16TH OCTOBER 2026

FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Welcome to this week's newsletter. Another busy week filled with an array of activities. On Wednesday, we had our whole school mission day based on Creation. The children learned about how unique they all are.

Some pupils from key stage one took part in a gymnastics festival at New Mills Leisure Centre. They had lots of fun learning new skills. We hope you enjoyed the photos on ClassDojo.

On Thursday morning we had our first fire drill. Well done to all the pupils who left the building quickly and quietly for register. In the afternoon our year five pupils attended a science taster day at New Mills High School, whilst our year six pupils met with their reception special friends. Year three continued with their Djembe drum lessons and year six started their ukulele lessons.

Thank you so much for booking appointment times for the parents and carers consultation sessions which take place next week, on Tuesday and Wednesday.

We have had a wonderful response to our parent and carer questionnaire. Thank you so much for your feedback. During parents and carers consultation there will be a QR code on display asking one question; 'Why would you recommend St. Mary's?'
If you could reply to this question during your visit that would be wonderful.

This Friday Mr Pearson led Star of the Week assembly on making good choices and the subject focus was science.

Next week just a reminder there is no swimming session for class 4 on Monday, parents and carers consultations on Tuesday and Wednesday, school photos on Wednesday morning (siblings from 8.30am) and our PTA disco on Thursday. On Friday, we are all looking for ward to grandparents day. We would love to see as many people as possible then!

Some dates to note as we lead up to Christmas; the parish Christmas fair is on the 21st November from 10.00am to 1.00pm. We would love to see as many as possible for carol singing at 11.20am. Family Mass is on the 29th November at 9.30am, everyone is welcome.
New Mills lights switch on the 5th December. We will be singing at the Town Hall, more information to follow on this but we'd love for you to join us. Our Christmas performance dates are the 8th and 9th December. Please do check ClassDojo and the dates to note section below for more details.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Mrs Chapman.

A plea for help!!

Our wonderful PTA have organised and paid for a new wooden roundhouse/outdoor classroom to be built in our forest school area, which will be a huge benefit to all of the children. To prepare for the build, we need to clear the area where the roundhouse will go.

We are asking if anyone can spare a few hours on Sunday 25th October at 2.00pm to help us and the PTA to dig out some tree stems, cut back brambles, move rubble away from the area, take cuttings to the tip and so on.

We would be so grateful for any time you can spare, many hands make light work! (it won't be light work but you know what I mean).

Please do let me know if you can join us - joxley@nmm.srscmat.co.uk

🌳🌱🛖



Open Days

St Ralph Sherwin
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

Saint Mary's

Catholic Voluntary Academy



We are a friendly community that aims to give every child the best possible start to their school lives.

- **Rated GOOD by Ofsted**
- **Graded OUTSTANDING in all areas in our latest Catholic Schools Inspection**

Scan the QR code to visit our website

Longlands Road, New Mills, SK22 3BL

For Reception Class 2027

Saturday, October 10th

10am - 11.30am

Wednesday,11th November

9.30am - 10.30am

Thursday, 12th November

1.30pm - 2.30pm

01663 742412

info@nmm.srscmat.co.uk

Some amazing news from our wonderful PTA!!!

We're delighted to announce that the PTA has funded an

Outdoor Classroom!

This will be enjoyed by the whole school, and we can't wait to see it take shape! Building starts in October – we're so excited to see the finished result! 🎉






PTA
presents
END OF TERM
DISCO
Thursday 22nd October 2026
KS1
3.15pm to 4.15pm
KS2
4.15pm to 5.15pm
St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy,
Longlands Road, New Mills, SK22 3BL
£2

CLUBS AT SAINT MARY'S

Monday – Mr Pearson's chess club for years 5 and 6 – lunchtime

Tuesday – Mrs L Chapman's Minnie Vinnie's club for years 3 and 4 – lunchtime

Thursday – Mrs Mallabar's board games club for years 1 and 2 – lunchtime

Thursday – Miss Baythorpe's lacrosse club for years 5 and 6 – after school

Friday – Mrs Hodgson's Lego club for years 1 and 2 – lunchtime

Friday – Paintbox art club (private provider) after school

Friday – Musical theatre (private provider) after school

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are delighted to offer you the opportunity for your child to join Paintbox After School Art Club! The club will run after school on Friday's 3.20-4.20pm. The club is open to all year groups.

Sessions will run this half term for 6 weeks from Friday 6th November – Friday 11th December
Our theme for the term is "Celebrations", where we'll be creating a number of projects inspired by different celebrations from around the world

Throughout the term, the children will have the opportunity to experiment with a wide range of materials and techniques while learning about some of history's most famous artists!

Places are limited to 20 children and will be offered on a first come first served basis.

https://paintboxhighpeak.classforkids.io/info/51

Please follow the above link to complete your booking.

If you have any questions, please get in touch!

We look forward to welcoming your child on this exciting artistic journey!

Many Thanks

Rachel

Paintbox

hello@paintboxartclubs.co.uk

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

GRANDPARENTS' DAY

We are very excited to invite you to our grandparents' day on Friday 23rd October, 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 CREATIVE CRAFTS. CHILDREN CAN LEAVE AFTER THEIR CRAFT SESSION WITH PARENT/CARER PERMISSION.

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





OUR SCHOOL WEEK – KEY STAGE ONE GYMNASTICS























OUR SCHOOL WEEK – CLASS 3 ASSEMBLY





OUR SCHOOL WEEK – WHAT MAKES ME UNIQUE?


Who I am
I am very kind and I like to help
I love playing with my friends
I love my family
I love my mum
I love my dad
I love my sister
I love my brother
I love Mrs Nolan
I love Mrs Nolan
I love my teacher
I love my teacher
I love my teacher

OUR SCHOOL WEEK – FUN IN SCNENCE DAY AT NEW MILLS HIGH SCHOOL





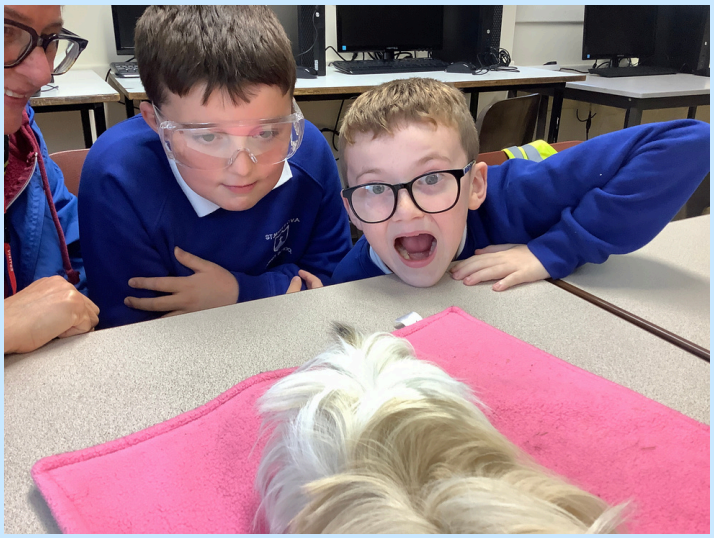




















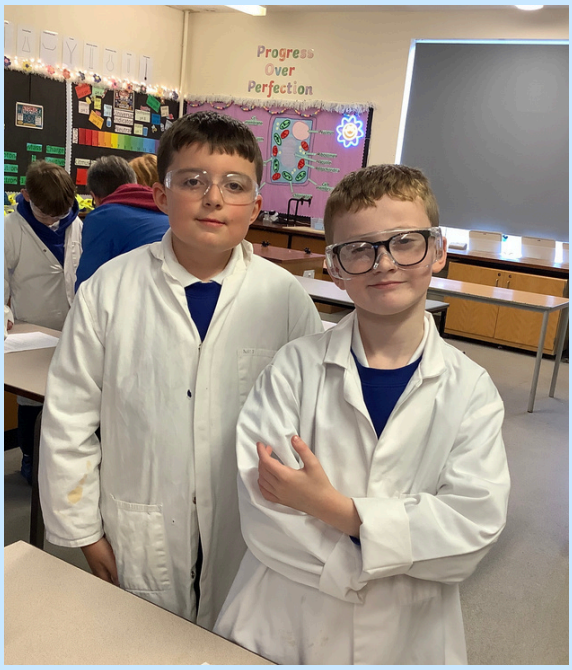











Progress
Over
Perfection






Water






Water







CHILDREN'S LITURGY DATES 2026

SEPTEMBER
13TH
20TH
27TH

OCTOBER
4TH
11TH
18TH

NOVEMBER
8TH
15TH
22
29TH

DECEMBER
6TH
13TH

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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 be 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.

Attendance really matters at Saint Mary's	100%	96%	94%	92%
	0 days of lost learning	8 days of lost learning	11 days of lost learning	15 days of lost learning
				
	Very best chance of success	Off to a flying start	Less chance of success	Persistent absence, much harder to make progress

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. Please note that dates and times may change due to circumstances beyond our control.

Wednesday 11th November 9.30am–10.30am Thursday 12th November 1.30pm–2.30pm	Our open days for parents and carers of children who will be starting school in September 2027 are: Wednesday 11th November 9.30am–10.30am Thursday 12th November 1.30pm–2.30pm Please do pass this on to anyone you know who has a child this age! Everyone is very welcome. We would love to see you then!
Tuesday 20th October and Wednesday 21st October	The parents and carers consultation sessions will take place on Tuesday 20th October and Wednesday 21st October.
Wednesday 21st October	School photographer – individual and sibling photos The school photographer will be in school on this day. We will arrange any sibling photos within school but if you have younger siblings not yet in school and would like a photo done, please bring them at 8.30am.
Thursday 22nd October	PTA end of term disco – Thursday 22nd October KS1 3.15pm–4.15pm, KS2 4.15pm–5.15pm £2.00 per ticket
Friday 23rd October	Grandparents day. We are very excited to invite you to our grandparents' day on Friday 23rd October, 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 creative crafts. children can leave after their craft session with parent/carer permission.
Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October	Half term holidays
Wednesday 18th November	Everyone is welcome to class 2's assembly (Liturgy) which takes place on Wednesday 18th November at 9.10am
Thursday 19th November	Class 4 trip to Quarry Bank Mill
Friday 20th November	PTA colours of Christmas – non uniform day
Wednesday 2nd December	Everyone is welcome to class 1's assembly (Liturgy) which takes place on Wednesday 2nd December at 9.10am
Tuesday 8th December	Key stage one Christmas productions: 9.30am–10.30am –dress rehearsal (all welcome) 6.00pm–7.00pm – evening performance (all welcome)
Wednesday 9th December	Key stage two Christmas productions: 9.30am–10.30am –dress rehearsal (all welcome) 6.00pm–7.00pm – evening performance (all welcome)
Wednesday 9th December	Christmas dinner day
Thursday 17th December	Advent service in school, 2.00pm, all welcome

ABSENCES DURING TERM TIME

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

Support first

The importance of regular attendance at school cannot be stressed enough. All schools and LAs are expected to promote school attendance and provide support to remove barriers where a pupil is struggling to attend school. This may mean that the school raises the issue of attendance even if your child has only had a couple of days off ill. This is not because they don't believe you. By working with you, schools can step in early to help to prevent patterns of absence developing. Schools may identify other underlying issues that are making your child reluctant to attend school and be able to help you and your child.
For this to be successful parents need to work with the school. Where it can be demonstrated that a parent/carer is not fulfilling their parental responsibility to ensure that their child receives a suitable full-time education then the school can consider requesting that the LA take further action. This can be in the form of a penalty notice, prosecution, or the school may suggest other formal interventions.

National Framework for penalty notices

To provide consistency, the Government have introduced a new national framework for when schools and LAs believe that they have exhausted all offers of support and the parent/carer is not engaging with the attempt to improve their child's attendance at school.
The threshold for when a school should consider next steps is 10 sessions (5 school days) of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks. A school week means any week in which there is at least one school session. This can be made up of any form of unauthorised absence including late after close (attendance code U) of register and odd days of unauthorised absence (attendance code O) which add up to 5 days within a 10-week period.
At this point the school will consider if it is likely that the attendance will improve with further support. They may then decide to refer the case to the LA for formal monitoring. This may proceed to legal action if the attendance does not improve.
Education Penalty Notices are issued to parents of statutory school age children. They can be issued to each parent or carer who is deemed liable for the child's absence from school. The new costs and process is outlined below:

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

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

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

Term time holidays

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

New registration codes

You might find that your child's attendance report looks slightly different this 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

As a reminder, in September 2013 the government introduced new regulations making it clear that Headteachers must not give approval for any leave of absence during term time, including holidays, unless there are exceptional circumstances.
Any requests for term time leave should be made on a 'Leave of Absence' form available from the school office and handed in ten school days before the first date of the requested absence whenever possible. You must have received written authorisation before your child can be absent from school.
Parent/carers may be issued with a penalty notice fine or prosecution should leave of 5 days or more be taken which is not authorised by the Headteacher, or where repeated incidents of leave in term time for less than 5 days occur or where the unauthorised absence contributes to wider poor attendance that meets the legal threshold. Absence deemed for the reason of unauthorised leave in term time will be marked in the register with the Attendance code G.
You may be issued with a Penalty Notice should leave be taken which is not authorised. If unpaid this could lead to prosecution under section 444(1) of The Education Act 1996.

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!

SCHOOL NOTICES

Star of the week this week was awarded to those pupils who make healthy choices.

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



You can check your child's attendance percentage on Arbor! This is updated daily. Please let the school office know if you need any help with this.

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

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 –
'if I asked you if I could steal your pen and you said yes, would I be stealing?'



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS 92.8% THIS WEEK!

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD





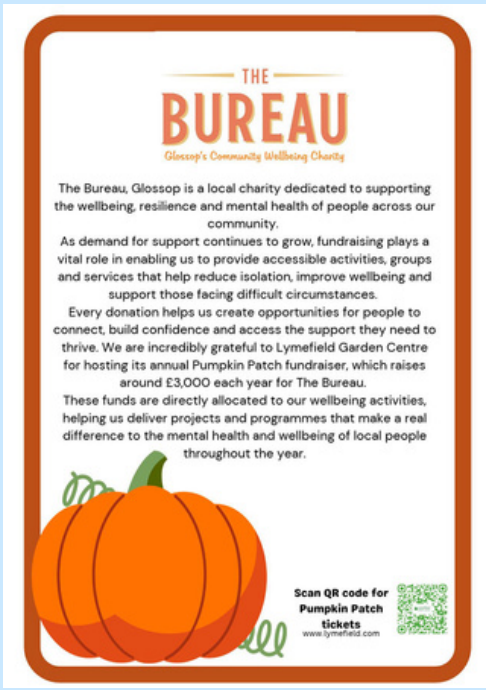














NEWS FROM YOUTH MATTERS













CALLING FOUNDATION GOVERNORS

Have you ever thought of becoming a foundation governor in one of our schools?

We are looking for people like you!



Catholic schools were founded by the Church to

- Assist in its mission of making Christ known to all people
- Assist parents, who are the primary educators of their children, in the education and religious formation of their children
- Be at the service of the local Church - the diocese, the parish and the Christian home
- Be 'a service to society'

Since September 2018, all maintained Catholic schools in the Diocese of Nottingham have become academies.

Each one belongs to one of three Catholic Multi-Academy Trusts (or CMATs).

The CMATs rely on local governors, attached to each of their academies, to support the designated school to thrive.

As practising Catholics, foundation governors help to ensure that the Catholic identity of the school is preserved, that the Bishop's vision for education is followed and that standards remain high.

samantha.buller@nottingham-des.org.uk

Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Education Service (NRCDES)
The Diocesan Centre
Mornington Crescent
Mackworth
Derby
DE22 4BD

01332 293833

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 Foregiveness

- 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".



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-OUTxOe7hZUMU4ISOJKQU5ZNU9XNFZSRUxTUDZVMOE2UC4u

There is lots of information available about children and young people's health, including the school nursing team, vaccinations and the national child measurement programme here - www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social-health/health-and-wellbeing/your-health/children-and-young-peoples-health/children-and-young-peoples-health.aspx

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
VIDEO: HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=EGI9PYGQJHM



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
Mrs Jodie Oxley – Designated Safeguarding Lead, Office Manager

Our new safeguarding policy (Sept. 26) can be found here – https://www.stmarysnewmills.srscmat.co.uk/information/school-policies/ under 'safeguarding'.
Please also see the link here – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1YvIfw7obwE

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 seperation 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-content/campaigns/campaigns/2023/knife-crime/for-parents/
We have a visit every year 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.



Please find here the link for Internet Matters which is useful in providing step-by-step instructions for increasing security settings for devices used online as well as providing lots of useful information to help ensure that children are only exposed to age-appropriate material online.

https://www.internetmatters.org/

Thank you for helping to keep our children safe.

EXTRA INFORMATION



SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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

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SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

18+

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