



3rd March 2016

<p align="center"><u>World Book Day</u> World Book Day will be this Thursday 3rd March Each class will be celebrating World Book Day with a number of activities in their classrooms. Homework will be World Book Day related also. Happy World Book Day!</p>	<p align="center">3rd Class will host our “Big Assembly” this Friday 4th March at 9am in the School Hall. All welcome.</p>
<p align="center"><u>Easter Holidays</u> The school will be closed for Easter Holidays from Thursday 17th March to Friday 1st April inclusive <i>(Usual home times apply on Wednesday 16th March)</i> The school will re-open on Monday 4th April at 8.30am.</p>	<p align="center"><u>Teaching Practice</u> This year, we will have a number of Student Teachers, from The Church of Ireland College of Education 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: <u>22nd February – 11th March:</u> Eve Gorman: First Class <u>18th - 29th April & 9th – 13th May:</u> Ciara Yeates: Junior Infants Ricky McMahon: Senior Infants Haley Smyth: Second Class Amy Atkinson: Fourth Class Laura Seale: Sixth Class</p>
<p align="center"><u>Annual Pub Quiz</u></p> <p>Parents, family & friends of St. Matthew's NS, we are holding our annual Pub Quiz on Thursday 10th March in Slattery's Bar & hope you can all join us for a fun filled evening. You can use this link to pre-book your table http://slatterysd4.ie/quiz-stmatthews we need as many tables as possible to guarantee the larger downstairs space! Thank you! The PA</p>	
<p>The Board of Management of St. Matthew's N.S. would like to pass their condolences to the family and friends of Canon R.H. Dick Bertram. Canon Bertram was the Minister at St. Matthew's Church for many, many years. During that time, Canon Bertram was highly involved in the daily running St. Matthew's N.S. as the Chairperson of the Board of Management. He was much loved by the St. Matthew's community.</p>	
<p align="center"><u>Staff Personnel</u></p> <p>During April, there will be a small change in staff personnel, teaching roles and responsibilities. The reason for this mid-year change is that Mrs. Rousseau will be taking Maternity Leave. Mrs. Rousseau plans to return from leave in December 2016.</p> <p>During Mrs. Rousseau's absence, Casey McConnell will leave her Acting Deputy Principal and classroom teacher duties and become St. Matthew's N.S. Acting Principal. Caroline Swanton will become St. Matthew's Acting Deputy Principal during this period also. Ms. Swanton will become the school's Special Education Needs Co-Ordinator.</p> <p>Over the past few months, both Ms. McConnell and Ms. Swanton have engaged in a thorough information and training programme with Mrs. Rousseau to enable them to manage the school in her absence. Mrs. Rousseau will also be available to Ms. McConnell and Ms. Swanton at any stage to offer any support or guidance that may be needed. Ms. McConnell and Ms. Swanton are both extremely capable and highly competent and the Board of Management has every faith in their abilities and know that they will do a fabulous job leading the school over the next few months.</p> <p>In order that Ms. McConnell can take up the Principal duties, Hannah Goulden will become the Fifth Class Teacher. Ms. Goulden is an outstanding teacher who has a great rapport with Fifth Class. She has spent considerable time in Fifth Class on a daily basis doing Team Teaching with Ms. McConnell. She knows the class extremely well as a result of this. Yvonne Furney has been employed to take up Hannah Goulden's Teaching Duties in Learning Support/Resource until the summer break.</p> <p>We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Andrea Donlon on her second pregnancy. Her second bundle of joy is due to arrive in July! We wish her the very best and look forward to welcoming her back to St. Matthew's during the next academic school year.</p> <p>We trust that we have answered any questions or queries that you may have.</p>	



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Local Schools Head Lice Campaign

Thank you for your help, support and cooperation with St. Matthew's efforts to rid the school community of Head Lice. We are currently working on a procedure document that will guide the school in alerting the parent body regarding Head Lice and dealing with this matter going forward.

Our local National Schools have also been struggling with Head Lice this year. Please see below.

Local schools St. Matthew's, Lakelands and Star of the Sea have been suffering a persistent Head Lice outbreak for the past few months. We urge you to wet comb your child's hair daily in an effort to eradicate Head Lice from our schools. If necessary please treat your child with Head Lice treatment. Wet combing and spraying a tea tree oil/ water solution around the nape of the head are THE MOST effective prevention measures.

If we try and attack them all at the same time we might have a higher chance of being a Head Lice free community. As such it has been suggested that all children (and adults), check their hair for Head Lice with a fine comb according to the following schedule:

First check: Saturday March 5th
Second check: Tuesday March 8th
Final check: Saturday March 12th

The more children checked, the higher the success rate. After this, we just need to remember the "Once a week, take a peak".

St. Matthew's remind you of these dates via text. Thank you for your co-operation and we look forward to Head Lice free hair!

Library Fundraising Drive

Dear Parents, our School Library is an invaluable resource which enriches the School and fosters a love of reading and literature in all the children from our beginner readers in the junior classes to our avid bookworms in the senior classes. The current Library stock is beginning to show its age and we are asking parents to assist us in the purchasing of a wide range of new books which have been chosen in consultation with the children.

From Thursday 3rd March, World Book Day, there will be an option on the Aladdin payments system to make a donation, starting from €5, to our Library Fundraiser target fund of €500 - If, alternatively, you wish to make a cash/cheque donation you may do so by handing the donation in a clearly marked envelope in to the School Office. We will have a fundraising tracker on display in the school which will keep you up to date with the progress of our fund.

The target of €500 euro will buy approximately 40-50 books. This will update some of the most popular series like 'Percy Jackson', 'Wimpy Kid', 'Tom Gates', 'Theodore Boon', sports fiction etc. It will also, hopefully, add new popular series and those on the children's best seller lists from 2015. We also hope to greatly increase our reading development section for younger readers eg. 'DK reader Star Wars' collection which move children from picture books to more detailed reading books. We want to add to our hugely popular sports collection and large books on art, animal, cookery, crafts and transport and of course dinosaurs. All recommendations are welcome and second hand books that are current and popular among 8-12 year olds are also welcome. We are well stocked in the younger picture books.

We would like to thank you all in advance for your participation in this fundraising drive.

"There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all"

Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis

The Library & PA Committees'