

New Mills Primary School  
Newsletter No. 5  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2022



**Dear Parents and Carers,**

This term has been full of great learning, exciting activities and the inevitable build up to Christmas. Year 6 children went to Liverpool to learn about the slave trade. It was a very informative day and, I believe, plans are under way to go again next year. We've had a multitude of sports events this term and the children have enjoyed representing their school. The Christmas events include: the Christmas Fair (huge thank you to everyone involved, it was wonderful to see such a great turnout), a Carol Service at St John's church for years 3 and 4, Polar Express day, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 productions, Carol singing for the pensioners at Swizzels and inside the Coop, a Carol Service for all parents at Mellor Road Church and, finally, the Santa Dash. The singing has been exceptional!

During the productions, it was noticed that the youngest children couldn't be seen by parents who were more than a few rows back. We are going to look at the price of a new stage – one that is possibly higher but definitely wider so that everyone can see the performers.

Being the Headteacher at New Mills Primary School comes with many privileges – the greatest being that I get to see children enjoying learning everywhere I go. The curriculum changed in September – our aim was to have an aspirational curriculum that inspires children and encourages them to take risks and, by doing so, to become more resilient. After a term, I can see that we're off to a good start!

It's been a wonderful term with many memorable highlights. From all the staff, I'd like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you get to spend quality time with your family and friends and get some peaceful moments.

Carol Taylor – Head teacher

**Polar Express**

The passion and commitment that went into making the Polar Express day the best it could be was incredible. I'm sure the children had a wonderful experience. They were greeted at the door by the conductors and train drivers and went on an epic adventure throughout the day. Well done, and thank you, to everyone involved!

**Meadow Street**

It's great news that the cars have gone from across the road – they were unsightly!  
We don't encourage anyone to park on meadow Street, it's simply not safe. Therefore, the next request shouldn't be necessary but if you do come onto Meadow Street for any reason then please don't leave your engine running. If you're late bringing your children to school, then you're already under a lot of stress and it must be very tempting to drive up the road to get them in quicker. Please just park where you normally would, those two minutes won't make any difference. Your support with this is always appreciated.

**Swimming Gala**

The swimming gala was very fun and intense. I would definitely go back and do it again. (Harry Y5)  
The swimming gala was very fun and a great experience. We had an exciting time and nearly won. We were two seconds off – how unlucky! (Oli C Y5)

**Smoking outside School**

Please refrain from smoking outside school, children should not be exposed to smoke inhalation and that includes e-cigs.

**Snow days**

If we make the decision to close the school for safety reasons, we will let you know on Class Dojo and on the website (even if it hasn't been switched over) and High Peak Radio. Regular updates will be given out too.

**Website**

We are in the process of changing the website, we'll let you know when it is up and running.

**School policy – Exceptional circumstances applications:**

(Amendment) Regulations 2013 came into force. These regulations make it clear that Headteachers should not grant approval for any leave of absence during term-time, including holidays, unless there are exceptional circumstances. These regulations also state that holidays cannot be authorised retrospectively.

Any requests should be on an official school absence request form and handed into the school office for consideration prior to any holiday/leave arrangements being made.

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.

**Class Dojo: IMPORTANT**

Since its introduction, Class Dojo has been very successful. **The next step is to move away from the texting service completely and use two communication platform: email and Class Dojo. We are hoping to complete this change in the next couple of months.** Please make sure you are signed up to Class dojo and have notifications allowed so that you receive regular messages. Emails will be sent if documents or other sensitive information needs to be shared. Please get in touch if you have any thoughts or comments about the changes to communication: [ctaylor@newmills-pri.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:ctaylor@newmills-pri.derbyshire.sch.uk) (or contact me on Dojo)

**Bench Ball**

The first match was against Hayfield, it was really close but we just lost. In the second match we just missed out as well. All in all, though, it was fun and we had a good time. (Leo Y3)

**Table Tennis**

It was really good being there. I played against one of my friends. (Rory Y5)  
Table tennis was a great experience for everyone who came. We played with Hayfield and other schools. (Maya Y5)

**What's New in January?**

Years 1, 2 and 3 will be doing the Woodland sessions again. Reception will have at least two Woodland sessions the staff will let you know when they are.

## PTA News

### **Clothing for recycling:**

The big, green clothing bank is on site, please use it for all your unwanted clothing items (not uniform), shoes, blankets, duvet covers etc. All must be clean! This is emptied on a monthly basis and all proceeds go towards supporting the school with trips.

We also recycle batteries and small printer cartridges in school & used stamps ☺

### **Dates for your Diary January 2023 onwards .... Something to look forward to:**

Monday 9 January	-	School reopens
Wednesday 18 January	-	Y5 & Y6 dodgeball
Wednesday 1 February	-	Y3 & Y4 dodgeball
Wednesday 15 February	-	Dance festival
Friday 17 February	-	School finishes for half term
Tuesday 28 March	-	Y3/Y4 production Y3 parents PM
Wednesday 29 March	-	Y3/Y4 production Y4 parents PM
Friday 31 March	-	School finishes for Easter holidays
Tuesday 2 May		
& Wednesday 3 May	-	Y4 Whitehall residential overnight
Monday 8 May	-	Bank holiday school is closed
Friday 26 May	-	School finishes for half term
Friday 9 June	-	Y2 Whitehall day visit

