

New Mills Primary School Prospectus 2025-2026

Happy, Healthy, High Achievers



Meadow Street, New Mills, High Peak, Derbyshire, SK22 4AY

Telephone: (01663) 744453

Email: enquiries@newmills-pri.derbyshire.sch.uk

Website: www.newmills-pri.derbyshire.sch.uk

Headteacher: headteacher@newmills-pri.derbyshire.sch.uk



Welcome to New Mills Primary School

We want to offer you a huge welcome to New Mills Primary School. This is a thriving school in the heart of New Mills. Here is our vision:

Our school is a safe, happy home nestled amongst a vibrant community, with rolling hills and rivers that have carved an industrial history.

Deep at our heart is a resilience, created by risk-taking and a passionate life-long love of learning. It empowers you and fills you with confidence, it encourages you to embrace the next chapter of your learning journey.

Everywhere you turn, you will see celebrations of curiosity and uniqueness, founded on mutual respect and kindness.

The strong walls support you, keep you safe and secure.

The light streams through the windows and shines upon a bustling family, all brimming with positive energy, and a shared feeling of togetherness.

In our happy home you shall thrive.

New Mills Primary School is a thriving and successful primary school right in the heart of the New Mills Community. We believe in a holistic and creative approach to education, shaping active, informed, and enquiring minds as well as developing creative and healthy bodies. Play, recreation and outdoor learning is as important to us as the formal curriculum in the development of our children and we ensure that a stimulating learning environment is provided within the school grounds to enhance the quality of children's play and social development.

Our school has a very wide range of facilities, we have laptops, iPads and interactive whiteboards, a library, beautiful grounds with an orienteering course, willow dome, allotment, fruit orchard, pond, bluebell woodland, mud kitchen with dens and a polytunnel to grow our own veg! Our grounds are extensive with hidden areas for the children to explore.

Our school is part of a formal collaboration of 14 local schools; we are known as the Peak Edge Group of Schools (PEGS). We work very closely with these schools to develop the curriculum and to share professional practice to benefit us all.

The Staff at New Mills Primary School are passionate, hard-working, and committed. We ensure we provide the very best support, guidance and education for your child/ren during their time at school. We believe in partnership working and will seek your support in all that we do at school.

Effective communication between home and school will help your child to take full advantage of everything we have to offer. We offer an extensive transition programme, with a series of visits before you start. We aim to find out as much about each child as we can, so the transition is seamless. We visit each child's nursery to see them in their setting and get a flavour of what they enjoy doing. If additional transition sessions are needed, please don't hesitate to ask us.

We hope that this booklet will introduce you to our school. We encourage all new parents to visit us on a normal working day so that you can see us in action. To arrange a visit, please call the school office. Why not visit our website to get a closer look at life in school.

We look forward to meeting you.

Carol Taylor
Headteacher



Our Mission Statement:

Our Mission Statement helps us all focus on what we all want to achieve every day at school.

Our school is where everyone empowers all to be their very best.

- **We accept everyone for their uniqueness.**
- **We promote kindness and positivity.**
- **We encourage learners to take risks to build confidence and resilience.**

Our Key Values are:

We value everyone as an individual

We are committed to high standards

We strive to provide a happy, secure and stimulating environment

We model and expect co-operation and mutual respect

We encourage enthusiasm and excitement for learning

We believe in success

Our Aims are easily understood by all:

We know that everyone will have equal chances

We respect and care for ourselves, each other and our world

We want a happy, safe and secure environment

We want to learn and find out more

We always try our best

We want to be independent, confident and responsible

We listen to others and communicate confidently

We want to see the best in others

We know that everyone is special

We understand and respect that other people have different ways of living

This applies to everyone, everywhere in our school community.



Ofsted Inspections

All schools are inspected regularly, and a summary report of their findings is produced for parents. The last Ofsted inspection was June 2023 at which the inspectors judged our school to be 'good' in all areas.

School Organisation

The school is organised into seven single age classes from Early Year Foundation Stage (EYFS) to Year Six. Years 1 and 2 are called Key Stage One (KS1) and years 3 to 6 are called Key Stage Two (KS2). EYFS and KS1 have no more than 90 pupils, altogether. Children often work across year groups for targeted support in Literacy and Numeracy and all classes are supported by very capable teaching assistants.



Admission to School

New Mills Primary School operate a one-point entry system in line with Derbyshire County Council Admissions Policy. Parents considering an application for New Mills Primary School are most welcome to visit the school by making an appointment with the school office – enquiries@newmills-pri.derbyshire.sch.uk or 01663 744453.

Applications are made using the application form on the DCC website.

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school-places/apply-for-a-school-place.aspx>

In April you will receive a letter informing you which school your child has been allocated a place.

For children allocated places here, transition visits begin after May half term. The children make several afternoon visits and a full day. They participate in activities, games, forest school, etc. They will have lunch, become familiar with the new environment, get to know staff, and experience some of the routines.



Starting School

This is a special time in your child's life and your help in ensuring a smooth transition into school is very important. Be very positive with your child – even if you are feeling sad that your little one is growing up!

The 10 keys for unlocking school readiness are:

- I can settle happily without my parent or carer
- I can tell friends and grown-ups what I need
- I can take turns and share when I am playing
- I can go to the toilet on my own and wash my hands
- I can put on my own coat and shoes and feed myself
- I can tell a grown up if I am happy, sad or cross
- I know that what I do and say can make others happy or unhappy
- I am curious and want to learn and play
- I can stop what I am doing, listen and follow simple instructions
- I enjoy sharing books with grown-ups

You can also help to prepare for the early stages of reading by sitting with your child and sharing a book, talking about the pictures and learning nursery rhymes, encouraging your child to help when setting the table or pointing out shapes and numbers in their environment.

More help and guidance will be given by staff before your child starts and there will be many opportunities for you and your child to meet with staff and visit school before the big day!

Opening and Closing Times

From **8:50**, children are welcome to come straight into the classroom where their teacher will be waiting for them. The school day begins at 9am and all the children should be inside by then. If you arrive after this time, please sign your child in at the office. All children finish school and should be collected at **3.15 pm**.

If you are going to be late collecting your child, please let us know as early as possible so that we can reassure your child and ensure they are supervised until you arrive.

Please do not drive into Meadow Street as there is no safe place for you to park your car. We strongly encourage families to walk to school, whenever possible. If you must park nearby, keep clear of all yellow lines and park considerately – even if you have a blue badge.



Buddies

The children in year six are paired up with a child in Reception. They spend time together during lessons, for reading, visiting the library, during play and dinner time and for sports days, to name just a few events. The older children relish having someone younger to look after; it is a wonderful to watch.

Daily Mile

The 'Daily Mile Run' is from 8.50 am to 9.00 am. KS2 pupils aim to complete 4 circuits of our grounds on Wednesdays & Fridays. KS1 pupils run a shorter circuit on Tuesdays & Thursdays. The whole school goes out on a Monday when the older children love running with their Reception 'Buddies'.

Pastoral Support

All children are prone to worrying from time to time. Take time to talk to your child, perhaps at bath time or bedtime and check that everything is OK. If your child has a concern that you need support with, please let us know so that we can discuss it; it is much easier to deal with a small worry than a big problem! Please feel free to approach any member of the school staff – we share the responsibility for their welfare. We know our children well and strive to meet their individual needs.

The Every Day Active Uniform

We expect our pupils to be dressed cleanly and to wear the appropriate school uniform. The uniform policy is available on the website.

- Dark purple sweatshirt or cardigan. We are asking parents to include the logo so that the children look smart and have a strong sense of identity/belonging. This is a preference and is not mandatory.
- White polo shirt
- Black jogging bottoms, leggings, or shorts (tailored or cycling – not sports/football shorts or short gym shorts).
- All bottoms must be plain black with no markings or logos.
- Footwear should be plain black with no markings or logos and must be sturdy enough for being active outdoors – no boots. They should be suitable for high impact PE activities, playtimes and being outside in all weathers – black, closed foot, cushioned shoes or trainers with a grip are recommended and, in KS1, all footwear should be Velcro fastened.
- We are setting up an area to store wellingtons for use during Forest School sessions, as soon as this is ready, we will let you know and ask for named wellingtons to be brought in as and when required.

For parents who would like a wider choice, children can also wear the following:

- Black trousers, skirts or purple check dresses can also be worn except on PE days.

There will no longer be a school PE kit.



Outdoor Clothing:

We have extensive grounds, a natural stream running through school and a rather muddy digging patch. As an active school, we encourage the children to play in the wet and muddy areas during break and lunch times, however in order to do so, they need to have the correct clothing.

They will therefore need:

- wellies for playing in the muddy areas
- extra shoes and shorts for playing football
- waterproofs for the wet areas
- a full change of clothes if you know your child is likely to need it.

School Bags:

From September 2022, Reception children will be given a book bag which they can use all the way through school. Children in year 3 have the option to continue using the book bag or to purchase a bag no larger than: height 38cm, width 28cm and depth 19cm. Bags need to be relatively small as storage spaces are tight and we need to adhere to fire regulations.

Swimming

Swimsuit/trunks, goggles, towel and a swimming hat (Y4 and Y5.) Letters will be sent home with more information.

Jewellery

No jewellery is allowed apart from earrings, which must be removed or taped up for PE and swimming for health and safety reasons. The tape must be provided by yourselves. If earrings are removed, please supply a small box/envelope so your child can safely look after them. If you plan to have your child's ears pierced, please do this at the beginning of the summer holidays to give them time to heal - otherwise your child misses out on a vital part of their education.



School Meals

Jamie Oliver, eat your heart out!!!! Our excellent school meals are cooked on the premises and are served on a cafeteria style. There are always several choices plus a very popular salad bar and a baked potato/pasta pot option every day. The cost of school meals is shared through newsletters. ParentPay is used for all financial transactions.

All children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 are entitled to a free school meal. Children are also able to bring packed lunches if they wish but please ensure that these are healthy and nutritious as a poor lunch has a detrimental effect on children's learning.

Please contact our School Business Manager in confidence if you feel you may be entitled to free school meals. There is additional funding for all children in receipt of a free meal, which will be used to support additional resources for your child.

We Strive to be a Healthy School

At New Mills Primary School, we believe that healthy bodies are as important as healthy minds. We are part of the National Fruit Scheme, which means that all children up to 7 years old receive a free piece of fruit each day - bananas, satsumas, apples, carrots, sometimes tomatoes and strawberries.

Children in Key Stage 2 are encouraged to bring fruit to school for a snack. We also have a healthy tuck shop which is run twice a week for KS2.

To make sure that children have plenty of exercise we employ the services of a qualified and dedicated Sports Leader. We aim to provide a minimum of two hours physical activity per week. The trim trails and scooting on the playgrounds also encourage physical activity at playtimes.



Behaviour

Our Guiding Principles are Be Safe, Be Ready, Be Respectful. Behaviour for learning at our school is very important! Throughout the day, we expect children to be ready to learn, kind and courteous. This is a shared responsibility between home and school, and we ask parents to support us in maintaining high levels of behaviour, politeness and respect within school.



Attendance

If your child is absent due to illness, please phone or dojo the office before 9.00 am on the first day of absence to inform our School Business Manager; this avoids any anxieties about children not arriving at school safely and on time and allows us to record the pupil's absence accurately.

Government regulations state that parents are not allowed to take their children on holiday during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The guidelines for determining an 'exceptional circumstance' are rigid; any parent taking their child out of school during term time may be referred to DCC by the Headteacher for possible prosecution and financial penalty.



Special Educational Needs

It is important that every child receives a well-balanced curriculum, to encourage children to be their best selves.

In all lessons, the class teacher will plan a differentiated curriculum in consultation with our Special Needs Coordinator (SENDCo) to accommodate the children and their needs. In addition, some children may need targeted support with a clear action plan to address their needs. If a child needs additional support, then an Individual Education Plan (IEP) is drawn up – the plan reflects what the child can do well and their next steps. IEPs are reviewed termly through an informal meeting with parents. If the child's needs are long term, then it may be appropriate to apply for Inclusion Funding or submit an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP). We work closely with parents to find out what the children's needs are and how to address them.

We have a team in school who are dedicated to working with children with additional needs or social, emotional, or mental health needs. Our pastoral lead is our autism advocate, and she supports staff with delivering inclusive sessions such as Lego Therapy, cooking therapy, behaviour box, etc. Our Specialist SEND teachers understand the small steps that are needed to support children who are working below their age-related expectations, and will assess their needs and deliver targeted weekly sessions. Our Speech and Language Therapist supports children with communication skills – she also supports staff to deliver individual or group support sessions. We also have our SENDCo and Inclusion Leader getting all the practical elements in place – applying for funding, meeting parents, reviewing need, etc. Our Family Support Worker helps families who are stepping up or down from social care but her main role is to provide Early Help. If your family are in need of an Early Help Assessment, she can support you with it. She will also signpost you to services that might be able to support you and your family.

Nurture

We run Nurture groups to support positive, emotional and social growth. Trained staff work with small groups to develop concentration skills and build confidence/self-esteem through structured play. Lego Therapy, Cooking Therapy and Drawing and Talking Therapy are an example of the programmes we follow.

Welcome to our Woodland



We are proud of our outdoor learning environment and programme of activities; the children routinely spend time studying in the school grounds and beyond. There is a woodland, pond, orchard, polytunnel, enclosed vegetable patch and many bird boxes. We have two qualified Forest School Practitioners who organise forest school activities from Reception up to Y6. There is also an after-school Forest Schools Club run by an external provider.



Children from New Mills Nursery visit our woodland, every week, with their teachers as part of their Forest

Schools Learning.

All classes participate in helping develop outdoor areas and study the environmental impact of their area in detail each year. These areas range from pond studies and vegetable growing in our new poly-tunnel to bird feeding, composting and biodiversity.



Medicines in School

If your child is on a course of medication, please complete the medical form which is available from the school office, so that we can make sure your child receives the correct medication. Please pass the medication to the office staff so it can be safely stored away from the children. The exception to this is asthma treatment - inhalers should be kept in the classroom but they must be handed into the office first if they are new inhalers. If your child needs regular non prescribed medicine for hayfever/allergy/calpol etc, you must also complete a form and bring the medication to the school office.

Home Learning

Parents' views on home learning vary enormously, from those who do not want any work sent home, to those who feel we do not set enough! For this reason, home learning is always offered, and it is up the family to get the right balance between supporting their child's learning and having a family life! We must, however, stress the importance of reading to children so that they get to understand stories and storytelling from a very young age. And of course, when children begin to read, there should be daily opportunities to share their book with them.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, children will be encouraged to bring home books to share and to complete practical activities at home. As children progress through Key Stage 1 they will be expected to read regularly and, to support their learning across the curriculum, they may be asked to do some research or learn new facts. All children will also be asked to practise the basics - spellings, times tables, etc. to support their overall ability to read, write and do maths. As children move through Key Stage 2, the amount and variety of homework increases. 'Talking' is a vital part of home learning; it cannot be underestimated!



PTA

The PTA raises funds for the school to enrich the experiences for the children. They enable us to provide things that cannot be financed out of the normal school budget.

Events are planned and organised during PTA meetings. New parents are always welcome, and we would love to have a representative from each class. Recently, the PTA have helped to pay for musicians and theatre groups to visit school and subsidised the cost of school trips for all pupils.

Details of planned events are shared by Class Dojo and in the school newsletter.

Clubs and Out of School Activities/Wraparound

We also have a Wraparound breakfast & after school club on site at school. School is open from 7:30am until 6pm. Please contact the school business manager or check the website for current costs. All bookings are made through Parent Pay. We prefer to have as much notice as possible so adequate staffing can be arranged.

We offer a range of extra-curricular activities, which are run by professional PE Staff after school. Details of these are sent out at the beginning of term.

Free Breakfast Club:

In addition to the paid breakfast club, which runs from 7:30 to 8:50, we also offer a free breakfast club which runs from 8:20 to 8:50. It is open to **ALL** children, every day.

During the free breakfast club, all children get a healthy breakfast, prepared in adherence to the food health standards.

The free club can be particularly good for the children who struggle to come into school, as it is a softer start to the day with fewer children, lots of engaging activities and no waiting outside. Please feel free to contact the school office for more information.

Communication

Newsletters contain information about forthcoming events, reminders about school policies and highlight what's been happening in school. Children make contributions by telling us about events/trips they've been on. Class newsletters are sent at the beginning of each term. You will also hear from the PTA on a regular basis.



Class Dojo

Class Dojo is our main means of communication. Please download the App, allow notifications and find out how your child is doing in school through photos and messages.

Class Dojo can be used to directly message the school office, staff and the Headteacher. It's a great site as it allows us to share information, photos and messages.

Your child will be given log in details, when they start, and a letter to show how to set up being a user. The following link takes you to the parent help desk:

<https://classdojo.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/categories/200185365-For-parents>

When you have registered for Class Dojo, please turn notifications on so that you don't miss the information we will be sending out.

As Class Dojo is a private site for staff and families, we intend to use the platform to share photographs of class activities which may include any or **all** members of the class. These are for yourselves and your family only and must not be shared on any other site.

Staff have been instructed to only respond to messages during certain hours. These would be from 8am to 5pm daily. This means that they will respond to your message, when they are ready, within that timeframe. Some of our staff are part time so, if your message is urgent, and you haven't had a reply, please call the school to speak to someone in person.

Governors have completed due diligence to check this site is GDPR compliant. Children's profiles include just

their first name and second initial, with no other information stored on the site.

We also communicate by **E-mail** for sharing data sensitive documents.

We have a Communication Policy on the website which outlines our communication strategies.

Complaints Procedure

In the first instance, all concerns or complaints should be referred to the teacher, Headteacher or School Business Manager for discussion and resolution. It is expected that most questions and anxieties can be dealt with in this way. However, if complaints cannot be resolved, a formal procedure involving Governors and the Local Education Authority can be invoked. A copy can be obtained from the website.



School Staff

Teachers

Mrs Taylor	Headteacher
Miss Chappell	Reception teacher and Maths Leader
Mrs Coen	Year 1 teacher
Miss Heywood	Currently on maternity leave
Mrs Adams	Year 2 teacher and Reading Lead
Mrs Shepley	Assistant Headteacher, Year 3 teacher and SENDCo
Mrs Williams	Year 4 teacher and Literacy Lead
Mrs Broadley	Year 5 teacher and Maths Lead
Mrs Arnfield	Year 6 teacher (4 days a week) and Literacy Lead
Mr McCance	Year 6 teacher (1 day a week)

SEND Team

Mrs Shepley	SENDCo
Mrs Hartley	Speech and Language Therapist

Mrs Fletcher	Specialist Learning Support for SEND children
Mrs Tomlin	Pastoral Lead
Miss Corrigan	Learning support for SEND children
Mrs Coker	Family Support Worker

Office Staff

Miss Moody	School Business Officer
Mrs Kania	School Business Assistant

Teaching Assistants

Miss McCallion	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
Michelle Quinn	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
Miss Lyne	
Ms Ratcliffe	
Ms Kelly	
Miss Fothergill	
Mrs Race	

Midday Supervisors

Tracy Hayton
 Louise Nichols
 Joanne Wood
 Claire Gabbittas
 Carissa Warhurst
 Anna Shaw
 Amanda Rose

Governance

The School Governing Body comprises of:

<i>Headteacher</i>	Mrs C Taylor
<i>LEA Representative</i>	Mr D Cupit (Chair)
<i>Parent Governors</i>	Jennifer Fernandez
<i>Co-opted Governors</i>	Jen Salter, Megan Roberts-Lewis, Karen Roberts, Cheryl Hanson
<i>Staff Governor</i>	Mrs L Shepley
<i>Clerk to Governors</i>	Mrs T Kania

Further Information

The website contains information on many other matters relating to the school: safeguarding, GDPR, Health and safety, equality, the curriculum, policies, etc.

Please contact the school if we can offer any further information.

