



6TH FEBRUARY 2026

FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

A warm welcome to this week's newsletter. Last Friday was our Mission Day based on Ambassadors for Hope and how we can live out this message through our words and actions. Thank you to Dan, our lay chaplain, and all the teaching staff for a fun filled and active learning day.

On Monday, the whole school completed their fire drill practice. All pupils and staff completed the drill within 4 minutes. Well done on an excellent response to a very important part of staying safe in school.

Congratulations to the class 4 pupils who participated in the gymnastics festival at New Mills Leisure Centre.

Well done to all our class 3 and 4 pupils who attended mass on Thursday. You sang and spoke with such reverence and respect.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer you all a heartfelt thank you for completing the parent surveys last week for the Catholic School Inspection. I would like to say a massive thank you also to the parents, governors and volunteers who attended various meetings with the inspection team. Your feedback was invaluable. We look forward to sharing the results with you all in due course.

Looking forward to the next week, we have the class one fundraising day in aid of CAFOD on the 10th February. This is a non uniform day for class one only, please wear something blue and bring an empty plastic bottle with you. Class 4 are visiting the Galleries of Justice in Nottingham on Wednesday 11th February. As a reminder, all class four children should be at school for 7.45am to enable us to leave in time. No later please!

We have our collapsed curriculum day for Art and DT on Thursday 12th February. All parents and carers are welcome to come into school on this day at 2.30pm (a slightly earlier time than we had originally said) to look at children's work in the hall. Our Minnie Vinnie's will be organising a cake sale as well on this day to raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House charity. We would be really grateful for donations of cakes for this sale please.

On Friday 13th February, we will be attending a darts festival at Glossopdale school, more information on this to follow. Also on Friday 13th February, we are having our PTA disco which takes place during the Friday afternoon in school time. Please see the poster below for more information. We have sent home a 'design a heart' sheet for children to colour in. These will be used to decorate the hall on disco day.

God bless and have a great weekend with your family.

Mrs Chapman.



*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/](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/newletters/>
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



Mary's Missionaries delivered their whole school celebration on 'Inspiration.' The Catholic social teaching strand was solidarity and the common good and the school virtue was inclusion.

Week 4 in Ordinary Time

Year A

Word of the Week

Inspiration

Scripture

First Reading
☐ Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13

Gospel Reading
☐ Matthew 5:1-12

Scriptures

Hebrew Bible
☐ 2 Samuel 7:22

New Testament
☐ 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Theme

Inspiration is the feeling of being motivated or encouraged to do something. It literally means 'filled with the spirit'. Inspiration is like a gentle nudge from the Holy Spirit, guiding us and encouraging us on our journey. It can come in many forms – through prayer, through Scripture, through the words and actions of others. It's a reminder that God is always with us, inspiring us to be our best selves.

Mission

Make an effort this week to inspire those around you by loving and serving others.

FEBRUARY 2026 - YEAR A - 4TH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Inspiration

Virtue Link: Justice
CST Link: Creation and Environment
Mission: Make an effort this week to inspire those around you by loving and serving others.

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	5TH	6TH	7TH
4 ORDINARY TIME	<p>Monday of Week 4</p> <p style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px;">St Ansgar (Oscar) <i>Bishop</i></p> <p style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">St Blaise <i>Bishop, Martyr</i></p>	<p>St Gilbert of Sempringham <i>Abbot</i></p>	<p>St Agatha</p>	<p>St Paul Miki & Companions <i>Martyrs</i></p>	<p>PRESENTATION OF THE LORD</p>	<p>Saturday of Week 4</p> <p style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px;">St Jerome <i>Emilian</i></p> <p style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px;">St Josephine Bakhita <i>Virgin</i></p> <p style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px;">Memorial Blessed Virgin Mary</p>

OUR SCHOOL WEEK – GYMNASTICS FESTIVAL



Some of our children were lucky enough to take part in a gymnastics taster session at New Mills Leisure Centre. The session was hosted by Energize Gymnastics who have sessions in New Mills on a Saturday as well as Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme. They have the full range of gymnastics equipment and fully qualified coaches. They also run a Young Leader scheme for 14years +.

If you would like further information on sessions, please follow the link:

<https://energizesportscoaching.co.uk/classes/?v=7885444af42e>

OUR SCHOOL WEEK – MISSION DAY



OUR SCHOOL WEEK – JUST DANCE



OUR SCHOOL WEEK - CLASS 3 TRY VIKING FOOD





OUR SCHOOL WEEK - OUR TOPIC IS FLIGHT





OUR SCHOOL WEEK - NATURAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS



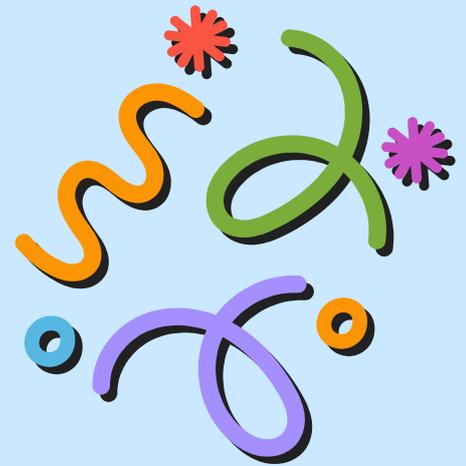
Wraparound questionnaire

A huge thank you to everyone who completed the wraparound questionnaire that we sent out.

We had 28 responses overall.

People commented on the things they like such as:

- **The friendly staff**
- **How much the children enjoy attending**
- **That children like playing with children from other age groups**
- **The quick drop off**
- **The good selection of food available**



ParentPay recently changed how bookings can be viewed. Parents and carers used to be able to see the bookings made even when you could no longer change them. That isn't now the case, and this has caused us all some issues. We have asked ParentPay to review this and we're awaiting a response.

If anyone forgets to book a wraparound session, please do let us know and we will make arrangements as long as there are spaces on that session.

Some people asked if fruit could be made available. We do already have apples and bananas, and we'll get more fruit in the coming weeks.

Some people asked for more outdoor time, which we will do when the weather improves.

Almost everyone said that the start time meets their needs.



Some people asked about a Friday after school club. We have now put an art after school club in place, run by another provider, until 4.20pm, beginning on the 27th February. Depending on the uptake for this club, we will continue to run it.

Almost all respondents said that the 5.30pm finish is late enough for them and their children.

Thanks again to everyone for taking the time to respond, your feedback is really useful to us as we plan provision for the future.





PTA EVENT

VALENTINE'S DISCO & CASUAL CLOTHES DAY!

FRIDAY

13

FEBRUARY

KS1

1:30 - 2:15

KS2

2:15 - 3:15

£2 per child inc. crisps & drink

<https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QVT9GSDA> or cash on the day

PARISH NEWS



CHILDREN'S LITURGY DATES 2026

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?

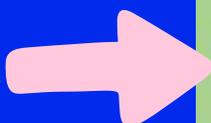
- A child who does not attend school regularly will be unlikely to keep up with the work.
- The more a child misses school, the lower their grades; the lower their grades, the less they want to stay at school. The only way to break this cycle is regular, high levels of attendance.

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 10 th February	<p>Class one's nominated charity this year is CAFOD. On Tuesday, 10th February, they will be having a fundraising day. We are asking class one children to wear something blue and bring an empty plastic bottle, as well as bring £1.00 for CAFOD.</p> <p>Thank you for your support as always.</p>
Wednesday 11 th February	Class 4 trip to the National Justice Museum, Nottingham
Thursday 12 th February	<p>Collapsed curriculum day for art and DT. A full day dedicated to art and DT. Parents and carers are welcome to come into school at 2.30pm to have a look at the children's work.</p>
Monday 16 th February to Friday 20 th February	Half term holidays
Monday 23 rd February	Inset day – school closed to pupils
Thursday 12 th March	<p>The Briars residential trip 2026 parents and carers meeting 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 th March to Friday April 10 th	Easter holidays
Monday 4 th May	Bank holiday
Wednesday 6 th May to Friday 8 th May	Year 5 residential trip to The Briars
Monday 25 th May to Friday 29 th May	Half term holidays
Wednesday 17 th June to Friday 19 th June	Bikeability training for year 5 pupils

We are delighted to announce that Paintbox High Peak will be starting a new after school club with us on Fridays beginning on Friday 27th February. This follows the questionnaire we sent out to everyone about wraparound provision.

Places are limited so please see the information below to book your child a place on this club.

...

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are very pleased to offer the opportunity to join our weekly art club at St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy, New Mills, led by Paintbox High Peak. The club will start after February half term and run after school on Friday's 3.15–4.20pm.

Sessions will run this coming term on Friday 27th February – Friday 27th March.

This club is open to all year groups and is designed to be creative, inclusive and fun! This term we are taking inspiration from Henri Matisse. Children will explore art inspired by Henri Matisse focusing on bold colours, simple shapes, collage and cut outs, creative expression and confidence. Matisse's work encourages creativity without pressure, has no right or wrong outcome, builds confidence and independence and is highly visual and engaging.

Over the 5 weeks children will, create abstract art using colour and shape, paint their own papers, make nature inspired collages, explore movement through dancing figures and create a final independent masterpiece!

Places are limited to 20 children and will be offered on a first come first served basis. The cost is £7.00 per session, the club is booked as a full-term course. The total cost of this term is £35.00

**Payment details: Paintbox Account Number: 50154155 Sortcode:04–00–03
Reference: SMNM followed by your child's name E.G SMNMPaintbox
Please email the below address to book your place.**

If you have any questions, please get in touch!

Many Thanks

Rachel

Paintbox

paintboxhighpeak@gmail.com

Facebook – Paintbox High Peak

07854334947



ABSENCES DURING TERM TIME

The Department for Education (DfE) have introduced some new guidance for schools and Local Authorities (LAs) for managing school attendance. They have also introduced a new national framework for penalty notice and amended the law. These changes come into effect from the 19 August 2024 and all schools and LAs across the country will be expected to follow the new statutory guidance.

Support first

The importance of regular attendance at school cannot be stressed enough. All schools and LAs are expected to promote school attendance and provide support to remove barriers where a pupil is struggling to attend school. This may mean that the school raises the issue of attendance even if your child has only had a couple of days off ill. This is not because they don't believe you. By working with you, schools can step in early to help to prevent patterns of absence developing. Schools may identify other underlying issues that are making your child reluctant to attend school and be able to help you and your child.

For this to be successful parents need to work with the school. Where it can be demonstrated that a parent/carer is not fulfilling their parental responsibility to ensure that their child receives a suitable full-time education then the school can consider requesting that the LA take further action. This can be in the form of a penalty notice, prosecution, or the school may suggest other formal interventions.

National Framework for penalty notices

To provide consistency, the Government have introduced a new national framework for when schools and LAs believe that they have exhausted all offers of support and the parent/carer is not engaging with the attempt to improve their child's attendance at school.

The threshold for when a school should consider next steps is 10 sessions (5 school days) of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks. A school week means any week in which there is at least one school session. This can be made up of any form of unauthorised absence including late after close (attendance code U) of register and odd days of unauthorised absence (attendance code O) which add up to 5 days within a 10-week period. At this point the school will consider if it is likely that the attendance will improve with further support. They may then decide to refer the case to the LA for formal monitoring. This may proceed to legal action if the attendance does not improve.

Education Penalty Notices are issued to parents of statutory school age children. They can be issued to each parent or carer who is deemed liable for the child's absence from school. The new costs and process is outlined below:

First Offence – The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be: **£160** per parent, per child paid within **28** days. Reduced to **£80** per parent, per child if paid within **21** days.

Second Offence (within 3 years) – The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be: **£160** per parent, per child paid within **28** days.

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years) – The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court.

Term time holidays

Pupils should not be taken out of school during term time unless it is unavoidable. Schools are required to consider requests for leave of absence in term time and should only approve the leave if there are exceptional circumstances. If a request for leave is denied and the pupil is absent for 5 days or more then the school is expected to refer the case to the LA. The LA will issue a penalty notice with no requirement for a formal warning to be issued. Penalty notices can also be issued where a pupil is absent for repeated incidents of unauthorised leave in term time that fall below the 5-day threshold. In every case, the request for the Penalty Notice comes in from the school to the LA for the process to be completed.

New registration codes

You might find that your child's attendance report looks slightly different next year. The DfE have amended some of the codes to include numbers as well as letters. These new codes are to enable schools, LA and the DfE to better understand the reasons for absence. For example:

Code C: Leave of absence for exceptional circumstance.

Code C1: Leave of absence for the purpose of participating in a regulated performance. The important thing for you as a parent is still the C which means that the absence was authorised. There is also a new code which has been introduced for pupils who are on the school roll but are temporarily being provided with an alternative education by the local authority, such as a home tutor.

Code K: Attending education provision arranged by the local authority.

Full details of all of the changes can be found by visiting the Government webpage: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance>

**IN AN EMERGENCY, WHEN THE SCHOOL ANSWERPHONE IS SWITCHED ON,
RING 07355 221723 TO SPEAK TO WRAPAROUND STAFF.**



Saint Mary's
Catholic
Voluntary
Academy, New
Mills.

Wrap Around Club

Our wraparound club includes lots of enrichment activities including gardening, sports, free play and homework support.



Arts and crafts



Lego and games



Sports and Fitness



Breakfast club runs Monday to Friday from 7.30am and includes cereal, toast and a drink. £4.00 per day

After school club runs Monday to Thursday (not Fridays) to 5.30pm and includes snacks, such as wraps, cheese and crackers, yogurts and a drink. £8.00 per day

**BOOK VIA
PARENTPAY FOR
THE SESSIONS
YOU NEED**



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



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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI-GENERATED VIDEOS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AI-generated videos are increasingly difficult to spot and easy to share. From fake news clips to deepfake abuse, children and young people face new risks every day online. These videos can imitate real people, spread false narratives or even generate harmful content from scratch. Understanding these dangers is crucial for schools and families who want to protect children in a fast-evolving digital world.

DEEPPAKE ABUSE CONTENT



Shockingly, artificial intelligence is now being exploited to create child sexual abuse material (CSAM). These synthetic images and videos are a form of digital abuse, often generated by manipulating real children's photos, including ones shared innocently online. Worryingly, the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has identified a sharp rise in this disturbing trend. Whether real or AI-generated, this content causes lasting trauma – and its creation or possession remains a criminal offence under UK law.

BLURRED REALITY



Regular exposure to fake content can erode a child's trust in real-world evidence. If everything can be faked, they may begin to question genuine videos – including actual abuse or injustice. This is known as the 'liar's dividend', where real harm is dismissed as fake news. It can discourage victims from coming forward or speaking up.

USED FOR BULLYING



Deepfake technology is already being used by peers to create embarrassing or explicit clips of classmates. These videos can be edited to appear as though a child said or did something they never did. Once shared, they are almost impossible to delete completely. AI-generated bullying adds a new layer of harm that is deeply personal and difficult to prove.

EMOTIONAL MANIPULATION



AI-generated videos can be used to provoke strong emotions, including fear, anger or guilt. False footage of crying children, injured animals or burning buildings may be created purely for clicks, donations or political influence. Children may feel upset or powerless, unaware that what they are watching has been digitally invented to manipulate their reaction.

DISINFORMATION



AI-generated videos can spread fake news, making it harder for children to separate fact from fiction. False clips may include deepfake interviews, hoax disasters or fabricated health claims. AI is already being used to produce misleading or persuasive material that appears authentic. If they don't develop media literacy, children may accept false content as truth.

IMPERSONATION AND SCAMS



With just a few photos or voice clips, AI tools can imitate someone's appearance or speech. This makes it easier for scammers or bullies to create fake videos of children, teachers or celebrities. These impersonations can be used for fraud, harassment or humiliation – and can spread quickly through social media or group chats, due to the viral potential of video, in particular, on social media.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH HOW IT WORKS

Explain to children that videos can be faked – and show them how. Demonstrating side-by-side examples of real vs AI-generated clips helps to build awareness. Discuss how faces, voices and even movements can be copied by machines. Understanding the technology reduces fear and builds confidence in navigating digital content safely.



TALK ABOUT TRUST

Always keep lines of communication open. If a child sees something upsetting or unbelievable, they should feel safe discussing it without judgement. Create an environment where they know they will not get in trouble for asking questions. This also helps you step in quickly if harmful content has been shared; trust is vital and needs to be nurtured.



ENCOURAGE CRITICAL QUESTIONS

Help children question what they watch. Who made this? Why was it made? Is it trying to persuade me? These habits encourage digital thinking, especially when videos seem too shocking or convenient. Reinforce that not everything shared by friends or influencers is true, even if it looks convincing at first, and that the initial approach should always be one of speculation.



STRENGTHEN PRIVACY SETTINGS

Advise children not to share voice notes, selfies or personal videos on public platforms. AI tools often scrape content from social media to create deepfakes. Use privacy controls to limit who can see their content and turn off facial recognition where possible. Fewer public images means fewer opportunities for misuse.



Meet Our Expert

Brandan O'Keefe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

SCHOOL NOTICES

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Star of the week this week was awarded
to someone who knows how to be inclusive.

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.

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 –
'is all sound music?'

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS 95% 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](#) 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!



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-OUTxOe7hZUMU4ISQJKQU5ZNU9XNfZSRUxTUDZVMOE2UC4u>



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

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

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

SAFEGUARDING

If you have any concerns about a child or something else, please contact one of St Mary's designated leads for Safeguarding on safeguarding@nmm.srscmat.co.uk, who are:

Mrs Chapman – Headteacher and Senior Safeguarding lead

Mrs Mallabar – Designated Safeguarding Lead, Class Teacher and Mental Health Ambassador

Mrs Laura Chapman SENCO and class teacher – Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr Matthew Pearson – Designated Safeguarding Lead, Class Teacher

Mrs Amy Hodgson – Designated Safeguarding Lead, Class Teacher

As a school, we are always here to support you and your family. If your family circumstances have changed, for example a loss of a loved one, a separation or even a house move, please do let us know. Changes like these will impact children and it would really help if we knew about your changing circumstances to help us best support you all.



SAFEGUARDING ONLINE

It is really important to think about keeping our children safe online. Please do set parental controls on your children's devices so that you can control what they see and how long they can use their devices for. It is also vital to talk to your children about why you are doing this and let them know that they can talk to you if they see something inappropriate or upsetting.

The NSPCC have some fantastic resources which are free to access, explaining how to keep children safe online and how to set parental controls – <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/#guides>

They also have guides about social media platforms and how to help children stay safe when using them. As a reminder, **no primary school age pupils should be accessing social media at all. Primary aged children aren't able to understand the consequences of decisions made when using social media, they are at risk because of WHAT THEY MIGHT SEE, WHO THEY MIGHT SPEAK TO and HOW THEY MIGHT BEHAVE. Please help to keep all of our children safe by ensuring that none of our children are using social media.**

Please also be alert to children watching films or playing games which are not appropriate for their age and stage. Always follow the age guidance and be mindful of young children watching upsetting or violent films or playing games not meant for their age, This can be very distressing and can cause long term harm.

SCHOOL CHROMEBOOKS – AS A REMINDER, THE SCHOOL CHROMEBOOKS THAT CLASS THREE AND FOUR CHILDREN HAVE ARE ONLY TO BE USED FOR LEARNING. IN SCHOOL, THE CHROMEBOOKS ARE FILTERED TO ENSURE THAT NO INAPPROPRIATE SITES CAN BE ACCESSED BUT ONCE THE DEVICE IS TAKEN HOME, WE DO NOT HAVE CONTROL OF WHAT IS VIEWED AS THIS IS LINKED TO YOUR HOME WI-FI CONTROLS. CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE ACCESSING SITES SUCH AS TIKTOK, YOUTUBE, FACEBOOK ETC. ON THESE DEVICES. CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE LEFT UNSUPERVISED ON THEIR CHROMEBOOKS. IF WE FIND THAT CHILDREN ARE NOT USING THEM PROPERLY, WE WILL REMOVE THE DEVICES FOR HOME USE.



COMMUNITY NEWS



KIDS ART WORKSHOP
 RECOMMENDED AGE 5-13
 CHINESE NEW YEAR!
FEBRUARY 16,17,18
9-3PM
 THORNSETT BANDROOM
 £30 PER CHILD PER DAY
 Facebook- paintbox highpeak
 paintboxhighpeak@gmail.com



February Holiday Camps

ST ANDREWS MULTI SPORT
 Our Glossop Holiday Camp is for ages 4-14 and runs Monday-Friday, 16-20 February, 9:00am-3:30pm, at St Andrew's Primary School, Hoadfield, Glossop, offering fun, active sessions for all abilities.

ST ANNES MULTI-SPORT
 Buxton Multi-Sport Holiday Camp runs Monday-Friday, 16-20 February, 9:00am-3:30pm at St Anne's Primary School, Buxton for children aged 4-14.

GLOSSOP JUNIORS FOOTBALL ONLY
 DATES- 18TH-20TH FEB
 TIMES 10-3PM
 DAYS WED-FRI
 VENUE- SPORTS GROUND, CEMETERY ROAD, GLOSSOP, SK13 7QQ
 Our Glossop Football Holiday Camp offers fun, engaging sessions that build skills, confidence, and a love of the game for children of all abilities.

PAS
 PEAK ACTIVE SPORTS

Our fun, active, and engaging camps are perfect for children of all ages and abilities. With a mix of sports, games, and outdoor activities, your child will stay active, make new friends, and have an unforgettable week!



PRICE
 MULTISPORT - £20 PER DAY
 £12.50 HALF DAY
 FOOTBALL CAMP £15 PER DAY
 £10 HALF DAY

PAS SCAN



New Mills Juniors WILDCATS sessions

We are recruiting for training

Every Saturday
 9am to 10am
 Ollersett Playing Fields

Have Fun!

Email our secretary for more info

secretary@nmjfc.co.uk

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/arttheatreantomime
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 20TH 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
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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**



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