DODGEBALL



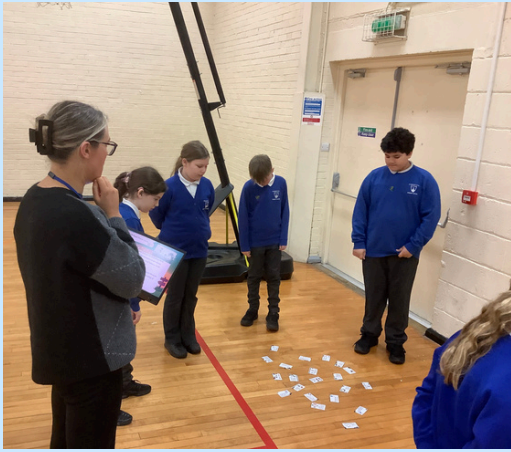


OUR SCHOOL WEEK – AFTER SCHOOL CLUB MADE FAT BALLS FOR THE BIRD TABLE





## OUR SCHOOL WEEK – HEALTH CHAMPIONS



## OUR SCHOOL WEEK – READING CLUB





One of our class one children, Vincent, has decided to donate his hair to the little princess trust. He's very excited for the big cut, please help support him by donating anything you can ❤️

The Little Princess Trust provides wigs to children to help restore their confidence and identity. All costs, including the making, fitting, and styling of the wig, are met by the charity, and this free service is available to any young person up to the age of 24 with hair loss. As part of its Hair and Hope mission, The Little Princess Trust also funds childhood cancer research aiming to find kinder and more effective treatments.

**Vincent's little princess trust fundraising page is fundraising for Little Princess Trust**

**We couldn't be prouder of you, Vinny!**



I am kind





**JANUARY  
'FUN' DRAISER**



# **CRAZY HAIR DAY**

**FRIDAY 23<sup>RD</sup>**

**JANUARY 2026**

**£1 PER ENTRY**

**A DAY OF HAIR RAISING FUN.  
COME TO SCHOOL WITH YOUR HAIR IN THE  
CRAZIEST WAY POSSIBLE!**

**1 WINNER FROM EACH CLASS WILL BE SELECTED.**





# PARISH NEWS

## **CHILDREN'S LITURGY DATES 2026**

**JANUARY 18TH**

**JANUARY 25TH**

**FEBRUARY 1ST**

**FEBRUARY 8TH**

**MARCH 1ST**

**MARCH 8TH**

**MARCH 15TH**

**MARCH 22ND**

**APRIL 19TH**

**APRIL 26TH**

**MAY 3RD**

**MAY 10TH**

**MAY 17TH**



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 - THURSDAY AND FRIDAY**

**CLASS TWO- TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY**

**CLASS THREE- MONDAY AND THURSDAY**

**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.**







# 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?

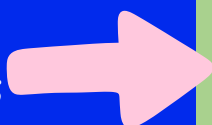
- A child who does not attend school regularly will be unlikely to keep up with the work.
- The more a child misses school, the lower their grades; the lower their grades, the less they want to stay at school. The only way to break this cycle is regular, high levels of attendance.

## 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.

Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	<p>Meeting for parents and carers of reception children – transition to year one</p> <p>We would like to invite all reception parents and carers to a meeting which will take place on Tuesday 20th January from 3.30pm to 4.00pm. The meeting will cover the transition into year one process. Mrs Mallabar and Mrs Hodgson will be presenting as well as answering any questions you may have.</p> <p>The slideshow will be available after the meeting for anyone who isn't able to attend.</p>
Thursday 22nd January	Lacrosse after school club with Miss Baythorpe for year 3 pupils begins, 3.20pm to 4.20pm
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	<p>PTA Crazy Hair Day. £1.00 per entry.</p> <p>A day of hair raising fun. Come to school with your hair in the craziest way possible!</p>
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Class 4 trip to the National Justice Museum, Nottingham
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	<p>Collapsed curriculum day for art and DT. A full day dedicated to art and DT.</p> <p>Parents and carers are welcome to come into school at 2.45pm to have a look at the children's work.</p>
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
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	<p><b>The Briars residential trip 2026 parents and carers meeting</b></p> <p>3:20 PM – 4:00 PM We would like to invite all Year 5 parents and carers to a meeting on Thursday 12th March from 3.20pm to around 4.00pm, where we will share more information and kit lists etc. If you are not able to attend, please let us know and we'll send the information home with your child.</p>
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March to Friday April 10th	Easter holidays
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank holiday
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 5 residential trip to The Briars
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Half term holidays
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June to Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Bikeability training for year 5 pupils



# 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 AI TOYS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

This festive season, the newest toys on the shelves do not just blink or make noise; they listen. Many now come with artificial intelligence (AI), allowing them to talk, learn, and even respond to a child's emotions. These toys can be educational and engaging, but they also collect, store, and process information. This guide explains what that means for families and why it matters.

### TOYS THAT LISTEN AND LEARN

When a toy uses AI, it collects data such as voice recordings, interactions, and background sounds. This information is sent to remote servers, where it is analysed to improve responses. Your child's voice becomes training data, which may be stored indefinitely or shared with third parties.

### WEAK SECURITY PROTECTIONS

Some AI toys have poor password protection or open network connections. Others may have microphones or cameras that stay on, even when the toy appears to be off. This can lead to recordings being made without your knowledge, including conversations unrelated to play.

### ARTIFICIAL VOICES, REAL INFLUENCE

For very young children, an AI companion may become one of the first voices they interact with regularly. How that voice shows humour, empathy, or authority can shape how a child learns to communicate. If the model is artificial, then part of what is learned is artificial as well.

### PRESSURE TO KEEP ENGAGING

Some toys reward repeated use or track engagement, encouraging children to interact more. When children compare how their toys perform, it creates pressure to play more often. This increases the amount of data collected and can make learning feel like competition.

### MARKETING THROUGH PLAY

Toys that learn a child's preferences may feed that data into future advertising. A toy that knows a child's favourite colour or hobby could help a company design more targeted marketing to that child and their family.

### PLAYTIME AS DATA TRAINING

The information collected from children helps train AI systems. Their voice, emotional responses, and behaviour shape how machines 'understand' people. Play becomes part of a much larger system that influences how future technologies behave.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### START WITH A CONVERSATION

Talk to young people. Explain that some toys learn from what they say and do. Help them understand that even friendly technology should have boundaries, and to ask questions about it. Curiosity is healthy, blind trust is not.

### SET LIMITS ON USE

Turn off Wi-Fi or Bluetooth when the toy is not in use. Check for updates regularly, as they can change privacy or safety settings. Treat connected toys like any smart device; they should be monitored, updated, and switched off when not in use.

### MODEL DIGITAL AWARENESS

Children learn from adults. If they see you checking privacy settings, reading terms, and talking openly about online safety, they are more likely to do the same. Show them how to question technology in a healthy way.

### RESEARCH BEFORE YOU BUY

Look for toys that work offline or store data locally. Check for a free or demo version so you can test how it behaves. Read privacy policies to understand what data is collected, where it goes, and whether it's shared with others.

### REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS

Find out where the data is stored and who has access to it. Some companies sell or share data with advertisers. If the toy connects through an app, check what it requests access to and limit those permissions whenever possible.

### BALANCE AI WITH REAL PLAY

AI toys can be fun and creative, but they are not a replacement for real human interaction. Encourage time away from technology with activities that foster emotional and social development. Use AI toys to support learning, not define it.

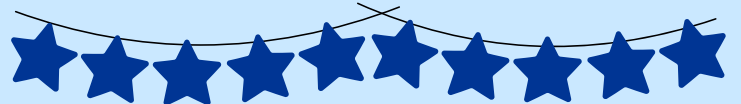
## Meet Our Expert

Clara Hawking is Executive Director of Kompass Education. She advises governments, school trusts, and global organisations on AI governance and safeguarding, helping schools and families understand how technology shapes learning, wellbeing, and the digital future of children.



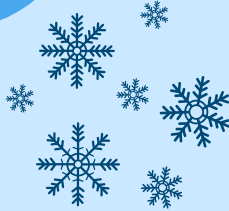


# SCHOOL NOTICES

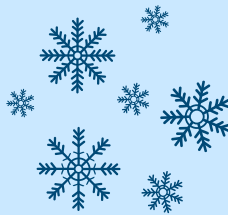


Star of the week this week was  
awarded to someone who sets a good  
example.

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

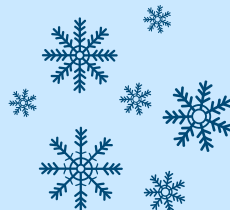


No photography or videos are allowed on personal devices in school. This includes during sports days, assemblies, performances and school trips. This is to keep our most vulnerable children safe.



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.

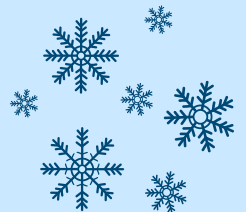
Parking is available at the church and higher up Longlands road where the youth club is. If you can walk to school, or park a little further away, please do so. Thank you for reading this.



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.

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.



Our dinnertime discussion this week was –  
'does a sound exist?'

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS 97.6% THIS WEEK!





## Winter infections in children – guidance for parents/guardians

This leaflet gives advice on illnesses that are currently affecting nursery and school children across the East Midlands

### What are the symptoms?

There are two groups of symptoms:

- Diarrhoea and vomiting – usually lasting 1-2 days
- Fever, tiredness, runny nose, cough and sore throat – lasting 3-4 days

### What should I do if my child is unwell?

- If your child has diarrhoea and/or vomiting symptoms, they should not attend nursery/school until they have been symptom free for 48 hours
- If your child has a high temperature and is unwell, it is very important they stay at home and don't attend school until they have recovered. Children with mild symptoms like runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend school.

Ensure they drink plenty of fluids – taking sips rather than gulps, to avoid vomiting

If they have a fever – give child paracetamol and/or ibuprofen, according to manufacturer's instructions. Your local pharmacist can also advise you about the best treatment for your child

If your child is unusually sleepy, can't take fluids or has other symptoms, such as an unusual rash, headache or neck stiffness – **seek medical advice immediately**

### Infection control advice

Handwashing is one of the most important ways to prevent the spread of both of these infections. This applies to the child who is ill and the person caring for them. Hands should be washed using soap and rinsed under running water:

- Before and after caring for the child
- After using the toilet
- Before eating, preparing or handling food
- After cleaning up spills (vomit, diarrhoea or urine)

Also – keep a separate towel for each family member who has symptoms, and change them regularly

Dry hands thoroughly

### Other control measures:

- Cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue if possible – dispose of used tissues immediately and wash hands
- Wash soiled clothing, bed linen and towels at 60°C, using detergent – if possible, wear disposable gloves to handle contaminated items
- Surfaces and touch points (taps, toilet flush handle, door handles) should be cleaned then disinfected with bleach-based cleaner
- Check that your child is up to date with their [NHS vaccinations schedule](#)

**For further information, visit [NHS.uk](https://www.nhs.uk) and search for 'respiratory infections' and 'diarrhoea and vomiting'**

# 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!



= YOU =  
**MATTER**

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?](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=0FYclXnjhUaRUhyDCcoxafbPDpgms79Ln-OUTxOe7hZUMU4ISQJKQU5ZNU9XNFZSRUxTUDZVMOE2UC4u)

[id=0FYclXnjhUaRUhyDCcoxafbPDpgms79Ln-](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=0FYclXnjhUaRUhyDCcoxafbPDpgms79Ln-OUTxOe7hZUMU4ISQJKQU5ZNU9XNFZSRUxTUDZVMOE2UC4u)

[OUTxOe7hZUMU4ISQJKQU5ZNU9XNFZSRUxTUDZVMOE2UC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=0FYclXnjhUaRUhyDCcoxafbPDpgms79Ln-OUTxOe7hZUMU4ISQJKQU5ZNU9XNFZSRUxTUDZVMOE2UC4u)

SEND Triage Form



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

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

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)

The Derbyshire Local Offer is in place to support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), as well as their parents and carers. It provides clear information about available services and provision, including how to apply for an assessment, early years support, education and learning, care services, preparing for adulthood, health and wellbeing, financial support and travel and transport. The Derbyshire Local Offer contains useful resources for families. The Local Offer includes a directory of local SEND services, support groups, and activities, empowering families to make informed decisions and enhance the quality of life for children and young people with SEND in Derbyshire.

CHANNEL: [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@DERBYSHIRESENDLOCALOFFER](https://www.youtube.com/@DERBYSHIRESENDLOCALOFFER)

VIDEO: [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=EGi9PYGQJHM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EGi9PYGQJHM)



## DERBYSHIRE LOCAL OFFER

Helping and supporting children & young people with special educational needs and disabilities to be more confident in their communities and live independently.

Early Years	Education and Learning	Preparing for adulthood	Care & support services	Health and Wellbeing	Financial Support
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[www.localoffer.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.localoffer.derbyshire.gov.uk)



DERBYSHIRE  
County Council



DERBYSHIRE  
PARENT CARER  
VOICE



Joined Up Care  
Derbyshire  
**NHS**

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# **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.**



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Join us for a free 'crafternoon'

*Tiny boxes and treasure chests: hang onto those old Christmas cards! We'll cut and fold, add some gold, a leaf, an animal and a secret and we'll turn those old cards into new boxes, stories and wonders!*

**Saturday 24th January  
1-4pm**



**DERBYSHIRE  
VOLUNTARY  
ACTION**

**ROCK  
MILL  
CENTRE**



Celebrating 45 years of  
**The Famous New Mills Art Theatre Pantomime**



**ArtTheatre  
Friends**

*Presents*

# FROSTED

*The  
Pantomime*

**By Warren McWilliams**

An amateur production by  
arrangement with Stagescripts Ltd

**BOOK YOUR  
TICKETS NOW!**



[ticketsource.co.uk/arttheatrepantomime](https://ticketsource.co.uk/arttheatrepantomime)  
**DISCOUNTS FOR GROUP BOOKINGS AVAILABLE**

**FRI 30 JAN – SAT 7 FEB 2026**

**FROZEN FUN FOR EVERYONE!**



# FEBRUARY HALF TERM

MONDAY 16th - SUNDAY 22ND FEBRUARY

## MONDAY 16

Lane Swim	07:00-09:15
Accessible Swim	09:15-10:00
Widths Only	10:00-10:45
Crash Course	11:00-11:30
Lane Swim	11:35-13:05
Family Swim	13:15-14:45
Public Swim	14:45-15:30
Learn to Swim	15:30-19:45
Lane Swim	19:50-20:35
Stroke Technique	20:35-22:05

## TUESDAY 17

Lane Swim	06:45-09:00
Widths Only	09:15-10:00
Aqua Fit	10:00-11:00
Crash Course	11:00-11:30
Lane Swim	11:35-13:05
Inflatable NEW	13:30-14:15
Public Swim	14:30-15:15
Learn to Swim	15:30-18:45
Public Swim	18:45-19:30
Lane Swim	19:30-20:15
Glossop Tri Club	20:15-21:15

## WEDNESDAY 18

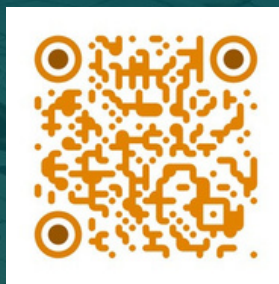
Lane Swim	07:00-09:15
Widths Only	09:15-10:00
Family Swim	10:00-10:45
Crash Course	11:00-11:30
Lane Swim Staff	11:35-13:05
Training Learn to Swim	13:15-15:15
Marple Club	15:30-19:00
	19:00-21:30

## THURSDAY 19

Lane Swim	06:45-09:00
Widths Only	09:15-10:00
Public Swim	10:00-10:45
Crash Course	11:00-11:30
Lane Swim	11:30-13:00
Swim Fit	13:00-13:45
Family Swim	13:45-14:30
Public Swim	14:30-15:15
Learn to Swim	15:30-18:30
Public Swim	18:30-19:15
Lane Swim	19:15-21:30

## FRIDAY 20

Lane Swim	07:00-09:15
Widths Only	09:15-10:00
Swim Fit	10:00-11:00
Crash Course	11:00-11:30
Learn to Swim	12:00-12:30
Lane Swim	12:30-13:15
Public Swim	13:15-14:00
Family Swim	14:00-14:45
Public Swim	14:45-15:30
Learn to Swim	15:30-19:15
Lane Swim	19:15-20:45
SATURDAY	STANDARD
SUNDAY	TIMETABLE



SCAN QR CODE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

ADMISSION POLICY RATIO 1 ADULT:2 UNDER 8'S

ALL SESSIONS ARE BOOKABLE IN ADVANCE. WE ADVISE TO BOOK AHEAD TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT DUE TO ALL SESSIONS HAVING A MAX CAPACITY. TIMETABLE CAN BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE/APP FOR UP TO DATE TIMETABLE

\*CRASH COURSE MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE AND WILL HAVE EXCLUSIVE USE OF POOL



# **INTRODUCTION TO SWIMMING LESSONS**

**AN INTENSIVE BOOSTER COURSE SUITABLE FOR  
BEGINNERS**

**AGES 6-10 YEARS OLD**

**COURSE DATES: MONDAY 16TH - FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

**COURSE TIME: 11:00-11:30**



**BOOK ONLINE VIA THE QR CODE**



# 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.





Enter our  
**Super Draw**

**Win a £1,000 Aldi  
Gift Card**

**OR £1,000 CASH PRIZE**



- Tickets cost just £1 a week
- Chances to win up to £25,000
- Play weekly, or just play the Super Draw!
- Support our fundraising in 2026

**BUY TICKETS**



**YOUR  
SCHOOL  
LOTTERY**



**GambleAware**

See website for Terms & conditions. Enter by 31/01/26.