



6TH MARCH 2026

FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

A warm welcome to this week's newsletter. What a wonderful fun filled week of drums and reading for pleasure!

Thank you to our amazing PTA who funded our Druhm session on Tuesday, Please see the fantastic photographs.

World Book Day was a wonderful success. Pupils loved wearing their masks and completing a range of fun and engaging activities for World Book Day. Class 2 and 3 also had the opportunity to go to the local library to read for pleasure. We'll be posting the masks on ClassDojo soon, please bear with us as we compile them.

Class 1 and 2 had the opportunity to draw with Tom Percival whilst class 4 read with their special friends in reception.

Also on Thursday, Father Greg popped in to see all the children and staff. Jon Pearce, our local MP, joined us and was interviewed by all our class 3 and 4 pupils. They certainly put him through his paces!

We have been made aware that there is a social media trend at the moment called Red School/Blue School, where children are encouraged to behave aggressively towards pupils from a 'rival' school. Please do be aware of what children are viewing online and, as a reminder, no primary school aged pupil should have access to social media, including WhatsApp, at all. Thank you for helping us to keep our children safe.

Next week, we look forward to the clubbercise event for class 1 pupils (glowsticks at the ready!), the PTA's Wonderful Women sale (see the poster below) and our station of the cross on Thursday which all parents and carers are invited to. We also have our fantastic grandparents day on Friday. Please do pass this on to the children's grandparents or special older relatives or family friends. We would love to see them! Please see ClassDojo or the dates to note section below for more information.

Have a lovely weekend everyone,

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/3U0sidi>**





THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATION OF THE WORD



Mary's Missionaries delivered the whole school worship this week on prayer and the CST link was Rights and Responsibilities. The mission was to tell others about this worship.

2nd Week of Lent

Year A

Word of the Week

Fasting

First Reading:
Genesis 12:1-4

Gospel Reading:
Matthew 17:1-9

Theme:

Fasting is a way of showing self-discipline and of focusing on our relationship with God. Fasting can also be a way of expressing solidarity with those who are less fortunate. Fasting is an important part of Lent, as it allows us to follow the example of Jesus in the desert, and to grow in our compassion for others.

Mission:

What can you go without this Lent? Think of something that you can give up to leave more time and space for what's important.

Hebrew Bible:
Exodus 34: 25-28

New Testament:
Matthew 6:16-18

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2026 - YEAR A - 2ND WEEK IN LENT



Fasting

Virtue Link: Temperance
CST Link: Dignity of the Worker
Mission: What can you go without this Lent? Think of something that you can give up to leave more time and space for what's important.

When we fast, we give something up. This could be our favourite food or a type of drink which we really enjoy. Fasting is good for us; it helps us to grow as human beings. By doing without something which we love, it helps us to appreciate all of the good things which we have in our lives as well as empathising with those who aren't as fortunate as ourselves.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	5TH	6TH	7TH
2ND SUNDAY IN LENT 	Monday of Lent Week 2 <i>Commemoration of St Cyril of Jerusalem</i>	Tuesday of Lent Week 2	Monday of Lent Week 2 <i>Commemoration of St Casimir</i>	Thursday of Lent Week 2	Friday of Lent Week 2	Saturday of Lent Week 2 <i>Commemoration of Ss Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs</i>

Parent and carers consultation sessions

The parents/carers consultations will take place on Monday 23rd March (1.30pm – 5.40pm) and Tuesday 24th March (1.30pm – 6.00pm, class 2's is a little shorter 3.10pm – 6.00pm). Please click on the links below to book an appointment with your child's class teacher. There is one link per class, and you must book one timeslot per child.

Please book a preferred timeslot using the forms here, we will then allocate a ten-minute slot as close to that timeslot as possible for you. Your allocated timeslot will be e-mailed to you in due course (this won't happen straight away so please be patient). The appointments are ten minutes long – if you feel you need longer to speak to your child's teacher, please contact the school office on joxley@nmm.srscmat.co.uk to arrange this.

All appointments are in-person appointments taking place in the school hall. If you are not able to attend an in-person appointment, please let the school office know so that a phone appointment can be arranged.

Appointments are allocated on a first come, first served basis. We will do as much as we can to allocate a ten-minute appointment within the slot you have requested but this may not always be possible.

Class one – Parents/Carers consultations – Class one March 2026 – Fill out form

Class two – Parents/Carers consultations – Class two March 2026 – Fill out form

Class three – Parents/Carers consultations – Class three March 2026 – Fill out form

Class four – Parents/Carers consultations – Class four March 2026 – Fill out form

OUR SCHOOL WEEK – DRUHM WORKSHOP









OUR SCHOOL WEEK – VISIT FROM JON PEARCE, MP

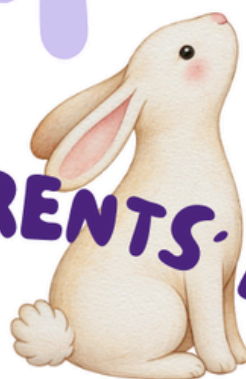


OUR SCHOOL WEEK – THE NEST



**We visited
the park,
looked at
team
building and
dens for the
teddy bears,**





GRANDPARENTS' DAY

We are very excited to invite you to our next grandparents' day on Friday 13th March, 2.00pm to 2.30pm for key stage 1 (classes 1 and 2) and 2.30pm to 3.00pm for key stage 2 (classes 3 and 4)



WE WOULD LOVE FOR THE CHILDREN'S GRANDPARENTS (OR OTHER SPECIAL OLDER RELATIVE OR FAMILY FRIEND) TO JOIN US FOR A LOVELY AFTERNOON OF EASTER CREATIVE CRAFTS. CHILDREN CAN LEAVE AFTER THEIR CRAFT SESSION WITH PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION.



WE REALLY HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US AND MAKE THIS A MEMORABLE AFTERNOON!



A decorative border of pink flowers and green leaves surrounds the text. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing brown centers. The leaves are simple green shapes.

Wonderful Women Gift Sale

With Mother's Day on the
Horizon, we want to
celebrate ALL the Wonderful
Women in our lives.

The sale will take place at
school after registration on

11th March 2026

**Each Child who wishes to
take part should bring in £2
to purchase the item they
choose.**

Information for parents/carers of year six pupils

Here are some important dates for parents and children who are attending **Chapel High School** in Sept 2026.

Possibly, most importantly, the dates for Induction day and evening this year are as follows:

Induction day – Tuesday 7th July 2026.

Induction evening – Thursday 9th July 2026.

In addition, Chapel High School are running the transition club on the following Thursday evenings from 4pm until 5pm:

11th June 26

18th June 26

25th June 26

2nd July 26

Thursday 9th July 2026, has been reserved as an additional after school session for any students we feel would benefit. Details will be sent to parents closer to the time.



Here are some important dates for parents and children who are attending **St Thomas More** in Sept 2026.

Calendar dates*

18/06/26 – STM Enhanced transition day 1 (1:30 – 3pm) for some students – SEND/pastoral related related**

25/06/26 – STM Meeting my new friends workshop (1:30 – 3pm) for students arriving from current primary setting alone or in a small group

25/06/26 – STM Enhanced transition day 2 (1:30 – 3pm) for some students – SEND/pastoral related related**

02/07/26 – STM Full transition day for ALL (details will be sent to parents)

03/07/26 – STM Full transition day for ALL (details will be sent to parents)

08/07/26 – STM Year 6 Parents Evening (details will be sent to parents)

08/07/26 – STM Enhanced transition day 3 (1:30 – 3pm) for some students – SEND/pastoral related related**

* Students and families must make their own travel arrangements to all transition events.

** Limited places – to be applied for by Year 6 teacher/SENCO.



Here are some important dates for parents and children who are attending **New Mills High School** in Sept 2026.

Tuesday 2nd June – Year 6 Parent/Carer Voluntary Drop-In

3.30pm–6.00pm

An opportunity for families to meet a member of the transition team and share any important information about their child.

Thursday 4th June – Year 6 Induction Session 1

4.00pm–5.00pm

A chance for students to visit school, meet key staff, and familiarise themselves with the school environment.

Tuesday 9th June – Year 6 Parent/Carer Voluntary Drop-In

3.30pm–6.00pm

Another opportunity for families to speak with a member of the transition team.

Thursday 11th June – Year 6 Induction Session 2

4.00pm–5.00pm

A further opportunity for students to meet staff and get to know the school.

Monday 22nd June – Year 6 Parent/Carer Welcome Evening

6.00pm–7.30pm

Thursday 2nd July – Year 6 Taster Day 1

Friday 3rd July – Year 6 Taster Day 2



PARISH NEWS



CHILDREN'S LITURGY DATES 2026

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.**



The background of the poster is decorated with numerous gold, five-pointed stars of various sizes. Some are large and prominent, while others are small and scattered. The stars are set against a background that transitions from pink on the left to yellow on the right.

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?

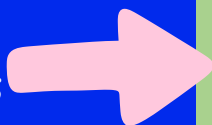
- A child who does not attend school regularly will be unlikely to keep up with the work.
- The more a child misses school, the lower their grades; the lower their grades, the less they want to stay at school. The only way to break this cycle is regular, high levels of attendance.

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.

Wednesday 11 th March	For mother's day. PTA's wonderful women gift sale – children can buy a small gift for their mum for £2.00 on this day.
Wednesday 11 th March	Clubbercise and dance session for class one
Thursday 12 th March	Stations of the Cross – invite for families All parents and carers are invited into school on Thursday 12th March from 9.15am to 10.45am. The children in each class, starting in class one and moving up the classrooms, will be re-enacting the Stations of the Cross. Please do come to join the children if you can.
Thursday 12 th March	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.
Friday 13 th March	Grandparents day
Tuesday 17 th March	The National Child Measurement Programme are visiting school on this day to do the reception and year 6 height and weight checks. They have sent an email or letter to you in the post, please check your junk folders and post. If you have not received it, please contact llbd.ncmp@derbyshire.gov.uk to let them know that you have not received an email or letter. Include your child's name, school, and date of birth. Alternatively, you can call them on 0800 085 2299 (option 2)
Friday 20 th March	Peter Webb – geologist. Talk to class 3 and class 4. No star of the week assembly.
Friday 27 th March	On Friday 27th March, we will be having an Easter service in school from 2.00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.
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
Thursday 21 st May	Parents and carers meeting for Lea Green residential visit 2026 3:20 PM – 4:00 PM The meeting for parents and carers of year 6 children attending the residential visit to Lea Green. We will discuss the activities and other arrangements but as always if you have any questions in the meantime please don't hesitate to contact us.
Monday 25 th May to Friday 29 th May	Half term holidays

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 VIOLENT CONTENT ONLINE

Around 70% of teenagers say they've seen real-life violence on social media in the past year – often from as young as primary school age. Just 6% actively seek it out; most encounter it through group chats or social media algorithms. From fights and pranks to hate speech and graphic media, exposure to violent content online is more widespread – and more harmful – than many adults realise.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MENTAL HEALTH AND TRAUMA

Children and young people report feelings of anxiety, guilt, shame or fear after seeing violent content. For some, these effects may be short term, but for those with existing vulnerabilities or past trauma, the impact can be more severe. Many also feel pressured to 'laugh off' violent content to fit in with friends, even when they find it distressing.

BEHAVIOUR CHANGES

Exposure to online violence can lead to fear and avoidance behaviours – such as skipping school or staying indoors. When children see weapons used in videos, it can heighten their perception that the world is unsafe and, in rare cases, increase the likelihood they'll consider carrying a weapon themselves, such as a knife for protection.

ESCALATION AND PARTICIPATION

Violent videos often go viral quickly. What begins as an online argument can spill into real-world fights – which are sometimes filmed and shared to gain views or status. Some children even admit to sharing or creating violent content themselves to gain attention or boost their reputation.

DESENSITISATION

Older teens may become numb to violent content after years of exposure, admitting they're unlikely to report it. Younger children also tend not to report it – usually because they don't believe anything will be done or because they're afraid of being labelled a 'snitch' by their peers.

HARMFUL IDEOLOGIES

Violent content online may overlap with racist, misogynistic or otherwise extremist ideas. These messages can dehumanise others or glorify violence as a way to gain power, popularity or notoriety. Over time, this can normalise dangerous behaviours and attitudes among impressionable viewers.

DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT

Not all children are affected equally. Those who are excluded from school, marginalised, disabled or neurodivergent are often more vulnerable to the effects of online violence. It's essential to consider wider context – including home life and access to safe spaces – when thinking about potential harm.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CREATE SUPPORTIVE SPACES

Many children feel adults are too busy or won't understand their experiences online. Take time to build trust through non-judgemental conversations about what they're seeing. If they don't want to speak to you directly, gently signpost towards trusted services they can turn to for support.

KNOW WHAT'S ILLEGAL

Some violent content is simply upsetting, while other examples may be criminal or a safeguarding matter that needs reporting. Help children understand the difference by staying informed about online laws and social media reporting procedures. A useful resource is reportharmfulcontent.com.

AVOID HARSH RESTRICTIONS

Fear of punishment is a major reason young people stay silent about violent content. Try not to overreact or threaten to take away devices. Instead, reassure children that they can speak openly and that asking for help won't get them into trouble.

UNDERSTAND TECH AND TRAUMA

Older children may already know how to block accounts or avoid triggering content. Help younger or more vulnerable children learn these tools and encourage habits that reduce exposure. Just as importantly, teach techniques that help them process distress – building resilience and emotional literacy for both online and offline life.

Meet Our Expert

Dr. Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading UK expert in digital safety, media law, and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal, and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit onlinemedialawuk.com for more.



The National College®

SCHOOL NOTICES



Star of the week this week was awarded
to someone who knows how to look after
themselves

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 something boring because of
it or because of you?'



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS 95.5% THIS WEEK!

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION-FUNDED

HOLIDAY CLUBS IN DERBYSHIRE

it's about me

Derbyshire's Holiday Activity and Food Programme

2026

MORE INFORMATION

Did you know that, as well as free school meals during term time, your child can also access funded spaces at holiday clubs?

Through the Department for Education's Holiday Activity and Food Programme, known in Derbyshire as It's About Me, children can attend local holiday clubs packed with fun activities, learning opportunities and healthy meals—all at no cost to you.

If your child is aged 4–16 and eligible for benefits-related free school meals, they're entitled to funded places at It's About Me holiday clubs.*

Our clubs offer a wide variety of activities, including sports, arts and crafts, cooking, dance, music, and more—so there's something to suit everyone! Each session also includes a nutritious meal to keep children happy, healthy and energised throughout the day.

Every club runs its own unique programme depending on its location, meaning there's always something new to discover.

Not eligible? Many clubs also offer paid places, so every child can still get involved and enjoy the fun.

IMPORTANT DATES

SPRING

Bookings open: 9th March 2026

Holiday clubs open: 30th March 2026 - 10th April 2026

SUMMER

Bookings open: 29th June 2026

Holiday clubs open: 23rd July 2026 - 4th September 2026

WINTER

Bookings open: 30th November 2026

Holiday clubs open: 21st December 2026 - 31st December 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

3

Follow our handy How to Book Guide

4

Subscribe to the It's About Me Newsletter



*See website for full eligibility criteria.



MORE INFORMATION:
itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk



EASTER FAMFEST

NEW MILLS

MARCH 30TH 31ST APRIL 1ST 2ND

11AM-3PM

Fun holiday programme delivered
by Youth Matters New Mills

**LUNCH AND SNACKS
INCLUDED**



NEW MILLS YOUTH CENTRE,
LONGLANDS ROAD, NEW MILLS
SK22 3BZ

Indoor & outdoor games
Multi Sports
Arts and crafts
Quiet Area
And more

**FREE HOLIDAY CLUB FOR CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS
4-16 YEARS**

**LIMITED PAID PLACES AVAILABLE FOR £5 PER DAY TO BOOK THESE PLEASE
CONTACT US DIRECTLY**

To book go to www.itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk
For more details please call us on 01663743487

**TO ENQUIRE PLEASE CALL NEW MILLS LEISURE CENTRE ON 01663 748842
QUOTING "FUNDED SWIMMING LESSONS"**

FUNDED SWIMMING LESSONS

**NON
SWIMMERS
6+**



**NEW MILLS LEISURE CENTRE
WEDNESDAYS 4:45PM
SATURDAYS 10:45AM**

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.

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”.



YES



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

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

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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, 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.



Knife crime – We know it can be tricky to start the conversation about knife crime with your children or any young people you're close to, but it can be vital to do so. Please see this information from Derbyshire Police about knife crime and what we can all do to help prevent it –

[https://www.derbyshire.police.uk/police-forces/derbyshire-constabulary/areas/derbyshire-force-](https://www.derbyshire.police.uk/police-forces/derbyshire-constabulary/areas/derbyshire-force-content/campaigns/campaigns/2023/knife-crime/for-parents/)

[content/campaigns/campaigns/2023/knife-crime/for-parents/](https://www.derbyshire.police.uk/police-forces/derbyshire-constabulary/areas/derbyshire-force-content/campaigns/campaigns/2023/knife-crime/for-parents/)

We are hoping to have a visit in the coming months from our PCSO to talk to our older children about the dangers of carrying knives.

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.



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