

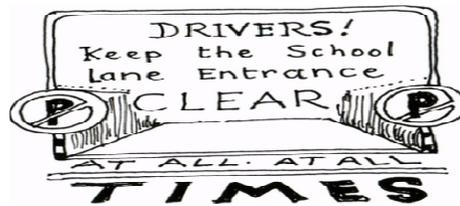
10th September 2015



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



It is wonderful that our school has two School Wardens as we are surrounded by some very busy roads. It is extremely important that we only cross the road with Louise and Carmel at the designated points. This is to ensure our children's safety. Thank you for your co-operation.



Webwise Learning

23% of 9-16 year olds surveyed in Ireland experienced some form of bullying, online or offline.

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It also emerged from the research of 1,000 Irish children that fewer than one third who were bullied on the Internet had let their parents know.

(EU Kids Online – A DIT Study, 2013)

The pupils are currently completing the Stay Safe Programme as a part of SPHE. The Stay Safe Programme is taught every year to all pupils at St. Matthew's. The aim of the Stay Safe Programme is to reduce vulnerability to child abuse and bullying. The course develops the child's ability to recognise, resist and report risk situations or abusive encounters. It teaches children personal safety skills so that they can look after themselves in situations which could be upsetting, abusive or dangerous. Essentially the programme teaches children to tell (and keep telling) a trusted adult about any problems they may have.



In the coming weeks, Stay Safe will be replaced by a webwise programme in SPHE.

In order to introduce this topic to the school, we have invited eSafety to St. Matthew's to run a number of internet safety seminars on
Thursday 17th September



Third and Fourth Class & Fifth and Sixth Class

This age and ability appropriate seminar (30-45 minutes) will take place during the school day.

- Children will fill in an anonymous questionnaire ahead of the session, so that eSafety can address any concerns that arise.
- Some of the topics covered will include:
 - **Cyber-Bullying** – The Importance of online communication & being considerate of others. The three key steps to stopping any cyber-bullying incident.
 - **Social Networks** – Safe-Guarding your private information, accepting friend requests, learning how to use the security settings.
 - **Future Reputations/digital footprint** – How everything that we do and say online can have an effect on our reputation.
 - Emphasise the importance of enjoying, and having fun with the Internet and encouraging the children to explore the Internet in the most open and safe way possible.

Please fill in the permission slip attached and return it to the school so that your son/daughter can attend. →→→

Parent Body

“ It’s not necessary to be an expert in order for you to help your children enjoy the Internet safely. ”

The internet can provide a fantastic opportunity for children but at the same time they can be putting themselves at risk to online dangers. The fast evolution of the internet through technology means that it is becoming more difficult to supervise. A basic understanding of the internet and the technology your children are using is a great place to start.

Although this may seem intimidating to some parents, a basic understanding can give you the information to help identify potential risks and guide your children to safer online interaction.

- Session: **7.30pm on Thursday, 17th September**
- This awareness evening will be an opportunity:
 - for parents to find out what their children learnt/discussed
 - inform parents about what is happening in the web world
 - share children’s feedback to parents
 - advise on best practice in the home regarding internet safety

Please contact the School Office if you will be attending so that we will have a numbers estimate. Call 01 6603145 or email secretary@stmatts.ie

Staff Body

The staff body will also undertake a training and information seminar.

Once the seminars are finished, all pupils from Junior Infants – Sixth Class will be doing age appropriate, Department of Education developed internet safety related lessons in SPHE with topics such as:

- What is the internet?
- Searching the internet
- What can I trust online?
- Sharing personal information

Many thanks to Anne Conway for her support in organising this programme of learning for our school community.

Please fill in the permission slip attached and return it to the school so that your son/daughter can attend. →→→



Permission Slip

Third – Sixth Class Parents, please return this permission slip to the school office so that your child can participate in the eSafety Session.

Many thanks.



Dear Parent/Guardian

eSafety is an internet safety awareness and education company. We will shortly be working in your child's school conducting Internet safety seminars. You can see more about our work at www.eSafety.ie. eSafety would like to collect data on internet usage and access from children in this school. This will take the form of an anonymous 10-question survey. The information collected will be used to feed back to the school, assisting them to better understand how their students are accessing the Internet and what they are using it for. The information collected in these surveys is anonymous and will only be used by eSafety and the school. It will not be passed on to any third party.

I _____, Parent/ Guardian of _____
give my permission for my child to take part in the eSafety seminar and
anonymous online survey about internet usage.

Signed: _____

Date: _____