



1st February 2018

New Child Protection Procedures

The Department of Education has published new Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools. The new procedures give direction and guidance to school authorities and to school personnel in relation to meeting their new statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and in the continued implementation of the best practice guidance set out in Children First National Guidance 2017. The procedures must be in place in all National Schools during March.

As mentioned last week, Primary Schools have been instructed to take two separate half-day school closures during the 2017/18 school year to allow time to engage with the revised procedures, access continued professional development in relation to the matter and to review and update all policies and procedures which relate to Child Protection. School authorities have requested a full day closure to deal with this critically important area. Schools await an answer.

The Board of Management are keenly aware that parents need notice in order to organise childcare, and that the new Child Protection Procedures need to be addressed in full asap. As soon as a decision is made regarding a closure or half days, parents will be notified.

Dear Parents,


The Board of Management of St. Matthew's National School is aware of the Planning Permission Application for a significant number of apartments to the rear of the school. The Board will be lodging an objection in an effort to look after the interests of St. Matthew's N.S. We are in the process of considering this guided by our architect, John Keogan and town planner, Josephine Henry.

Thank you to those who work in this field who have already provided guidance on this matter.

For and on behalf of the Board of Management,

Rev. J Marchant
Chairperson

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 support dogs*). 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. Even the friendliest dog can bite a child. Please discourage your child from approaching a dog that does not belong to his/her family. 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.

Please read on to next page ↓



School Calendar 2017-2018

Wednesday 7th & Thursday 8th February 2018	Junior and Senior Infants Parent Teacher Meetings
Thursday 15th & Friday 16th February 2018	School closed for Mid-Term Break (<i>usual home times apply on Wednesday 14th February</i>)
Monday 19th March 2018	School closed – Bank Holiday
Monday 26th March – Friday 6th April 2018 Inclusive	School closed for Easter Holidays (<i>usual home times apply on Friday 23rd March</i>)
Thursday 19th April 2018	The Primary School will be closed for the Primary Language Curriculum In-service Training for Teachers (The Pre-School will remain open)
Monday 7th May – Friday 11th May 2018 Inclusive	School closed for Bank Holiday & Mid-Term Break (<i>usual home times apply on Friday 4th May</i>)
Monday 4th June 2018	School closed for Bank Holiday
Wednesday 27th June 2018	School closes for Summer Holidays @ 12pm for all pupils

3rd Class will host our “Big Assembly” tomorrow Friday 2nd February at 9am in the School Hall. Parents welcome.

Library Volunteers Wanted

We are looking for Library volunteers who would be available on Mondays. If you could help, please speak to Ms. McConnell or email secretary@stmatts.ie. We look forward to hearing from you.



AFTER SCHOOL CARE

located at St. Matthew's National School

As you are all aware, the February mid-term break is approaching and we are delighted to announce that we will be providing **full day camps on Thursday 15th and Friday 16th February from 8.30am – 6.30pm to all families in St Matthew's.**

We provide fully supervised activities, including sports, games, art and crafts, with healthy snacks and hot nutritious meals.

Places will be limited so please contact us ASAP if you would like to reserve a place. The cost for the full day is €60. We will do our best to accommodate a place after Friday 2nd February but we cannot guarantee it.

Please see attached booking form which you should complete and email back to lisa@kidsinc.ie to reserve your place.

If you have any questions regarding the above please contact us on 01 6215790.



**KIDS INC Camp
BOOKING FORM**

(Please use block capital to fill out the booking form)

Childs Name(s):

(1).....	Date of Birth.....
(2).....	Date of Birth.....
(3).....	Date of Birth.....
(4).....	Date of Birth.....

Camp Location:St. Matthew's National School.....

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Contact Address:

Mobile:

Emergency contact number:

Email Address:

Child Medical Conditions/Allergies.....

Parents/Guardian

Signature.....

Camp Requirements (Please tick)

- Thursday
- Friday

€60 per day