



St Matthew's National School

NEWSLETTER



September 2015

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.

A warm welcome to our new teachers Rachael Cavanagh, Amy Dunne and Hannah Goulden. We are sadly saying goodbye to Jessica Poyntz who was appointed to Edenderry N.S., a school close to her new home and relatives, during the summer break. Jessica is sorry to leave and will be missed by all at St. Matthew's. We wish her all the best in her new school. Huge congratulations to Andrea Donlon on the birth of your beautiful baby girl, Abigail!

Over the summer break, the Board of Management have been working towards the improvement and development of the yard space. The Board aim to create a bright and colourful, green, open, imaginative, natural and creative play area for the children. This is so that our pupils have plenty of space to run, explore and play in, developing both their curiosity and fitness. We are hoping to make trees, plants, vegetables, mini beasts and natural spaces more accessible for the children. We want younger children to have a place where they can fall with a safer surface, reducing injuries. We want children to have space to play different games, places to explore and quiet places to relax in. The Board also want to make the yard a key learning space, where classes can complete tasks outdoors or use playground markings etc to explore and consolidate learning. We hope to do this with the introduction of an 'Outdoor Classroom' and various yard markings. Why not pop around to the yard space to see progress to date?

The Board had also hoped to upgrade the surface of the laneway, thanks to a Department of Education and Skills grant. Unfortunately, it was not possible to complete these works over the summer as a greater planning and 'lead in' time was required. These upgrade works are being planned for the October Mid-Term Break.

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. Extra Curricular Activities will commence the week of Monday 7th September. If you are planning to register for the After School Club, please do so immediately. Registration forms will be in your child's school bag today. The After School Club will begin on Thursday, 3rd September.

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.

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 in schoolbags or via email. If you would like to receive school notes via email, please send an email to secretary@stmatts.ie (if you are already receiving email communication from us, this will continue). Please also keep an eye on school notice boards and our school website.

We are looking for books that would be suitable for our classroom libraries from First to Sixth Class, 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

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 following is some great advice compiled by Olga Keogh, a parent 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 9.15am.

Wednesday 16 th September	6 th Class
Thursday 17 th September	5 th Class
Friday 18 th September	4 th Class
Monday 21 st September	3 rd Class
Tuesday 22 nd September	2 nd Class
Wednesday 23 rd September	1 st Class
Thursday, 24 th September	Senior Infants
Friday, 25 th September	Junior Infants



Staffing 2015/2016

Class	Teacher
Pre School	Jackie Earley
Junior Infants	Nicola Levis
Senior Infants	Alice Goodbody
1st Class	Sorcha O'Farrell
2nd Class	Hazel Buckley
3rd Class	Sarah-Louise Lee
4th Class	Rachael Cavanagh
5th Class	Casey McConnell (Acting Deputy Principal)
6th Class	Amy Dunne
Resource/Learning Support	Caroline Swanton Emma McCready Hannah Goulden
SNA	Mary Bolton Mick Byrne Mary Nolan Anne Rice
Secretary	Lynn Betson
Caretaker/Cleaner	Vic Dasal Jnr
School Warden	Carmel Joyce Louise Doyle

School Calendar 2015-2016

(Subject to Changes)

Tuesday 1st September 2015	School re-opens following Summer Holidays
Friday 23rd October 2015	School closes for Mid-Term Break (usual home times apply)
Monday 2nd November 2015	School re-opens following Mid-Term Break
Tuesday 22nd December 2015	School closes for Christmas Holidays at 12pm
Wednesday 6th January 2016	School re-opens following Christmas Holidays
Wednesday 17th February 2016	School closes for Mid-Term Break (usual home times apply)
Monday 22nd February 2016	School re-opens following Mid-Term Break
Wednesday 16th March 2016	School closes for Easter Holidays & St. Patrick's Day (usual home times apply)
Monday 4th April 2016	School re-opens following Easter Holidays
Friday 29th April 2016	School closes for May Bank Holiday & Mid-Term Break (usual home times apply)
Monday 9th May 2016	School re-opens following Mid-Term Break
Monday 6th June 2016	School closed for Bank Holiday
Thursday 30th June 2016	School closes for Summer Holidays at 12pm



Reminder - No Nuts or Nut Products into the following classrooms:

**Pre-School
3rd Class**

**Junior Infants
5th Class**

Thank you for your co-operation.

Annual HSE Health Check-Ups

- Junior Infants** - MMR (Measles, Mumps & Rubella)
4-in-1 (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Acellular Pertussis & Inactivated Polio)
- Senior Infants** - Sight Screening

The school will let parents know in advance when these are taking place.

PUNCTUALITY & ATTENDANCE

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. **School absences must be explained in writing** (sample excuse notes are in the lobby). Please plan family holidays during school holiday periods.

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). 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.

**** IMPORTANT NOTICES ****

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.

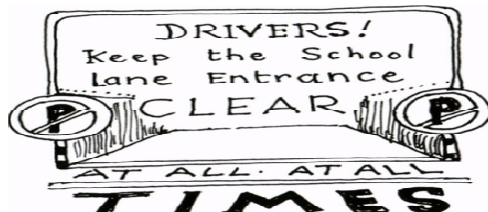
The Lost Property Box will be emptied each month. Unclaimed items will be sent to the recycling centre.

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!



Please do not stop, park or pull into this area when bringing your children to or collecting from school. This is for the safety of the children attending the school who cannot see or be seen by traffic. Please ensure this message is passed on to anyone else who brings or collects your child from school. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.