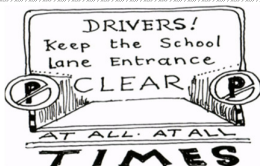




25th January 2018



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. **Children and adults must dismount from bikes and scooters, stand beside the School Warden and wait for the School Warden to say when it is safe to cross the road.**

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.

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.



Scooter Mix-Ups

It has come to our attention that there have been a number of scooter mix-ups over the last few months. Please mark your child's scooter so that it can be easily recognised and returned to its owner. Many thanks.

Please read on to next page ↓



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:

15th January – 9th February

Gena McKay: Junior Infants

Fiona Clements: 4th Class

26th February – 23rd March

Gena McKay: 3rd Class

Fiona Clements: Senior Infants

9th April – 18th May

Katie Byrne: 2nd Class

Catherine Glasheen: 1st Class

Natasha McCobb will be completing a Teaching Practice in 5th Class and Louise Newe will be completing a Teaching Practice in 6th Class. Dates to be confirmed.

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. **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 and to access continued professional development in relation to the matter. We will notify you of these half-day closure dates as soon as possible.**



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

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.

