



# St Matthew's National School

# NEWSLETTER



September 2017

You are all very welcome back to the new academic year. I hope you all had a lovely, relaxing summer! I would like to particularly welcome all of our new pupils and parents.

We are sadly saying goodbye to Sorcha O'Farrell who was appointed to a position in her local school during the summer break. Sorcha is sorry to leave and will be missed by all at St. Matthew's N.S. We wish her the very best in her new school. Welcome to Kathy Jermy who will be joining our staff this year as a Support Teacher.

The Board of Management's hall extension project is nearly finished! We look forward to being handed our refurbished hall in the coming few weeks!

The autumn schedule for all Extra Curricular Activities is enclosed. If your child is interested in taking part in any of the activities, please complete the form, attach payment and return to the School Office as soon as possible. Payments can also be made online at [www.stmatts.ie](http://www.stmatts.ie). Extra Curricular Activities will commence on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September.

From Monday, Pre-School, Junior and Senior Infant parents may continue to drop their child(ren) to their classroom door by entering the front door beside the School Office. First Class to Sixth Class pupils can be dropped to the yard/back door where they will be greeted by Ms. Rousseau and head down to their classrooms. Any messages that need to be given to your child's teacher can be passed to Ms. Rousseau at the door. On a Friday morning, parents are very welcome to pop into their child(ren)'s classroom.

In the coming weeks, parents will have an opportunity to formally meet their child's class teacher and to familiarise themselves with the teaching and learning programme for the year. Details regarding these Class Meetings are enclosed.

This year, teachers will be implementing the new Oral Language Curriculum. Please note there will be another school day closure to facilitate in-service training for the new curriculum (date to be confirmed by the Department of Education). From First to Sixth Class, an emphasis will be placed on the way our pupils learn spellings. Please be aware, from 8.50am – 9am every morning, there will be a specific spelling lesson taking place in First – Sixth Class. Please ensure your son/daughter is on time for school. We look forward to implementing a new Gaeilge scheme in Third to Sixth Class and continuing to work towards the Health Promoting School's Flag with a particular focus on positive mental health and thinking.

It is important to keep informed throughout the year about what is happening in the school and upcoming events. We aim to keep you informed with regular text messages and family notes via email. If you have not informed the school of your email address, please do so through the School Office or by emailing [secretary@stmatts.ie](mailto:secretary@stmatts.ie) Please also keep an eye on school notice boards and our school website [www.stmatts.ie](http://www.stmatts.ie) which we update regularly with the children's work and classroom blogs.

We are looking for books that would be suitable for our classroom libraries, board games and Lego. If you have any suitable novels, board games or Lego at home that your children no longer use, we would be delighted to give them a new home! Donations can be left on the table outside Ms. Rousseau's office.

Looking forward to another great, busy year!

**Naomi Rousseau**  
**Principal**

## **Extra Curricular Activities Term 1 2017/2018**

### **Registration for Extra Curricular Activities is now taking place.**

Please note all activities begin on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September. Registration and payment can be made on our website [www.stmatts.ie](http://www.stmatts.ie) or return Registration Form with payment to the School Office.  
(Cheques made payable to St. Matthew's National School).

**Reminder: Book Bills are due for payment. Thank you to those who have already paid. If you haven't yet paid, please send payment to the School Office or you can pay online at [www.stmatts.ie](http://www.stmatts.ie) Details of Book Bills can be viewed on our website. Many thanks.**

### **Head Lice**

Unfortunately, head lice can be a part of life; however, it is something that we would all like to avoid. When the school is made aware of head lice in a child's class, parents are informed via a note or text messages. The school's Headlice Prevention Policy can be found here: <http://stmatts.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Policy-on-Head-Lice-Website-Version.pdf>



**Children with hair shoulder length or longer than shoulder length must have their hair tied back with a suitable hair accessory. This is for the health and safety of children during class lessons and during PE. It is also a measure put in place to prevent the spread of head lice in the school.**

The following is some great advice compiled by Olga Keogh, Parent Teacher Association Chair at our school. Please take the time to read it and please check your child's hair today. From talking to other mums can I suggest the following:

#### **Check for head lice regularly:**

- Check your child(ren)'s hair every time you wash it
- You will usually find infestation around the ears and nape of the neck, but not exclusively there
- Use a magnifying glass if you're not familiar with eggs and nits (the head lice egg cases)
- Put conditioner in to help with fine combing
- Brush and fine comb in the brightest spot in your house, daylight is best. The Nitty Gritty NitFreeComb is an excellent product, every home should have one. They are available from Boots <http://www.nittygritty.co.uk/site/>
- The itching from head lice is caused by an allergic reaction to their droppings, children who normally have allergies will probably react quicker than others and there are some children who will not react at all, therefore do not assume that because your child is not itchy, they do not have head lice.

#### **If you find head lice:**

- If (and only if) you do find a live head louse or live eggs, Hedrin Once Lotion/Gel Spray is an excellent treatment. You must follow the instructions to the letter, especially about putting shampoo in once the treatment time has elapsed etc. See <http://www.hedrin.ie/>
- Check all the family (including adults) thoroughly if you find a live louse in one child's hair
- Let your teacher know so that all class parents can check and treat as necessary and nip a possible infestation in the bud.

#### **To prevent head lice:**

- There are a number of products that help aid in the prevention of head lice:
  - Teangi Tea Tree Shampoo
  - Leave-in Conditioning Spray
  - Tea tree oil dabbed around the back of the ears
  - Hedrin Protect and Go is also worth stocking up on, it does have a funny texture but it isn't as bad if applied to wet hair
- Keep long hair tied up in buns / plaits

Don't panic, head lice are as much a part of childhood as Sponge Bob Square Pants!

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/health/parents-warned-not-to-treat-children-for-head-lice-preventively-30525894.html>

THE FACTS OF LICE: <http://nittygritty.co.uk/site/headliceandnits.asp>

Thank you for your co-operation.

## **September Class Meetings**

*These meetings are an opportunity to find out about your child's learning programme for the year.*

*Meetings will take place in the classroom from 8.50am until approximately 9.10am.*

Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	Junior Infants & 6 <sup>th</sup> Class
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Senior Infants & 5 <sup>th</sup> Class
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	4 <sup>th</sup> Class & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Class
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	1 <sup>st</sup> Class
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class

## **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> ( <i>Previously Learning Support/ Resource Teachers</i> )	Nicola Levis Hazel Buckley Kathy Jermyn
<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



### **Reminder - No Nuts, Pesto or Nut Products into the following classrooms:**

**Junior Infants  
1<sup>st</sup> Class  
5<sup>th</sup> Class**

**Thank you for your co-operation.**



# 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>

## PUNCTUALITY, ATTENDANCE & CHILD WELFARE

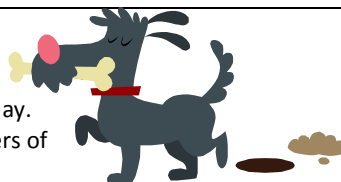
Lessons begin and the school bell sounds at 8.50am. If a child arrives into their classroom after this time, they are late for school. Children who arrive into school after the Roll Call at 9.10am are marked absent. If your child is late, please allow them to make their way into the classroom by themselves; as parents in the classroom after 8.50am interferes greatly with the lesson taking place. Children who are repeatedly late for school are missing out on individual time with their class teacher, social time with their peers and in some cases considerable time is missed from lessons. Lateness is monitored and communicated with parents.

Please be aware that if your child misses a total of 20 days in the school year, the school must notify the National Education Welfare Board (NEWB). The school will also notify the NEWB when concerned about a child's attendance and punctuality. **School absences must be explained in writing** (sample excuse notes are in the lobby). Please plan family holidays during school holiday periods.

Please be aware that should the school be concerned about your child(ren)'s welfare or should any disclosures be made about a child's safety, a report will immediately be made to Tusla, the Child and Family Agency.

## Man's Best Friend

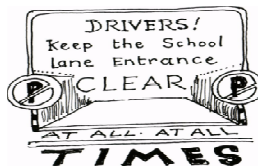
As a school actively involved in the green schools programme, we are delighted that so many of our students and parents implement the green programme by walking to and from school every day. We recognise that walking also provides an opportunity to exercise those most important members of your families – your pet dogs.



However, **dogs are not allowed on the school premises** (this does not apply to guide, therapy or support dogs). Please do not bring dogs inside the school gates. Dogs brought down the laneway must be on a tight lead that is held by an adult. Please ensure that your child minder is aware of this arrangement.

Lastly, we would remind all dog owners that they are obliged to clean up after their dogs. We would ask parents to be vigilant in this regard.

Thank you for your continued support.



## Parking and Road Safety at St. Matthew's National School

It is not permitted to stop or park in the yellow box or 'zig-zag zone' at the bottom of the school laneway. Please do not stop, park or pull into this area when bringing your children to or collecting from school. This is a matter of safety for our children attending the school who cannot see or be seen by traffic.

We have two wonderful School Wardens at St. Matthew's National School. Please continue to use these services as much as possible, following the rules of the road, so that this vital service remains in place.

For many years we have enjoyed harmonious relations with our neighbours, please do not park in a manner that blocks neighbour access to/from their driveways.

Please ensure this message is passed on to anyone else who brings or collects your child from school.

Thank you for your co-operation with these matters.

## \*\*\*\* *IMPORTANT NOTICES* \*\*\*\*

**If anyone is willing to help with our gardening or library committee, please contact the school office.**

**Library Day is on Monday!**

### FIRST AID

It is vital that the school has up-to-date health and allergy information for your child. Remember to inform the school of any changes regarding your child's health in writing.

*The Lost Property Box will be emptied each month. Unclaimed items will be sent to the recycling centre.  
Please label your child's belongings!*

## Bicycles & Scooters

It is wonderful to see so many people cycling/ skating/ scooting to school... but please don't forget...

- In the interest of safety, please do not cycle, skate or scoot down the lane or in the school grounds.
- All bicycles, scooters etc must be locked to the racks.
- Please label or identify your bike or scooter.
- Please do not leave bicycles, scooters etc at the school over the weekend or during holiday periods.
- Remember your safety equipment!





# St. Matthew's National School

## Extra Curricular Activities Term 1 (2017/2018)

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017 – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Please Tick <input type="checkbox"/>	Activity	Day/Time	Class Range	Dates	Cost	NOTES
	After School Club	Mon-Fri 1.10-2.10pm	Jnr & Snr Inf	School Year	€100 per month	Please contact the School Office.
	ArtZone	Monday 1.10-2.10pm	Jnr & Snr Inf	Please contact ArtZone directly for details of registration and term dates @ <a href="http://www.artzone.ie">www.artzone.ie</a> . School cannot provide family discounts for ArtZone.		
	ArtZone	Monday 2.10-3.10pm	1 <sup>st</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> Class			
	Basketball	Monday 2.10-3.10pm	1 <sup>st</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> class	11/9/17 to 11/12/17 Excluding 30/10/17	€55.00	
	Chess	Monday 2.10-3.10pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> Class	11/9/17 to 11/12/17 Excluding 30/10/17	€90.00 (or €135.00 for 2 siblings)	
	Drama	Tuesday 2.10-3.10pm	1 <sup>st</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> Class	12/9/17 to 12/12/17 Excluding 31/10/17	€55.00	
	School Choir	Wednesday 8.00–8.30am	4 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> Class	School Year	€20.00	Cost to cover general expenses such as sheet music. We ask for full year commitment. Children will participate in Peace Proms in February.
	Oh Lá Lá French	Wednesday 1.10-2.10pm	Jnr & Snr Inf	Please contact Anne Rice for details of registration @ <a href="mailto:ohlalafrenchclasses@gmail.com">ohlalafrenchclasses@gmail.com</a> or 087 9558282. School cannot provide family discounts for French.		
	Oh Lá Lá French	Wednesday 2.10-3.10pm	1 <sup>st</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup> Class			
	Hockey (Term 1)	Thursday 2.10-3.30pm	1 <sup>st</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> Class	14/9/17 to 14/12/17 Excluding 2/11/17	€75.00	<u>Location: Pembroke Hockey Club.</u> Teachers will accompany children to the location. <i>Children to be collected from Pembroke Hockey Club at 3.30pm.</i> <u>Children need Hockey stick, gum shield, shin guards &amp; weather appropriate clothing in order to participate.</u>
	Hockey (Year)	Thursday 2.10-3.30pm	1 <sup>st</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> Class	School Year	€200.00	The school is providing a financial incentive for children who register for Hockey for the year.
	Athletics	Friday 2.10-3.30pm	1 <sup>st</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> Class	15/9/17 to 15/12/17 Excluding 3/11/17	€70.00	<u>Location: Irishtown Stadium.</u> Teachers will accompany children to the location. <i>Children to be collected from Irishtown Stadium at 3.30pm.</i>

- Payment can be made by cash or cheque or online at [www.stmatts.ie](http://www.stmatts.ie)
- Please note that all activities are subject to minimum/maximum uptake.
- Unfortunately, the school is not in a position to provide refunds or reduced fees if your child is ill, away, attending another activity or has joined the activity late.
- By registering for and making a payment for an Extra Curricular Activity, you are in agreement that some activities are contact sports and can be dangerous, that injuries can occur and that you give permission for First Aid to be administered if your son/daughter is injured. All school policies apply to Extra Curricular Activities, including the Code of Behaviour.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL € \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Less: 2<sup>nd</sup> child discount  
€5 per same activity) € \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Paid € \_\_\_\_\_