

New Mills Primary School
Newsletter No. 2
Friday 19 December 2025



Dear Parents,

This term is always exceptionally busy – it's fast paced, exciting, often quite emotional and definitely fun! The hard work that goes on behind the scenes to make all of the events possible, is huge. So, a big thank you to all the staff and children for making it all possible – as usual you have gone above and beyond.

Carol Taylor – Head teacher

Parking on Meadow Street

Please ensure that, when you park, you consider the safety of the children. Although it may be legal to use a disabled pass on double yellow lines, that doesn't make it safe. Arrive early, park safely and, if you are late, we will hold on to your child/ren until you arrive.

Staff Changes

Mrs Clarke has worked at the school for over 36 years!! A huge thank you, Mrs Clarke, for all that you have done for the school during those years. You have touched the lives of hundreds of children and been an inspiration to the staff.

Miss Moody is also leaving us, she has been offered a promotion elsewhere and we wish her all the best in her new role. You have served & supported the school magnificently over the years. Both of you will be greatly missed; thank you for everything you have done.

Mrs Shepley will be stepping into the role of Assistant Headteacher. As a member of the Senior Leadership Team and SENDCo, Laura has a wealth of experience which she will use to keep driving the school forwards. Congratulations!

Joining us, as midday supervisors, are Joanne Wood and Carissa Warhurst (Joanne will be part of our cleaning team, too) – welcome to our wonderful school; we hope you enjoy every minute of your time with us.

Outdoor Play and Learning

We are continuing to develop what we offer to the children at break and lunch times. We have a natural spring entering the school from the top playground and we intend to create a natural stream so it can flow through the school's grounds. The children have been digging trenches to help the water flow away from the footpaths – it's making such a change.

We are doing all we can to keep the mud out of school. Children are encouraged to play in the water and mud if they have a change of clothes and footwear. They get changed in the polytunnel. Additional storage is being purchased so we have more space to store the resources. **Next term, on 12th February at 2pm, we are inviting parents into school to share what we have been doing.**

Our next small part of the project is to have painting outside. If you have an old shirt, please send it in so the children can cover their uniform before painting.

Recycling in School

Just a reminder that we recycle used stamps, batteries & small printer cartridges. We also have a clothing recycling bin (all clothes must be bagged & shoes paired together.) No duvets or bedding. Thank you.



After School Clubs Next Term

Monday – Being Outdoors Forest School

Monday – Paintbox Art Club

Tuesday – ELS Drama Club

Thursday – Football this term

Friday – Paintbox lunchtime Art Club

We also have the Wraparound before and after school club and the free breakfast club which runs from 8.20 am to 8.50 am. Please email for more information.

Pupil Premium

If you are claiming Universal Credit or Income Support then you also qualify for Free School Meals. This also entitles the school to a Pupil Premium Grant of £1,515 per child, per annum. This funding lasts for 6 years after the family has finished receiving support. It makes a significant difference to what we can offer our children in terms of additional nurture, therapies and learning support. Children in Reception, year 1 and year 2 receive Universal Free School Meals, this shouldn't be confused with the Free School Meal Grant for families on lower income. Please approach the school if this applies to you, so that we can support you confidentially with an application.

Christmas Events

It's almost impossible to list all the events that have happened this month. Needless to say, we are very grateful to everyone for all their valuable contributions. The PTA organised an incredible Christmas Fair, which raised over £1500. That's incredible – thank you so much!! The year 3/4 children have performed their Christmas Carols at St George's Church, Swizzels, Watford Lodge Care Home, Tesco, and on Friday, their final performance will be at Mellor Road Church at 9:30am. Thank you, Mrs Shepley, for preparing the children so beautifully and for organising the events. Well done to all the children involved – your singing is superb!

Amanda Rose led the '12 Days of Christmas' dance for the whole school – it was so much fun. Miss Chappell gave the Reception class a magical experience on the Polar Express – truly wonderful. Reception, Year 1 and year 2 showed off their talents in Lights Camel Action 2 – The Sequin – and what a performance it was. The violinists performed for their parents – their teacher was delighted with the progress they have made in such a short space of time – well done! I'm sure all the children and staff would agree that the Christmas Dinner was delicious – huge thanks to everyone who works in the kitchen. Year 4 have visited the Christmas Tree festival at St George's Church and they have been to see The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe this Thursday.

We would also like to thank 2 local companies - Tesco for supporting us with our Xmas fair and also donating breakfast items for our children in school and Swizzels for donating countless sweets and time wrapping things for us!

From all the staff and governors, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

