



10th February 2016

Mid-Term Break

**The school will be closed for
Mid-Term Break on
Thursday 18th and Friday 19th
February.**

*(Usual home times apply on Wednesday
17th February)*

**The school will re-open on Monday
22nd February at 8.30am.**

Easter Holidays

**The school will be closed for
Easter Holidays from
Thursday 17th March to
Friday 1st April inclusive**

*(Usual home times apply on Wednesday
16th March)*

**The school will re-open on Monday
4th April at 8.30am.**

Annual Pancake Party

**Thank you to the PA, to those who made wonderful pancakes and
to those of you who helped at the school yesterday for our Annual
Pancake Party. The children had a wonderful time and we raised
much needed funds in aid of The National Children's Hospital!**

Many thanks to all.

Head Lice

Many thanks to those of you that took part in our recent feedback gathering regarding whether long hair should be tied back as a rule in an effort to reduce the spread of Head Lice in our school. The result was over 80% in favour of bringing in a policy of having all long hair tied up.

The school will phase this policy in over the next few days. **It will be mandatory from next Monday 15th February; that all children with long hair must have it tied back. Children who come to school with long hair that is not tied back will be asked to do so by their Class Teacher.** This policy will be included in the appropriate dress section of the school rules and the same rules will apply to non-conformance.

We will also continue our notifications of an outbreak of Head Lice and are working with the Parents Association of Lakelands and Star of the Sea schools to run a communitywide campaign.

Again thank you for your participation and in advance for your co-operation.

*Annaleise O'Leary
Chairperson – St. Matthew's Parents Association*



Cold/Flu Season Pandemic (H1N1) or Swine Flu

Dear Parents

The annual cold and flu season is with us and once again, and it has been reported that the Swine Flu is one of the flu viruses this season. St. Matthew's N.S. has been and will continue to be adopting a common sense and preventative approach to the cold/flu viruses in order to help prevent its spread and minimise its impact on the school community. We do this by:

- Raising Awareness:
 - Children will be reminded of the rhyme:
Catch it
Bin it
Kill it
 - Posters will be on display on respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene.
- Respiratory Etiquette:
 - When coughing and sneezing, one should turn their head away from others; cover their nose and mouth with a tissue, dispose of the tissue after one use. Hands should then be washed correctly. If no tissue is available, people should sneeze or cough into the inside of their elbow.
 - Every pupil should bring a box of tissues to school. There will be a box of tissues on every table during the school day for quick and easy access for pupils.
- Hand Hygiene:
 - Children have been taught how to wash their hands correctly
 - Posters will be displayed around the school, reminding everybody how to wash their hands correctly.
 - Anti-bacterial lotion is available in the lobby area for children to use with their parents as they arrive in school. It is also available in every classroom for children to use.
 - Every child in 1st to 6th Class should have clearly identifiable stationary. Pencils and pens and other necessary stationary should be named if possible. Stationary should not be shared between pupils.
- Routine Cleaning:
 - The virus can live on hard surfaces such as tables, door handles etc. These will continue to be cleaned regularly.
- Recognising the Symptoms and Responding Accordingly:
 - If a child develops flu like symptoms, they will be isolated from their peers and parents will be asked to collect their child as soon as possible. We ask that sick children stay at home until they have fully recovered.

Please remember:

- Every child should bring a box of tissues to school.
- 1st – 6th: Every child's stationary should be clearly identified and labelled if possible. This equipment should not be shared between pupils.
- Under no circumstances should a sick child be sent to school.

Thank you for your co-operation in these matters.

Naomi Rousseau
Principal

P.T.O. →