



New Mills School

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New Mills
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Derbyshire
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Headteacher:
Mrs H Watts

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Friday 5th September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to the new school year!

As we begin a new academic year, we would like to extend a very warm welcome back to all our students—and a special welcome to the families of our new Year 7 students who are joining our school community for the first time. It's wonderful to see our corridors once again filled with energy, curiosity, and the familiar buzz of learning.

In August, we welcomed our Year 11 students back into school to collect their GCSE results. Building on the success of our Ofsted "Good" judgement in March, these results mark another important milestone in our journey of continuous improvement. Our students worked incredibly hard, and we wish them the very best in their next steps—whether that be college, an apprenticeship, or entering the world of work.

Site Updates

Over the summer, our brilliant site team has been busy with maintenance work to ensure the school is ready for the new year. As students may remember, the area behind the dining room was closed at the end of last term in preparation for Derbyshire County Council installing our long-awaited new toilet block. We're pleased to share that it has now been installed and will be ready for use next week.

Many other areas of the school have also been refreshed in readiness for students' return. A huge thank you to our support staff who have worked so hard behind the scenes to make this happen.

Website Update

We've received several queries about our school website being out of service during the holidays. We apologise for the inconvenience and understand its importance as a source of information. We are working closely with the website provider to get it back online as soon as possible.

Important Updates and Reminders

Staffing Changes

In July, Year 11 students were informed of changes to their form tutors:

- **10JBR** becomes **11MWH** with Miss Wheeldon
- **10JAS** becomes **11JWH** with Mr Whittington
- **10RBR** becomes **11SRE** with Miss Rebello
- **10TRO** and **10PAS** will retain the same form tutors

Additionally, as Mrs Cantrell has left the school, Mr Beaumont will take over her Year 8 tutor group, now known as **8MBE**. We are also delighted to welcome **Miss Coles** to the Maths department.

And finally, congratulations to Miss Brindley, who got married over the summer and is now **Mrs Lippmann**.

Attendance Matters

You may have seen recent media coverage about the importance of school attendance, particularly in the early weeks of the year. While the headlines can sometimes be alarming, there is clear evidence that strong attendance significantly impacts a child's future life chances. At New Mills School, we are committed to supporting every student to be safe, happy, and engaged in school.

If you have concerns about your child's attendance or return to school, please contact their Year Manager for support.

If your child is too unwell to attend, please inform us **each day** via the following email:
studentabsence@newmillsschool.co.uk

Uniform Reminders

There are no changes to our uniform policy this year. We're looking forward to seeing students arrive on Monday looking smart and ready to learn. Key reminders include:

- **Blazers** must be worn at all times (students may ask to remove them in classrooms). In hot weather, changes to this will be communicated via ClassCharts.
- **Ties** must be worn at all times. Available on ParentPay and collectable from Reception.
- **Skirts**: Black, pleated, knee-length to mid-calf (no rolling up). Cycling shorts may be worn underneath.
- **Trousers**: Black, tailored (no skinny, denim, brushed denim, baggy, or canvas trousers).
- **Shirts**: White, short or long-sleeved, tucked in at all times.
- **Footwear**: Plain black shoes or trainers (including soles and laces). No high heels or platforms.
- **Socks/Tights**: Plain black socks or black opaque tights (no leggings).
- **Outerwear**: Sensible outdoor coat recommended (no denim, leather, faux fur, or hoodies).
- **Optional**: School jumper or tank top.

Please ensure any **acrylic or gel nails** applied during the summer are removed before Monday, as they are not permitted.

Jewellery & Personal Appearance

- **Earrings**: One pair of small studs only. No other piercings.
- **Other Jewellery**: One ring and one watch permitted.
- **Hair Accessories**: Plain black and practical.
- **Belts**: Plain black, no studs or embellishments.
- **Hair**: No shaved symbols, extreme styles, or colour combinations. Long hair must be tied back in practical lessons.
- **Cosmetics**: Minimal makeup and only clear nail polish. No false nails, false eyelashes, or heavy makeup.

School Food

Following feedback from students, we've made exciting improvements to the food offer, including:

- A new menu
- More **Food Celebration Days**
- **Meal deals** for just £3.55 (main meal, dessert, and drink)
- Budget-friendly options like **£1 bacon rolls at break**

A full price list for the canteen is attached.

Vaping

Like many schools nationally, we share concerns about the use of vapes among young people. This term, we will be working with students to raise awareness of the dangers of vaping.

If a student is suspected of having or selling a vape or related items, a search will be conducted in line with our policy. Parents/carers will be contacted. If you have concerns about your child's vaping, we can support a referral to our school nurse. Please get in touch.

Open Evening – Thursday 2nd October

We are holding our annual Open Evening for local Year 5 and 6 families on **Thursday 2nd October, 5:00–8:00pm**.

To allow staff time to prepare, students will leave school early at **1:00pm** on that day. Further details will follow.

Term Dates – 2025/26

- **4 Sept – 24 Oct 2025** (37 days)
- **3 Nov – 19 Dec 2025** (35 days)
- **5 Jan – 13 Feb 2026** (30 days)
- **23 Feb – 27 Mar 2026** (25 days)
- **13 Apr – 22 May 2026** (29 days, incl. 4 May Bank Holiday)
- **1 June – 23 July 2026** (39 days)

INSET Days:

- 4th September 2025
- 5th September 2025
- 28th November 2025
- 5th January 2026
- 19th June 2026

Year Manager Contacts

- **Year 7** – Mrs Quigley: nquigley@newmillsschool.co.uk
- **Year 8** – Miss Brooks: dbrooks@newmillsschool.co.uk
- **Year 9** – Miss Barker: amybarker@newmillsschool.co.uk
- **Year 10** – Miss Tabbenor: ltabbenor@newmillsschool.co.uk

- **Year 11** – Mrs Nield: knield@newmillsschool.co.uk

Over the coming weeks, we will share further updates on routines, the curriculum, extracurricular opportunities, and how you can support your child's learning.

We value the strong partnership we share with our parents and carers, and we know that working together is key to student success. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We're looking forward to a happy, successful year ahead. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Emma', written in a cursive style.

Emma Adrio
Deputy Headteacher