



# St Matthew's National School

# NEWSLETTER



June 2017

What a year!

The children have worked hard and taken on the very ethos of St. Matthew's – showing respect, working hard and trying their very best. It has been a year full of achievements for our pupils with many awards and recognitions, details of which can be seen on our blogs at [www.stmatts.ie](http://www.stmatts.ie). We need to get a trophy cabinet for all the plaques and trophies on view in the School Office! I am so proud of the children of St. Matthew's who consistently represent the school in an exemplary manner while participating in competitions and events – encouraging one another and enjoying taking part. Well done to all.

None of this success would be possible without the tremendous work of the staff in our school. They provide the highest standards of education and care in a safe and happy environment. By running projects and taking part in initiatives such as The Spelling Bee (Ms. Dunne), Greenschools (Ms. O'Farrell and Ms. Griffin), Active Schools (Ms. Levis and Ms. Cavanagh), The Health Promoting School's Flag (Ms. Levis) and the Discover Primary Science Maths & Engineering (Ms. Buckley and Ms. Swanton), they provide additional opportunities for our pupils to thrive. I would particularly like to mention:

- Mick Byrne – Breakfast Basketball with 6<sup>th</sup> Class & various Basketball tournaments
- Nicola Levis - organising school Hockey (for half of the school!), along with Hockey tournaments and matches
- Nicola Levis & Rachael Cavanagh - organised our school's participation in Santry Athletics and additional Athletics coaching sessions
- Caroline Swanton – our Special Education Organiser
- Alice Griffin – our fabulous school choir and participation in the Peace Proms
- Sorcha O'Farrell - The Junior Entrepreneur Programme with 5<sup>th</sup> Class
- Caroline Swanton & Sorcha O'Farrell – 5<sup>th</sup> Class Gaeltacht trip
- Amy Dunne – RDS Primary Science Fair with 6<sup>th</sup> Class
- David McAndrew & Hannah Goulden - Intercultural Day & charity events

Thank you to Lynn who does so, so much to ensure the smooth running of the school and offer a welcoming smile at the door. Thank you also to our wonderful SNAs who give tremendous care, support and guidance to our children. I would like to acknowledge the tremendous work completed and support given by Caroline Swanton as she acted as Deputy Principal this year. Casey did a brilliant job while acting as Principal. To say that both Caroline and Casey were outstanding would be an understatement. Thank you to Casey McConnell, our Acting Deputy Principal. As Deputy, she gives huge support, encouragement, advice and works so, so hard. Thank you Casey.

Throughout the year, teachers have been focusing on further developing the school's Literacy, Numeracy and Gaeilge through a number of initiatives, the success of which is clearly evident throughout the school. Considerable time was spent developing the school's approach to the teaching and learning of Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) across the school. Teachers have begun working towards the Health promoting school's Flag, with a particular focus on positive mental health and thinking. Staff also received training in the implementation of the updated Stay Safe Programme and further guidance in the area of child protection. We look forward to implementing the updated programme in full during the next academic year. In September, we will begin to implement the new Primary Language Curriculum in Junior Infants – Second Class. There will be a further in-service training day for all staff next year to support the new curriculum's implementation. We look forward to making use out of a new Gaeilge programme in Third – Sixth Class, which we hope will follow the success of Bua na Cainte in Junior classes. We will also examine the way we teach and pupils learn English spellings.

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Thank you to the Board of Management and the Chairperson, Rev. Marchant, for their continued advice, support and leadership. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parent body for their continued help and support. Thank you to the Parent Teacher Association and their Chairperson, Olga Keogh, for their simply tremendous work this year. The PTA have raised an incredible amount of money, enabling us to extend the school hall. We are extremely grateful for these funds. They have organised some wonderful events such as the Christmas Fair and Pancake Party that were enjoyed by all.

Our staff would like to thank:

- The Library and Gardening Committees for their dedication and enabling us to enrich the education at the school.
- Parents who gave little talks & workshops in our classrooms –
  - Thank you to all parents who have given workshops in the classrooms this year, particularly as a part of Aistear in the Infant classes.
  - Alison and Neal Parker
  - Ruth Monahan and Ultan Devaney
  - Sasko Lazarov
  - Anita Murphy
  - Elaine Clotworthy for running Drama workshops
  - To the parents who organised and participated in the Science Fair
  - Anne Rice for teaching French to Fifth & Sixth Class pupils
  - Sicora Griffin for healthy eating workshops in Fourth Class
- All the parents who helped out at the PTA events during the year – Christmas Fair, Pancake Party, Ice-Cream Party and the Colours Cup.
- All the parents who came on school trips & tours with us. Without you these would not be possible.
- Aidan Woods and his work with our children in both Hockey and Athletics
- Thank you to Niamh Bruce for doing the .B Mindfulness programme with Sixth Class
- Mary O'Connell and Eoin Cunningham - Sixth Class Yearbook
- Thank you to all parents who supported the children of St. Matthew's at Hockey matches, and sports competitions such as Santry Athletics, The Cricket Leprechaun Cup, Cumann na mBunscol and the Basketball tournaments.

On Tuesday, we will say goodbye to a wonderful group of young people. Congratulations to Benjamin, Adam, Etain, Julia, Felix, Andrew, Rosie, Des, Sol, Francis, Flora, Declan, Liam, Katie, Callum, Naia, Ross, Sophie J, Oisín, Kate, Sophie E, Isobelle, Éala, Sophie C, Aoife, Clodagh, Hilary and Sadbh! We wish you well in the next step in education and hope you return to visit regularly!

Wishing you all a lovely summer break! We look forward to your return with an extended and refurbished school hall on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> August!

**Naomi Rousseau**  
Principal

**The school closes at 12pm on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June  
for the summer holidays and will re-open on  
Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August at 8.30am**



## School Calendar 2017-2018

*(Subject to Changes)*

<b>Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2017</b>	School re-opens following the Summer Holidays
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017 Inclusive</b>	School closed for Mid-Term Break <i>(usual home times apply on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October)</i>
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2017 – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2018 Inclusive</b>	School closed for Christmas Holidays <i>(School closes on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December @ 12pm for all pupils)</i>
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> &amp; Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018</b>	School closed for Mid-Term Break <i>(usual home times apply on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February)</i>
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018</b>	School closed – Bank Holiday
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018 Inclusive</b>	School closed for Easter Holidays <i>(usual home times apply on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March)</i>
<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018 Inclusive</b>	School closed for Bank Holiday & Mid-Term Break <i>(usual home times apply on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May)</i>
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018</b>	School closed for Bank Holiday
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018</b>	<i>School closes for Summer Holidays @ 12pm for all pupils</i>

## Staffing 2017/2018

*As ever, a teacher's class allocation is subject to change due to circumstances beyond the Board of Management's control.*

<b>Principal</b>	Naomi Rousseau
<b>Pre-School</b>	Jackie Earley
<b>Junior Infants</b>	Casey McConnell ( <i>Acting Deputy Principal</i> )
<b>Senior Infants</b>	Alice Griffin
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Class</b>	Amy Dunne
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Class</b>	Hannah Goulden
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Class</b>	Sarah-Louise Connolly
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Class</b>	Rachael Cavanagh
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Class</b>	David McAndrew
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Class</b>	Caroline Swanton
<b>Support Teachers</b>	Nicola Levis Hazel Buckley Sorcha O'Farrell
<b>School Secretary</b>	Lynn Betson
<b>Special Needs Assistants</b>	Mary Bolton Mick Byrne Mary Nolan
<b>School Warden</b>	Carmel Joyce
<b>School Warden</b>	Louise Doyle
<b>School Caretaker</b>	Vic Dasal Jnr

*Staff on Leave:*

Andrea Donlon – Career Break

Elaine Clotworthy – Secondment to Marino Institute of Education



## PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION NEWS



Dear Parents

Whilst I am looking forward to the summer break I cannot believe it has come around so quickly! We are at the end of our time as your PTA committee but we have all really enjoyed this year. Unfortunately, we were unable to organise a Summer Fair around the construction work on the new hall but I think the few Summer Fair elements we added to the Colours' Cup and Family Day ensured that we still provided a fun family day enjoyed by parents and children alike. We have received great feedback and plenty of ideas as to how we might improve the day, as a first attempt at such a big undertaking I think our crack team did a fantastic job and I'm looking forward to next year's already! A huge thank you has to go out to all of you who took time off and helped out on the day, we always say this but we *definitely* couldn't have done it without all the helpers.

All our activities through the year went well, we are conscious of the demands that are placed on families all through the year so it means a lot that you all seem to find the time and resources to contribute in whatever way you can to all our fundraising events. Thank you for making the Christmas Fair and Table Quiz such successful and fun events, thanks to all our wonderful Christmas card and calendar sponsors and for all the amazing dressing up efforts during the year - I was welling up at the sight of our Roald Dahl themed parade in October, it was just so lovely to see and really captured the participatory spirit of our wonderful school.

I'd like to take this opportunity to name a few people who have greatly contributed to a great year for the PTA. Firstly the PTA committee who were a great team of people to work with and were always so enthusiastic about the organisation of all our activities. Thank you Secretary Annaleise Costello-O'Leary, Treasurer Bebhinn Dunne, Venetia Quick, Conor O'Leary, Ciaran Simms, Richard Zipser, Emma Long, Catherine Sherry, Natasha Rafter-Robinson, Laura Douglas, Mary-Kate Kenyon and also thanks to Nicky Bell and Simona Dragulova. This year we had a teacher attend all our meetings so I'd like to thank Ms Levis and Ms Swanton for all the input and assistance. With every activity organised we always had great support from the teaching and admin staff so I would like to acknowledge their co-operation and patience, especially to Lynn for all her assistance - it's always appreciated. We were extremely fortunate this year to have not one but two excellent Principals, they have both been a great support to the PTA and they deserve all the praise they get - thank you Ms McConnell and Mrs Rousseau.

Here's to next year when we will have a new hall to open - the culmination of years of fundraising and something that will serve the children of St Matthew's for years to come. Very best of luck to our 6th Class pupils moving on to a brave new world. I hope you all have a fantastic summer whatever you're up to!

All the best,

*Olga Keogh*  
*PTA Chairperson*

# Top Memories From This Year!



## Pre-School

We had a great fun seeing 'Frosty the Snowman' in December.



We loved our trip to Pine Forest and had a lovely time at Sports Day!

## Junior Infants

We had a great day on Sport's Day. It was really fun when we got to eat ice-cream in the sun and then play parachute games.

We really enjoyed learning all the songs for our Litter Muncher assembly. Then our Mums and Dads came to see us sing all of them with Senior Infants.

The trip to Pine Forrest was really fun. It was really exciting when we got to go on the bus and sit beside our friends.

Ice-cream day was really fun, we all got to eat lots of ice-cream and try lots of different coloured sauces.

We had great fun making the chicks in Artzone with Louise. We really liked playing with the clay and painting it.

Playtime everyday was really fun. We got to take turns dressing up as vets, doctors, Santa's helpers, shopkeepers and bug investigators.

## Senior Infants

Our winter tour to see Frosty the Snowman was fantastic. The songs were really nice and the play was very funny!

We had great fun at our summer tour to Pine Forest. We got to explore the Fairy Forest, and we made lots of great crafts.

PJ day was brilliant! We loved wearing our comfy pyjamas to school and getting to bring in our teddies. Getting our class photo in the photo booth was great!

Active week was amazing this year. We really enjoyed the dance workshop and the skipping. The Colours Cup was the best day! We loved all the different running, jumping and throwing activities, and all of the games.

We learned a lot about France for International Day. We got to make all the the tourist attractions in Aistear, and wrote brochures so people would be excited to visit France. We tasted brioche, brie and camembert. It was delicious!



## 1st Class

This year we learned about different places in the world. We learned all about Australia. We made sea creatures out of clay. We learned about the Great Barrier Reef. It is one of the Seven Wonders of the World. We learned about the Aboriginals. We also learned about Antarctica. Sarah-Beth's mum and dad visited our classroom as they had been to Antarctica. It is the coldest continent in the world. The coldest it has ever been was  $-94.7^{\circ}\text{C}$ . We now know lots about Emperor Penguins. They are the biggest penguins in the whole world and they live in Antarctica.

We really enjoyed learning all about Space. We made the planets out of paper mâché. It was really fun when we got to dip our hands into the paste and stick the newspaper onto the balloons. We know lots of facts about the planets.

We loved taking part in St. Matthew's Colours Cup. We were split up into different colours. The IRFU Women's team visited us with the Rugby World Cup. We did lots of races. We liked when we got our ice cream. We can't wait for next year!

On PJ day, we got to wear our pyjamas into school. This was very exciting! We went to the hall and had juice, hot chocolate and sweets. We got to watch a movie in the hall. It was really fun to be in our PJs with our friends.



We went swimming every Tuesday to Marian College. We practiced the front crawl, back crawl, the breast stroke and the butterfly. We did lots of races. This was really fun.

We were very excited for ice cream day. When it was our turn, we went into the yard and got lots of ice cream with wafers. We could have raspberry ripple or vanilla ice cream. On top, we got sprinkles, syrup and sauces. We really liked all the flavours of all the sauces. We raised lots of money for charity.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Class**

We loved our school trip, we went to 'Go Kids Go'. We got to run around and have fun. There were lots of slides, including twirly and bumpy ones. There was also a football pitch where we got to play matches. They had cannons and you had to see how many points you could get. There was a disco that you could dance in. We also got to make something out of clay.

We had so much fun in Tech Week. We learnt to programme using Scratch 2 and Run Marco. In Lego We Do 2.0, we had to follow the instructions on the iPad and work together as a team to build Milo the Robot. We programmed the beebots to move to different shops on the town mat. We also used Crayola Color Alive to make a 3D dragon. It was really cool.

We learnt how to play the tin whistle this year, some of our favourite songs were 'Twinkle Twinkle' and 'Óró sé do bheatha abhaile'. We also really enjoyed Music with Catherine. We learnt a song called "The drinking gourd", about how slaves followed the north star to freedom. We also listened to The Moldau by Bedrich Smetana, it is about the journey a river takes. We really enjoyed playing our percussion instruments in time to different songs.

This year we have had so much fun learning facts about the world by reading books and researching on the internet using the laptops and iPads. We learnt about different places in Geography including Antarctica, China and India. We also did a project about the Olympics, where we learnt about Brazil and also famous Irish athletes. It was really fun.

We loved Art this year, these are some of our favourite things that we did. We did pointillism where you have to make dots with a thin paintbrush to make a picture. We made a collage where we had to cut and stick pictures of our favourite things. We used Plaster of Paris to make masks and moulded different shapes to decorate the face and then paint them. We made clay fish in Art Zone, we put clay around a ball of newspaper and then we sculpted the eyes and mouth and fins and then we painted them.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Class**

I really enjoyed when we did our school play 'Third Class Has Got Talent!'. We all loved it the three judges were Hillary Pinkerton, Simon Growel and Lucy. Every act was amazing. The winning act was a song called Pompeii which everyone did!! Overall the part I enjoyed most was 'The Great Garradini', we all really enjoyed it.

*Maebh*

I really liked when we went to see The Christmas Carol in the Ark. I thought it was really good. It was a great memory.

*Kitty*

What I loved was when we made Chocolate Biscuit Cake. It was fun to make and very yummy.

*Beth*

My favourite memory was Hailee. She was very nice and gave us fun activities to do, like the ones we did for Independence Day. We learned about America and her life.

*Luca*

One of my memories was our Christmas song. We rehearsed our song a few times until it sounded perfect. Finally it was time to show everyone our song. We all went onto the stage and we performed it. Everyone was clapping when we were finished! I had a great time and I was very tired after it.

*Cleo*

Third class would like to say a big thank you to Denis Delaney for making the ice cream stand for this year's ice-cream day. We had a great time and loved the ice-cream!

As a class, we would like to thank Cáit, Gráinne, Natasha and Lorraine for helping on our school trips. We all really appreciate it because the school trips were so fun and you all were a really big help. Thank you all for making our school trips extra fun!

Richard Zipser, thank you for coming in to help us learn about America for our International Day project. We learned that the Statue of Liberty was a gift from France to America. You told us how America celebrated St. Patrick's Day even more than we do! I really enjoyed learning that lots of people use public transport in New York City.

*Ava, Jenny & Jessica*

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Class

At the start of the year 4<sup>th</sup> class did cricket with Kamal. He is a great teacher. Lots of us didn't know how to play cricket but now we do. We developed lots of new cricket skills. Kamal is a very knowledgeable coach and is very funny. He was always up for coaching us in a fun way and because of this cricket is one of the highlights of the year. Cricket is great fun and a fantastic way to keep active. Hopefully some of us will make the cricket team next year!

In the early part of the year we did swimming lessons in Marion college with 3rd class. It was great fun and we learned loads lots of stuff and played loads of games. Our swimming teachers were really nice. Over the lessons, we definitely improved our swimming skills. Our favourite thing was when we did a mini-marathon in the water. It was tiring but also lots and lots of fun. We can't wait for swimming to start again next year!

The St. Matthew's Christmas fair of 2016 was one of the best ones yet. Some of the stuff this year was a cake sale, coffee shop and toy shop. The toy shop was in the junior infant classroom and there were so many toys there that we could buy. This year we also had a magician who amazed us with his tricks.

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Class

We really enjoyed doing 'Go Games' GAA tournament. David from Clanna Gael was our coach. We trained every Wednesday and Friday in September and October. We were involved in lots of matches against other schools. It was a really fun experience and we developed new GAA skills. We had a great time scoring goals and points for our school.

*Jonah & Michael*

We went to Coláiste na Rosann for a week in May. It was such an amazing experience. We stopped off in Monaghan for food and at a beautiful park on the first day. We arrived at our Bean an Tí's house at 6pm. Then we had dinner. On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday morning we had Irish classes. Each afternoon a different activity was planned. We got to the beach, a heritage park and an adventure centre. We went on a boat to visit a nearby island. The evenings were taken up with céilí dancing, quiz nights and talent shows. It really was great fun and we would highly recommend it.

Grace & Izzy R

We went Swimming for a term this year. It was on every Tuesday. All of the Swimming teachers were really nice and kind. We learned lots of new skills. Each week we did some drills. At the end of the lesson we had play time. This was lots of fun. The lessons were in Marian College. The walk took about five minutes each way!

Arthur & Matthew

We went to Tayto Park for our school tour. The bus journey took about an hour. When we arrived everyone ran straight towards the Air Race ride. Then we went to the 5D cinema, on the Cú Chulainn roller coaster, the Rotator, Windstar, and Vortex tunnel. After lunch we had a tour of the zoo and saw the tigers being fed. This was a cool experience. At lunchtime we went to the tuck shop and bought drinks and treats. Then we ate our lunches in the big tent. Before going home we went on one final tour. We went to the Tayto factory and saw how they make the crisps. We were all given a bag of cheese and onion Tayto crisps to take home.

Reese & Amelia

This year we organised a PJ day for our Junior Entrepreneur Programme. All of the children in the school wore their Pyjamas to school. Some of the teachers even wore dressing gowns and slippers. Each class visited the cake sale, photo booth, and chill zone area. The raffle took place here. The raffle prizes were donated by members of our class and Ms O' Farrell. Everyone had a great day. We made a lot of profit and decided to give some money to charity. We decided to give €100 to the D.S.P.C.A and €100 to the St. Vincent de Paul. We also used some money to pay for our bus to Tayto Park. We each took €10 home as our own personal profit. The remaining money was used to buy new sports equipment. It was such an amazing programme and we would recommend that 5<sup>th</sup> Class do it next year.



Alison & Celina

***We wish you all a lovely, relaxing Summer break!***

***See you when we return to school on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August.***







## 6<sup>th</sup> Class...The Future



**Clodagh** - Next year I am going to Ringsend College. I'm looking forward to making more friends but I will miss all my friends from St. Matthew's.

**Katie** - Next year I am going to Newpark. I am looking forward to having more freedom and moving around classes. I will miss my friends.

**Rosie** - Next year I am going to Newpark. I am looking forward to having more independence. I will miss my friends and having less homework!

**Hilary** - Next year I am going to St. Andrew's. I'm looking forward to trying new sports. I will miss all my friends from St. Matthew's.

**Des** - Next year I am going to Gonzaga. I'm looking forward to new subjects and I will miss St. Matthew's students and staff.

**Sophie C** - Next year I am going to St. Andrew's. I am looking forward to making new friends and having more independence. I will miss my friends here and not having to move from classroom to classroom.

**Julia** - Next year I am going to do an exchange in Spain. I am looking forward to a different lifestyle. I will miss my family.

**Izzy** - Next year I am going to Newpark. I am looking forward to independence. I will miss everyone in St. Matthew's

**Sophie E** - Next year I am going to St. Louis. I am looking forward to being able to leave at lunchtime! I will miss my friends from St. Matthew's.

**Felix** - Next year I am going to St. Andrew's. I am looking forward to making new friends and having more independence. I will miss short homework!

**Adam** - Next year I am going to St. Andrew's. I am looking forward to doing more sports. I will miss my free time.

**Oisín** - Next year I'm going to St. Andrew's. I am looking forward to independence. I will miss easy homework.

**Sol** - Next year I'm going to Newpark. I am looking forward to the Hockey. I will miss free weekends.

**Francis** - Next year I am going to St. Andrew's. I am looking forward to having more independence. I will miss my friends.

**Ross** - Next year I am going to Newpark. I am looking forward to the swimming pool. I will miss everyone who isn't going to Newpark!

**Declan** - Next year I am going to Newpark. I am looking forward to making new friends. I will miss my class.

**Naia** - Next year I am going to Sion Hill. I am looking forward to wearing my hair down! I will miss easy homework.

**Flora** - Next year I am going to Newpark. I am looking forward to the independence and freedom. I am going to miss my friends and the school.

**Etain** - Next year I am going to Newpark. I am looking forward to wearing my hair down. I will miss the wonderful students and teachers that make St. Matthew's, St. Matthew's.

**Sadbh** - Next year I am going to St. Andrew's. I am looking forward to having new experiences and opportunities. I will miss the short school days and my class!

**Aoife** - Next year I am going to Newpark. I am looking forward to doing Woodwork and Home Ec as well as more independence. I will miss my friends and having less homework.

**Kate** - Next year I am going to St. Andrew's College. I am looking forward to having more freedom and making new friends. I will miss the short homework!

**Callum** - Next year I am going to Marian College. I am looking forward to leaving the grounds at lunchtime. I will miss my friends and staff.

**Éala** - Next year I am going to Sion Hill. I am looking forward to being to leave during lunch times! I will miss the easy homework!

**Liam** - Next year I am going to St. Andrew's. I am looking forward to trying new subjects. I will miss my old class.

**Sophie J** - Next year I am going to St. Andrew's. I am looking forward to having more freedom. I will miss my friends.

**Andrew** - Next year I am going to St. Michael's. I am looking forward to making new friends doing sports. I am going to miss my friends.

**Ben** - Next year I am going to Newpark. I'm looking forward to the new teachers. I am going to miss my friends.

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