



St Matthew's National School NEWSLETTER

December 2016

As we come to the end of another busy term I would like to congratulate our pupils for completing an excellent term, packed full of tasks, learning and activities including a Maths and Science Week, School Trips and Carol Singing to name a few. Well done to the children who have represented St. Matthew's at team events with a special mention to the boys' and girls' senior basketball teams who both won the Dublin Final. Please take some time to read some of the activities that St. Matthew's N.S. has been up to this term on our school blog. Well done to all!

Thank you to all of our teachers and staff members for their dedication and continued hard work for the pupils of St. Matthew's. Thank you to the staff members who give freely of their time to coach and support teams at matches. Over the next term at school, all classes will be doing Music with Catherine on Tuesdays and 5th & 6th Class will be Swimming. Congratulations to Mrs. Connolly on the birth of her baby girl, Jessica. We look forward to welcoming them both for a visit.

Parents, thank you for your continued support bringing important issues to our attention and supporting your children at school. I would like to thank in particular the parents on the Library and Gardening Committees.

Congratulations and thank you to the Parent Teacher Association who organised a fantastic Christmas Fair and beautiful calendar and Christmas cards! Many thanks also to the parents and businesses that sponsored the calendar. If possible, please give these local companies your custom and support.

Thank you to our wonderful School Wardens, Carmel Joyce and Louise Doyle. Please continue to use these services as much as possible, following the rules of the road, so that this vital service remains in place. Please also be reminded that it is not permitted to stop or park in the zig-zag zone at the bottom of the school laneway. This is a matter of safety for our children. For many years we have enjoyed harmonious relations with our neighbours, please do not park in a manner that blocks neighbour access to/from their driveways.

Please find next term's Extra Curricular Registration Form enclosed. If your child(ren) wish to participate in any of the activities, please complete the form, attach payment and hand into the School Office. You can also register and pay for an activity online at www.stmatts.ie.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank every parent, child and staff member for their support over the past eight months. I have immensely enjoyed my time as Acting Principal and will miss welcoming all the happy faces at the door on a daily basis. A very special thank you to Ms. Swanton (Acting Deputy Principal) for everything she has done for both myself and the school. We look forward to welcoming Mrs. Rousseau back in January.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. I look forward to seeing you all when the school re-opens on Monday, 9th January 2017.

Casey McConnell
Acting Principal

*Happy Christmas from all the pupils & staff
of St. Matthew's National School.*

*We look forward to seeing you in the New Year
when school re-opens on Monday 9th January 2017.*



Tonight!



Senior Carol Service

(3rd – 6th Class)

Tuesday 20th December 2016 7pm in St. Matthew's Church

Hosted by 6th Class with help from 3rd, 4th & 5th Class

All senior children (3rd – 6th Class) must arrive at the church by 6.45pm

Tomorrow!



Junior Carol Service

(Pre-School - 2nd Class)

Wednesday 21st December 2016 9am in St. Matthew's Church

Hosted by 2nd Class with help from Pre-School, Junior Infants, Senior Infants & 1st Class

Please note that all junior children (Pre-School-2nd Class) must be dropped off at the church, and NOT to the school on Wednesday morning.

- Senior children (3rd-6th Class) should make their way to school as normal on Wednesday morning. Parents are more than welcome to bring any senior siblings to the church to watch the Junior Carol Service, however, parents are responsible for their child(ren)'s return to school after the performance.
- Junior children will be walked back to school by their teachers.
- If you wish to bring your child(ren) home after the performance, please communicate this to the class teacher by Tuesday 20th December.
- Please note that we cannot accommodate bicycles or scooters at the church.

It would be great to keep the aisles free, all buggies should be left in the foyer. We would also request that if you are taking photos, that you remain seated out of courtesy for others.



**ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH IRISHTOWN
OUR CHURCH SERVICES THIS CHRISTMAS-TIDE**



Sunday 18th December

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

St. Mary's	10.00am	Lessons and Carols
St. Matthew's	11.30am	Lessons and Carols

Thursday 24th December

Christmas Eve

St. Mary's	10.00pm	Holy Communion
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Friday 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

Sunday 8th January

The First Sunday after the Epiphany

St. Mary's	10.00am	Holy Communion
St. Matthew's	11.30am	Holy Communion

YOU ARE VERY WELCOME TO JOIN WITH US IN CELEBRATING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON



School Calendar 2016-2017

Tuesday 20th December 2016	Senior Carol Service 3 rd – 6 th Class at 7pm in St. Matthew's Church
Wednesday 21st December 2016	Junior Carol Service Pre-School – 2 nd Class at 9am in St. Matthew's Church
Thursday 22nd December 2016	School closes for Christmas Holidays at 12pm for all pupils <i>(No After-School Club or Extra-Curricular Activities)</i>
Monday 9th January 2017	School re-opens following Christmas Holidays
Monday 20th – Friday 24th February 2017 inclusive	School closes for Mid-Term Break <i>(usual home times apply on Friday 17th February)</i>
Monday 13th March 2017	School closed for Primary Language Curriculum Training for Staff <i>(Pre-School open as usual)</i>
Friday 17th March 2017	School closed for St. Patrick's Day
Monday 10th – Friday 21st April 2017 inclusive	School closed for Easter Holidays
Monday 1st May 2017	School closed for Bank Holiday
Monday 5th June 2017	School closed for Bank Holiday
Wednesday 28th June 2017	School closes for Summer Holidays at 12pm for all pupils <i>(No After-School Club or Extra-Curricular Activities)</i>

St. Matthew's National School

Extra Curricular Activities Term 2 2016/2017

Registration for Term 2 Extra Curricular Activities is now taking place.
Please see attached Registration Form and information.
Please note all St. Matthew's run activities and French begin on Monday 16th January
(ArtZone begins on Monday 9th January).

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).

Visit our website www.stmatts.ie and check out our blog section to keep up to date with all the activities that have been happening in St. Matthew's this term!

A Note From The Treasurer

The Board is very grateful for the continued voluntary support offered to the school, be it through financial contributions, helping within the school community or both. None of the events would be possible without the collaboration of the PA and teaching staff. It's what makes St. Matthew's special and long may it continue. We are very excited about our upcoming School Hall project (we are hoping building will commence Easter 2017). We will keep you informed on the plans for the School Hall as things progress. I am sure you will join me in wishing the teaching and support staff a well-deserved rest over the Christmas period.
Best wishes, *Darren Cran (Treasurer)*



Parent Teacher Association News

As always, the run up to Christmas is the busiest time for us on the PTA, but we are delighted with the enormous success of our activities thus far. For new families to the school you will have noticed by now that the PTA is very active at fundraising but it is also our intention to enhance the school year with various fun activities for the children too. All of these events could not happen without the help of our PTA committee, all the parents who volunteer to help out and, of course, the Staff of St. Matthew's who put an enormous amount of work in to preparing the school.

Our calendars have just arrived in time for Christmas! This year we chose a theme based on all the school activities throughout the year and the children all looked perfect for their photoshoots. The amazing images are the work of Shane McCarthy, we are lucky to have such a talent among us.

The sponsorship we raised through the calendar stands at just over €11,000 - We are overwhelmed by the generosity of all the businesses involved in sponsorship and would also like to thank those businesses and individuals who contributed to the raffle prizes at our recent Christmas Fair, your support is invaluable to the school **(Don't forget to look out for extra calendars or cards this week at the Christmas services).**

The children had a bit more of a creative input into their card images this year, it is wonderful to see so many talented artists on show on the Christmas cards. We had a great response to our card sales and I'm sure you agree that all the cards look fantastic.

Just before mid-term in October we departed from the usual scary Halloween themes to stage our whizzbanging Roald Dahl themed dress-up and movie day to mark the centenary of this favourite author's birth. There was such a great sense of excitement with all the children in the parade from the littlies in Pre-school through to the tweenies in 5th & 6th Classes and, as usual, kudos to the parents at home who were up extra early that day face-painting, sellotaping and stitching to provide the children with a splendiferous array of costumes!

On December 9th, we had our Christmas Fair which was organised by our fair sub-committee of Ciaran Simms, Natasha Robinson and Emma Long and the humongous task of co-ordinating the raffle was left in the capable hands of Catherine Sherry. Thank you all for your contributions to the Fair, with your help we raised almost €5,000!

There was a fantastic response from the kids and parents to the Christmas Bake-Off competition, with a very high standard of entries. In fact, the standard was so high in the children's competition that it was almost impossible for our Judge, Ross Staunton, to decide the order of merit.

Adults:

1st Prize – Ian Robinson

2nd Prize – Bebhinn Dunne

Children:

1st Prize – Jessica Robinson (3rd class)

Runner up – Lucy Robinson (5th class)

Runner up – Beth Manzocchi (3rd class)

Runner up – Joe Hennigan (5th class)

Very well done to the winners, and thank you to all of the children and parents who contributed so much to the tables of delicious cakes, biscuits and delicacies at the Christmas Fair cake stall.

We are already busy planning next terms events, our Pancake Tuesday party, Table Quiz and Easter Hop Disco.... watch out for more details after Christmas.

Remember, the PTA is your PTA, if you have any comments, queries or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact any of your class reps, the names of whom are at the door of each respective class. We are on Facebook also, St. Matthew's NS D4 Parents Association, we find this is a great method for quickly picking up on concerns that arise and also for reminding parents of upcoming PTA events.

Thanks again for all your help, have a Happy Christmas and see you all again in 2017!