



St Matthew's National School NEWSLETTER



September 2016

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 Emma McCreedy who was appointed to Athlone N.S., a school close to her new home during the summer break. Emma 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 her second beautiful baby girl, Amelia! A huge congratulations also to Sarah-Louise Connolly who is expecting her new bundle of joy in December.

Over the summer break, the Board of Management upgraded the surface of the laneway, thanks to the Department of Education and Skills grant. I think you will agree that the lane looks wonderful and is much safer and easier to navigate!

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 today, Monday 5th 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 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. Please also keep an eye on school notice boards and our school website which we update regularly with the children's work.

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. McConnell's office.

Looking forward to another great, busy year!

Casey McConnell
Acting Principal

St. Matthew's National School

Extra Curricular Activities Term 1 2016/2017

Registration for Extra Curricular Activities is now taking place.
Please note all activities begin on Monday 5th September. Registration and payment can be made on our website 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
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.



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, 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.

Monday 19 th September	2 nd Class & 6 th Class
Tuesday 20 th September	5 th Class
Wednesday 21 st September	3 rd Class
Thursday 22 nd September	1 st Class
Friday 23 rd September	Senior Infants
Monday 26 th September	Junior Infants & 4 th Class



Staffing 2016/2017

Class	Teacher
Pre School	Jackie Earley
Junior Infants	Yvonne Furney
Senior Infants	Alice Griffin
1 st Class	Hannah Goulden
2 nd Class	Hazel Buckley
3 rd Class	Sarah-Louise Lee
4 th Class	Rachael Cavanagh
5 th Class	Sorcha O'Farrell
6 th Class	Amy Dunne
Resource/Learning Support	Caroline Swanton Nicola Levis One other TBC
SNA	Mary Bolton Mick Byrne Mary Nolan
Secretary	Lynn Betson
Caretaker/Cleaner	Vic Dasal Jnr
School Warden	Carmel Joyce Louise Doyle

School Calendar 2016-2017

(Subject to Changes)

Tuesday 30 th August 2016	School re-opens following Summer Holidays
Monday 31 st October – Friday 4 th November 2016 Inclusive	School closed for Mid-Term Break
Thursday 22 nd December 2016 – Friday 6 th January 2017 Inclusive	School closed for Christmas Holidays School closes at 12pm on Thursday 22 nd December
Monday 20 th February – Friday 24 th February 2017 Inclusive	School closed for Mid-Term Break
Friday 17 th March 2017	School closed for St. Patrick's Day
Monday 10 th April – Friday 21 st April 2017 Inclusive	School closed for Easter Holidays
Monday 1 st May 2017	School closed for May Bank Holiday
Monday 5 th June 2017	School closed for June Bank Holiday
Wednesday 28 th June 2017	School closes for Summer Holidays at 12pm



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

Junior Infants
4th Class

Senior Infants
6th 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* ****

If anyone is willing to help with our gardening 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.

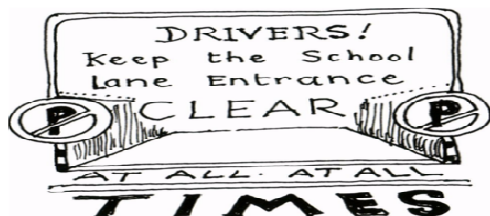
The Lost Property Box will be emptied each month. Unclaimed items will be sent to the recycling centre.

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!



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.