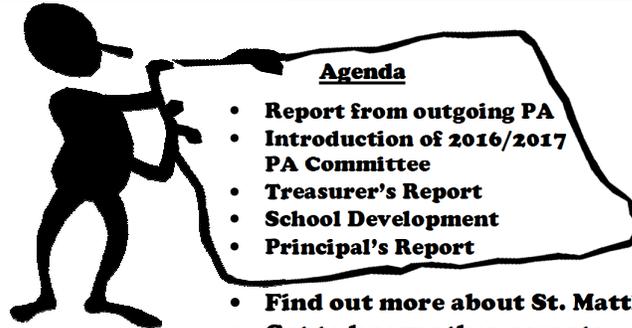




Parent Open Evening Thursday 24th November at 8pm



Tomorrow Night!

- Agenda
- Report from outgoing PA
 - Introduction of 2016/2017 PA Committee
 - Treasurer's Report
 - School Development
 - Principal's Report
 - Find out more about St. Matthew's
 - Get to know other parents
 - Classrooms will be open for visiting

- All welcome
- Wine Reception from 7.30pm

Voluntary Contribution Reminder

The Voluntary Donation appeal was launched recently. Many thanks to those who have responded to date. If you will be making a donation can you please return the forms to the School Office as soon as possible. There are a number of ways in which you can make your contribution and these are outlined in the forms along with the suggested contribution levels. These are only guidelines, any level of contribution is valuable. If you have mislaid the forms or need advice with regard to completing them, please drop into the School Office. Thank you for your co-operation.



Christmas Christmas Carol Services

Senior Carol Service Tuesday 20th December at 7pm in St. Matthew's Church. Hosted by 6th Class with support from 3rd, 4th & 5th Classes. All welcome.

Junior Carol Service Wednesday 21st December at 9am in St. Matthew's Church. Hosted by 2nd Class with support from Pre-School, Junior Infants, Senior Infants & 1st Class. All welcome. *All children (Pre-School - 6th Class) to be dropped to St. Matthew's Church between 8.30am-8.50am to be in time for the Carol Service, do not drop children to the school on this morning.*



Christmas Trips

Pre-School, Junior Infants and Senior Infants will be going to *Frosty the Snowman* on Friday 9th December. They will leave the school at 9am sharp and travel by private coach to the Helix, DCU. Children are asked to be in school by 8.45am so we can be ready to leave at 9am sharp. They will return to the school by private coach at 12.30pm approx, so the usual home time arrangements will still apply.

1st and 2nd Class will be going to *Jack and the Beanstalk* on Thursday 8th December. They will leave the school at 9am sharp and travel by private coach to the Mill Theatre, Dundrum. Children are asked to be in school by 8.45am so we can be ready to leave at 9am sharp. They will return to the school by private coach at 12.15pm approx, so the usual home time arrangements will still apply.

3rd and 4th Class will be going to *A Christmas Carol* on Thursday 15th December. They will leave the school at 9am sharp and travel by Dublin Bus to the Ark Theatre, Temple Bar. Children are asked to be in school by 8.45am so we can be ready to leave at 9am sharp. They will return to the school by Dublin Bus at 12.15pm approx, so the usual home time arrangements will still apply.

Payment for Christmas trips can be made at the School Office or online at www.stmatts.ie



We would like to wish Mrs Connolly all the best as she begins her maternity leave on Friday. Best of luck and we look forward to hearing the exciting news! Make sure to visit us all soon!



PTA NEWS



Our Christmas Fair takes place on Friday 9th December from 6pm-8pm

This year our main attraction for the children is a fabulous Magician who will bamboozle, amuse and entertain your children in equal measure, we will be really excited to welcome him. Lots of usual stalls will be there on the night, we will once again be requesting baked goods for our cake stall and, who knows, if you start practicing now you might have a prize winner ready for our bake-off competition! We have been very fortunate to receive a plethora of wonderful prizes for our raffle, look out for the ticket books which will be sent home in bags next week. Attractions include movie, disco, paper airplane workshop, coffee & tea.....or if you're feeling festive some mulled wine! Plenty to keep everyone entertained and all for a cause dear to our hearts and vital to the improvement of our children's education.

During the week commencing 5th December the PTA will be:

- 🌲 Accepting all your donations of toys, books, games & bric-a-brac. Please ensure that donations are in 'good-as-new' condition and that games & puzzles have no missing parts.
- 🌲 Selling children's wristbands for entry to the Fair including a goody bag and ticket for the Magician.
- 🌲 Receiving ticket stubs & payment for the raffle (there will be extra books available).
- 🌲 Seeking volunteers to help before, during and after the Fair. Please talk to your PTA rep or any member of the committee or look out for the sign-up sheet on the external noticeboard.

We look forward to seeing you all there on the night!

Our wonderful **Christmas cards** will be winging their way home to you in the next few days, if you have any payments outstanding please hand them into the School Office, clearly marked with your name, your child's name and class and the exact amount due in cash or cheque (*made payable to St. Matthew's National School*). Thank you!



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 by text message. The following is some great advice compiled by Olga Keogh, a parent in our school, please take the time to read it.

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 <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:

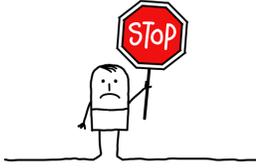
- There are a number of products that help aid in the prevention of head lice:
 - Teangi Tea Tree Shampoo
 - Leave-in Conditioning Spray
 - Tea tree oil dabbed around the back of the ears
 - Hedrin Protect and Go is also worth stocking up on, it does have a funny texture but it isn't as bad if applied 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>

P.T.O. →



Road and School Lane Safety

- As we approach mid-winter please be mindful that pedestrians are not as visible to drivers in the dim winter light, if you are walking or cycling with your children to or from school it is advisable to use high-vis accessories to improve visibility.
- With the expansion of the school in the past decade, there is increasing pressure on parking at school drop-off and pick-up times. Please be mindful that Cranfield Place and Oswald Road are both residential streets and that the residents need vehicular access to and from their houses at peak times too. Please do not park in front of driveways, or park in a manner that impedes access, blocks traffic or blocks pedestrian access (requiring young children or parents with buggies to walk out onto roads).
- If your children are of an age where they can be trusted to make their own way to school from your car in the mornings, via the school warden if necessary, then, unless you have a specific reason to visit the school, please consider allowing them that little bit of independence. This will in turn hopefully take pressure off parking in the area.
- Please DO NOT park on the yellow box (Tritonville Road) or 'zig zag' yellow lines (Cranfield Place). These areas are for the specific use of the School Wardens and the safety of our children relies on the ability of our School Wardens to carry out their duties safely - it is not an exaggeration to say that careless parking endangers children's lives.
- Cycling/scooting is not allowed on the school lane, it can cause needless accidents.
- If you are bringing a dog to the school in the mornings/afternoons please ensure that they are tied up securely at the lane entrance, that any extension leads are locked tight and please be mindful that not all children, or adults, are comfortable around dogs. If your child can make their own way into school from the school gate it might be a good opportunity to afford them some independence so the dog doesn't need to be left alone.

Thank you for your co-operation, the PTA



Donnybrook & Irishtown: Church Review Notes for December 2016

Services for December in St. Mary's and St. Matthew's churches

Sunday 4th December	The Second Sunday of Advent	
	St. Mary's 10.00am	Morning Prayer
	St. Matthew's 11.30am	Family Service
Sunday 11th December	The Third Sunday of Advent	
	St. Mary's 10.00am	Holy Communion
	St. Matthew's 11.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 18th December	The Fourth Sunday of Advent	
	St. Mary's 10.00am	Nine Lessons & Carols
	St. Matthew's 11.30am	Nine Lessons & Carols
Sunday 25th December	Christmas Day	
	St. Mary's 10.00am	Holy Communion
	St. Matthew's 11.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 1st January	The First Sunday of Christmas	
	St. Mary's 10.00am	Morning Prayer
	St. Matthew's 11.30am	Family Service

Donnybrook & Irishtown Parishes are on the Web! Last month St. Mary's & St. Matthew's churches finally went live on the Web. Take a look – Google keywords such as “donnybrook and irishtown”. Or use the full URL: www.donnybrookandirishtownparish.ie. Please use it – with Google, the more it is accessed, the more visible it will become to all other searchers. Give us (encouraging!) feedback. Help us to extend the coverage and the scope of information about our two parishes by sending comments and news, local photo images (digital) of people, places, notices of planned events and anything which makes the site relevant. The web site also has a live twitter feed which we moderate - on @DnnybrkIrishtwn. Send tweets to us – we'd love to hear from you. Or forward stuff like photos to me at revimarchant@gmail.com

Our website has been created in memory of Jean Sheil, a long-time member of St. Matthew's Parish. When I suggested the idea to the two congregations, Jean immediately offered the services of her niece, Alison Watson. Alison, of www.smartimaging.biz rose to the challenge magnificently, and the result - our Parish Group of Donnybrook and Irishtown - is now presented to the world. But the secret of a relevant web site is that it is eternally updated, and that challenge has been enthusiastically grasped by another parent and parishioner of St. Matthew's - our administrator, Ms. Nicky Bell.

Carols-in-the-Street for the Simon Community



The two parishes will again co-ordinate the annual cross-community *Carols in the Street*, in aid of the Simon Community, meeting at **7pm sharp** at the locations below.

We would appreciate all singers and collectors. Wear warm/waterproof clothes, gloves, Santa hat and bring a torch. Only suitable for younger children if accompanied.

For further information, contact Claire on 086 383 1335.

Thursday 8th December:	Brabazon Nursing Home, Gilford Rd, Sandymount
Friday 9th December:	Spar supermarket Donnybrook (near Old Wesley grounds)
Monday 12th December:	At Sandford Church (Sandford Parish in charge)
Tuesday 13 th December:	At Margaretholme, Claremont Rd
Wednesday 14th December:	Sandymount Ave DART Station
Thursday 15th December:	Tritonville Close, 52 Tritonville Rd
Friday 16th December:	End of Whitebeam Rd, towards Clonskeagh Rd