



St Matthew's National School NEWSLETTER

December 2017

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 learning and activities. 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 won the Dublin Final! Please take some time to read about our activities and special events on the school blog. Over the next term at school, all classes will be doing Music with Catherine on Mondays and 5th & 6th Class will be Swimming.

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. Parents, thank you for your continued support. Congratulations and thank you to the PTA who organised a fantastic Christmas Fair, beautiful calendar and cards! Many thanks to the parents and businesses that sponsored the calendar. Where possible, please give these local companies your custom and support.

Thank you to our wonderful School Wardens. 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.

Bar a few small snags, our extended and refurbished hall is complete!! Thank you to you all for your support and patience during the building process. It was wonderful to see so many of you at the official opening to view the children's fabulous artwork. The Board of Management is delighted to announce that an additional grant has been awarded to the school to help cover the cost of the project. This is a simply fantastic result for our school.

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 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, 8th January 2018.

Naomi Rousseau
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 8th January 2018.*



Tonight!



Senior Carol Service

(3rd – 6th Class)

Tuesday 19th December 2017 **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 20th December 2017 **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



Dear Parents & Pupils,

I would like to thank you most sincerely for coming to St. Matthew's Church Carol Service last Sunday. The church was certainly filled with fine voice. I extend special thanks to pupils from 2nd Class and to all pupils & past pupils who read lessons. You are a credit to both your teachers & parents. A huge thank you also to Karen Woods who over the last few Sundays has helped the younger children make a nativity scene complete with stable. It was presented on Sunday and is now on display in the church. Thank you also to Nicky Bell for making mulled wine which was a very welcome way to end the celebrations.

Our next two services are on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at 11.30am. Everyone is most welcome. Please come and celebrate with us and see our lovely new crib!

We wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and look forward to an exciting New Year for St. Matthew's Church.

Yours sincerely

Rev. John Marchant



School Calendar 2017-2018

Tuesday 19th December 2017	Senior Carol Service 3 rd – 6 th Class at 7pm in St. Matthew's Church
Wednesday 20th December 2017	Junior Carol Service Pre-School – 2 nd Class at 9am in St. Matthew's Church
Friday 22nd December 2017	School closes for Christmas Holidays at 12pm for all pupils
Monday 8th January 2018	School re-opens following Christmas Holidays
Thursday 15th & Friday 16th February 2018	School closed for Mid-Term Break (<i>usual home times apply on Wednesday 14th February</i>)
Monday 19th March 2018	School closed – Bank Holiday
Monday 26th March – Friday 6th April 2018 Inclusive	School closed for Easter Holidays (<i>usual home times apply on Friday 23rd March</i>)
Thursday 19th April 2018	The Primary School will be closed for the Primary Language Curriculum In-service Training for Teachers (The Pre-School will remain open)
Monday 7th May – Friday 11th May 2018 Inclusive	School closed for Bank Holiday & Mid-Term Break (<i>usual home times apply on Friday 4th May</i>)
Monday 4th June 2018	School closed for Bank Holiday
Wednesday 27th June 2018	School closes for Summer Holidays @ 12pm for all pupils

Teaching Practice

We will have a number of student teachers, 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:

15th January – 9th February

Gena McKay: Junior Infants
Fiona Clements: 4th Class

26th February – 23rd March

Gena McKay: 3rd Class
Fiona Clements: Senior Infants

9th April – 18th May

Katie Byrne: 2nd Class
Catherine Glasheen: 1st Class

St. Matthew's National School

Extra Curricular Activities Term 2 2017/2018

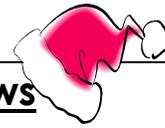
**Registration for Term 2 Extra Curricular Activities is now taking place.
Please see attached Registration Form and information.**

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).



Parent Teacher Association News



A huge thanks to one and all for the fantastic support given to the PTA with our fundraising and events for the school this year.

Thank you to our very generous School Calendar sponsors, lots of whom support from one year to the next! The calendar generates most of the funds raised by our PTA so without our sponsors support we couldn't support the school as much as we do so a sincere thank you to each and every sponsor! A special mention has to go to Shane McCarthy for the gorgeous photos of all our children and making it such a fun event for them every year!

** School calendars are still available to buy at the School Office or online at www.stmatts.ie (if you order online, please collect your calendar from the School Office) and please remember to support our sponsors whose logos and details you'll see on the calendars.

The School Christmas Cards look brilliant this year. Well done to all our budding artists and thanks to all parents for supporting and buying lots of packs. A special mention and thanks to Karen Bothwell who led the calendar and card work for the PTA and got them to the Christmas Fair on time...which was no mean feat!

Thanks to all who supported our Christmas Raffle donating fantastic prizes! As always parents and local businesses gave so generously to the raffle again this year so we had lots of prizes to be won in all shapes and sizes that appealed to one and all, big and small!

The school Christmas Fair marked as always the official start of Christmas! Thank you to so many for helping make it such a fun event and creating happy memories for the children....to everyone who donated books and toys, to everyone who took the time to bake delicious cakes and treats and to all who came along to the Fair and bought the cakes, toys, books, raffle tickets, calendars and even tattoos! A special mention has to go to Ros Willoughby our Mrs Clause of the PTA who took the lead on the Christmas Fair and worked so hard to make it fun for all involved! We raised a great sum for the school thanks to everyone's generosity.

Happy Christmas from all the PTA and looking forward to lots more fun events in the New Year!

