



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.

Primary Schools have been instructed to take two separate half-day school closures 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 that relate to Child Protection.

To facilitate this, St. Matthew's National School (Junior Infants – 6th Class) will close on **Wednesday, 28th February and Wednesday, 21st March at 12pm**. The Pre-School will remain open until 12.30pm on these days. Please note that there will be no After School Club on these dates. Oh La La French with Anne Rice will take place from 12pm until 1pm for all pupils registered.

Teaching Practice

We will have a number of student teachers, completing a Teaching Practice in the School. The children will remain under the care and supervision of their class teacher at all times. The dates are as follows:

26th February – 23rd March

Gena McKay: 3rd Class

Fiona Clements: Senior Infants

9th April – 18th May

Katie Byrne: 2nd Class

Catherine Glasheen: 1st Class

16th April – 14th May

Natasha McCobb: 5th Class

Louise Newe: 6th Class

Thank you to all those who made pancakes, provided toppings or helped at the St. Matthew's Pancake Party. It was a wonderful event, the children had a fantastic time and €400 was raised in aid of charity. Well done to all!

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.



School Calendar 2017-2018

Wednesday, 28th February 2018	Half Day – 12pm – Child Protection Training. <i>Pre-School remains open until 12.30pm. No After School Club. Oh La La French with Anne Rice from 12pm – 1pm.</i>
Friday, 2nd March 2018	First Class to host Assembly at 9am. All welcome!
Monday, 19th March 2018	School closed for Bank Holiday
Wednesday, 21st March 2018	Half Day – 12pm – Child Protection Training. <i>Pre-School remains open until 12.30pm. No After School Club. Oh La La French with Anne Rice from 12pm – 1pm.</i>
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 <i>(The Pre-School will remain open as usual)</i>
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