



Dates for Your Diary 2019

Tuesday 5th March	Pancake Tuesday ... more delicious details to follow!
Monday 4th – Friday 8th March	Engineer's Week takes place between the 2 nd - 8 th March. Each class will be taking part in an engineering task in class such as building, designing and making. Some of the senior classes are participating in online activity in class where they can meet and interact with engineers. It's an X Factor-style competition between engineers, where the students are the judges. Lisa Lyons will be coming in to talk to senior pupils about Women in Engineering. For more information about Engineers Week and for some more events check out www.engineersweek.ie
Thursday 7th March	St. Matthew's N.S. will be celebrating World Book Day! 6 th Class will be presenting their project at Science Blast in the RDS (previously Young Scientist Competition).
Friday 8th March	1 st Class will be hosting Assembly @ 9am in the School Hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 13th & Thursday 14th March	School Photos: Shane McCarthy will be taking class photos, individual and sibling photos. Parents will then have the opportunity to order their favourite prints. A form will follow next week with further details.
Friday 15th March	Grandparents Day! <i>(please see further details below)</i>
Monday 18th March	School Closed - St. Patrick's Day Bank Holiday
Tuesday 19th March	History Workshops for children in 4 th , 5 th & 6 th Class from Heritage in Schools Programme
Monday 25th – Friday 29th March Inclusive	St. Matthew's Seachtain na Gaeilge. Details of our week of events to follow!
Thursday 28th March 	PTA Table Quiz: Mark your calendars now for the St. Matthew's table quiz on Thursday March 28th at 7.30pm in the Merry Cobbler . Guaranteed to be a great night with quiz, prizes, raffle and spot prizes galore. Tickets (€10 each) are on sale at www.stmatts.ie (via Aladdin payments). Any class that has attendance of 15 or more will get homework off for the night! The quiz committee are seeking volunteer parents from each class to ask a round of questions, so let your class rep know if you're interested.
Monday 3rd – Friday 7th June Inclusive	Active Week! Sports Day will be on Friday 7 th June (hopefully the weather will co-operate!)



Aldi are giving schools the opportunity to win €50,000 to develop playing facilities alongside some smaller prizes. If you happen to be shopping in Aldi, please collect the Aldi

Play Rugby Stickers with every €30 spent. Add them to the school poster in our lobby – hopefully we can fill it!

Activities, Events & Areas of Focus: PTA & Teaching Body

St. Matthew's First Grandparents Day

Friday 15th March



Who to bring: children are invited to bring one/more grandparent(s) or special visitor such as an aunt/uncle. Please do not worry if no-one can attend, there will be plenty of activities. Your son/daughter's special visitor can move between rooms to your children as applicable.

Time: 9.30am - 10.15am

The theme will be 'Show & Tell'. We would love our special visitors to bring in a 'show & tell' item that they could show off to your son/daughter and perhaps some other children in the class. It could be an historic item, an old toy or tool that your son/daughter may never have seen, a photo or item from a holiday etc. (As we are looking to build a store of historical items for our school museum, any donations very kindly accepted.)

Our pupils will get the opportunity to 'Show & Tell' some of our learning too!



Do you have a skill/talent/workshop/time that the school could use, it could be as simple as time to help with reading? We hope to develop a spreadsheet that the teaching body could make use of to enrich the learning in our school community. If so, please speak to the PTA Chair, Sara Jane or your PTA Class rep. Many thanks in advance.

Road Safety



The PTA and Board of Management remain concerned about traffic speed, incidents of road rage and the lack of school signage and traffic calming in the school's immediate area. Thank you to the parents who have brought their concerns directly forward also. We are in the process of contacting Dublin City Council and Local Councillors with a view to the matter being improved.

Please be reminded of the following:

- Do not stop or park in the vicinity of the zig zag lines at the bottom of the laneway as these are a direct measure to protect our pupils
- Please follow the clear guidance from our wonderful school wardens
- Please drive slowly, particularly at the Oswald Road/Cranfield Place junction
- Please be respectful of our neighbours and access to their homes

Updated Home-time Procedures

If you are collecting your son/daughter from 1st-6th Class in the school yard, please stand in the lower end of the basketball court, closer to the teachers (we promise, we don't bite!). We are finding it quite difficult to see you all. This will also make it easier for the teachers to pass on any messages to parents and vice versa.

Activities, Events & Areas of Focus: PTA & Teaching Body

IT in St. Matthew's

We have made some very exciting purchases in IT so far this year, with more to come. As you all know, IT is an invaluable tool in teaching and learning for our children. This year, teachers have been trained on a variety of apps that can be used to enhance children's learning throughout the day. We have recently purchased the following hardware to encourage the use of IT throughout the school day:

- * A second set of class iPads to be shared amongst the classes
- * Protective cases for our new iPads!!!!
- * A charging trolley
- * A second set of headphones to enable us to use the iPads during station work
- * An iPad to be based in each classroom for incidental learning
- * Apple TV to project the iPad screen onto the projector for whole class teaching

Furthermore, we would like to sincerely thank Sam Kinsella for donating 16 refurbished MacBook Airs to our school! They are based in 5th and 6th Class and are used on a daily basis for learning. Thank you Sam, we feel like we won the lotto 😊

IT week will take place later in the school year, once we have everything up and running! We look forward to sharing our activities with you then!

Internet Safety

Parents, once again we wish to draw your attention to the danger of online activities for children. We are deeply concerned about two areas in particular at present, the MOMO Challenge and Fortnite, conversations around which are being discussed by our pupils.

As a parent, it is imperative that you understand what games, apps and platforms your child is using, the age rating applied to these, how they operate and who your child is communicating with (or who is communicating with your child) online. www.webwise.ie gives great advice to parents on internet safety.

The MOMO Challenge is a new viral game that encourages players to perform a series of challenges to meet 'Mother Bird.' While it can be light-hearted at the outset, it darkens quickly, encouraging players to perform acts of violence and self harm in risky challenges. It is easily accessed through social media such as Youtube; however, a person does not have to go searching for MOMO to be exposed to it. Not only is the character's image disturbing and frightening, the challenges issued in this game present a serious risk to the safety, welfare and wellbeing of our children:

- * Players are encouraged to contact MOMO and give their mobile number
- * They will then receive instructions to perform a series of challenges via sms or whatsapp
- * Player refusal can trigger severely abusive messaging and their mobile device being hacked
- * The final challenge is to commit suicide in order to meet 'Mother Bird'
- * Fundamentally, it is a game that targets vulnerable people online.

Fortnite continues to be popular amongst some of our pupils. This is a 12+ rated game that is a highly addictive, violent game of survival that requires communicating up to with 100 people (strangers) online. For further information please see: www.webwise.ie

In our classrooms, we will continue learn about online safety and social media in our SPHE lessons. Please reinforce online safety with your child(ren) by:

- * Encouraging your son/daughter to avoid the MOMO Challenge
- * Talking about the importance of confidently saying no to invitations to play games/communicate with strangers
- * Teaching them not to click unidentified links
- * Teaching them how to 'block' unknown numbers and friend requests

Thank you for your continued support in this area.

What parents need to know about

MOMO

CHILDREN'S VIDEOS BEING 'HIJACKED'

There have been recent reports that some seemingly innocent videos on YouTube and YouTube Kids (such as 'surprise eggs', unboxing videos and Minecraft videos) have been edited by unknown sources to include violence provoking and/or other inappropriate content. Even though YouTube monitor and remove videos that include inappropriate content, clips can be uploaded and viewed thousands of times before they get reported and removed. As a parent, it's difficult to spot these videos as the harmful content doesn't appear until partway through the video.

DISTRESSING FOR CHILDREN

Popular YouTubers and other accounts have been uploading reaction videos, showing their experience of the MOMO challenge. Some of the videos include a disclosure message warning that the content may be "inappropriate or offensive to some audiences" and that "viewer discretion is advised" but these videos are still easily accessed by clicking 'I understand and wish to proceed'. The image of the 'Momo' character can be deeply distressing to children and young people and it's important to note that it may slip through parental settings and filters.

SUGGESTED VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE

Video apps such as YouTube include an 'up next' feature which automatically starts playing another video based on the video just watched. Due to YouTube's algorithm, users are shown 'suggested videos' that they may be interested in. The thumbnails used on suggested videos are purposefully created in a way to encourage viewers to click them. During our research, we found that when watching one Momo related video, we were shown countless other Momo themed videos and other scary content which would be age-inappropriate for children under 18.



National
Online
Safety

Top Tips for Parents

TELL THEM IT'S NOT REAL

Just like any urban legend or horror story, the concept can be quite frightening and distressing for young people. Whilst this may seem obvious, it's important for you to reiterate to your child that Momo is not a real person and cannot directly harm them! Also, tell your child to not go openly searching for this content online as it may only cause more distress.

BE PRESENT

It's important for you, as a parent or carer, to be present while your children are online. This will give you a greater understanding of what they are doing on their devices, as well as providing you with the opportunity to discuss, support and stop certain activities that your child may be involved in. As the nature of each task become progressively worse it's also important to recognise any changes in your child's behaviour.

TALK REGULARLY WITH YOUR CHILD

As well as monitoring your child's activity, it's important for you to discuss it with them too. Not only will this give you an understanding of their online actions, but those honest and frequent conversations will encourage your child to feel confident to discuss issues and concerns they may have related to the online world.

DEVICE SETTINGS & PARENTAL CONTROLS

Ensure that you set up parental controls for your devices at home. This will help to restrict the types of content that your child can view, as well as help you to monitor their activity. In addition to this, it's vital that you are aware of your device and account settings to ensure your child's utmost safety. For example, on YouTube you can turn off 'suggested auto-play' on videos to stop your child from viewing content that they have not directly selected.

PEER PRESSURE

Trends and viral challenges can be tempting for children to take part in; no matter how dangerous or scary they seem. Make sure you talk to your child about how they shouldn't succumb to peer pressure and do anything they are not comfortable with, online or offline. If they are unsure, encourage them to talk to you or another trusted adult.

REAL OR HOAX?

As a parent it is natural to feel worried about certain things you see online that may be harmful to your child. However, not everything you see online is true. Check the validity of the source and be mindful of what you share as it may only cause more worry.

REPORT & BLOCK

You can't always rely on parental controls to block distressing or harmful material. People find ways around a platform's algorithm in order to share and promote this type of material. Due to this, we advise that you flag and report any material you deem to be inappropriate or harmful as soon as you come across it. You should also block the account/content to prevent your child from viewing it. Also encourage your child to record/screenshot any content they feel could be malicious to provide evidence in order to escalate the issue to the appropriate channels.

FURTHER SUPPORT

Speak to the safeguarding lead within your child's school should you have any concerns regarding your child's online activity or malicious content that could affect them.

If your child sees something distressing, it is important that they know where to go to seek help and who their trusted adults are. They could also contact Childline where a trained counsellor will listen to anything that's worrying them.

The Childline phone number is
0800 1111.

SOURCES:
<https://www.momo.co.uk/news/world-news/uk-videos-youtube-youtube-kids-14012196>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-mummers-14012196>



Congratulations!

- Eva from 5th Class who will represent St. Matthew's in the Dublin Round of the Eason's Spelling Bee
- The chess team who represented the school in a local competition coming 8th out of 32 teams. Well done to Stani who won his Board!
- The two Credit Union Teams who won the first round of the competition. Best of luck on Sunday in round two!
- The School Choir on their participation in the Peace Proms
- Jenny in 5th Class who competed for Ireland in an International Tennis competition before the Mid-Term.

Thank You!

- Aidan Woods for all of your support with Hockey and for organising a Chess Team
- Niamh Bruce for delivering the .b Programme with some of our classes
- Sam Kinsella for the donation of refurbished MacBook Airs to our school
- Keith & Susan Gross for the donation of a large screen to the school
- Our wonderful Librarians!
- All the parents who supported the funky bike/feet competition

Mrs Rousseau Maternity Leave

Naomi Rousseau will begin Maternity Leave on Friday, 12th April. During her leave, Casey McConnell will be the school's Acting Principal and Amy Dunne the school's Acting Deputy Principal. A wonderful teacher, and St. Matthew's ex pupil, Katie Byrne will be teaching Junior Infants after Easter until the end of the school year.

Garda Vetting

If you have not been Garda Vetted by our school, but would like the opportunity, **please complete the attached form** and return it to the school (copies of form also available from the School Office). This will mean that you will be able to accompany children and teachers on school trips, be involved in coaching, workshops and activities in the school etc. Should you have any queries, please speak to Mrs. Rousseau.

Events and Activities during the 2018/2019 School Year

This is a very brief summary of some of the events and activities that St. Matthew's pupils will be given the opportunity to participate in during the 2018/2019 School Year. We spoke about them at the Annual Parent's Evening in November. Why not look through the blogs on our website to see the details of some of these projects and initiatives and other individual projects being undertaken in our classrooms and school:

<p>Some of the awards & special projects/initiatives we are focusing on during 2018/2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Schools • Discover Maths & Science Award • Digital School of Distinction • Health Promoting Schools Flag • Science Blast - RDS (6th Class) • Junior Entrepreneur Project (5th Class) • St. Matthew's School Council 	<p>Some competitions & events we will participate in during 2018/2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spelling Bee Competition • Credit Union Quiz • Peace Proms (Choir) & variety of performances in locality • Santry Athletics Competition • Leinster Junior & Primary Schoolgirls and Schoolboys Hockey Leagues • Dublin Mini Basketball Leagues for senior pupils
<p>Some of the workshops that have taken place so far this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyber Safe Ireland workshops: parents, 3rd – 6th Class • Barnardos: 5th & 6th Class 	<p>Special Activities/Days/Weeks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Book Day • Christmas Plays & Class Assemblies • International Day

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • .B: 6th Class • .B Paws: 3rd & 4th Class • Heritage in schools history workshops in senior classes • 5th Class have completed their cycle safety series of workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charity Events • STEM & Engineering Weeks • Seachtain na Gaeilge • Active Week & Sports Day
---	--

School Development Plan

(Curriculum/Policy/Procedure):

- Primary Language Curriculum (JI – 2nd)
- Literacy Lift Off in Junior Classes
- Team Teaching in all classes for key subjects
- Enrolment Policy in line with new legislation
- Pupil Health & Welfare Policy
- Anti Bullying Policy
- Code of Behaviour
- School Tours
- Attendance & Punctuality
- Visitors to our School
- Healthy Eating Policy
- Mission Statement
- St. Matthew's participation in Events & Competitions
- Aladdin Connect
- School Improvement Plan: Labhairt (additional details below)

Investment in Teaching & Learning and Teacher Development:

- Resources:
- IT Investment in line with long term vision
- Maths, STEM, Science Resources
- Gaeilge & Irish Resources
- Teacher training
- Getting the most out of iPads in education
- Ready, Set, Go Maths
- Fire Safety, First Aid & Defibrillator Use

Looking towards the summer and next year, the Board hopes to invest in or develop the following areas using grant funding and money raised by the PTA:

- Our outdoor/yard space.
- Planting and trees.
- Bike rack/scooter shelters.
- Outdoor free play area for junior classes in accordance with the Aistear framework.
- Gardening area so each class can own a patch and watch a planting project from seed to harvest.
- Yard toilets upgrade to include a disability access toilet and contained single occupancy cubicles.

Co-Curricular Programme: *These are additional activities and classes which run alongside the curriculum.*

- Swimming: currently 5th & 6th Class, 3rd & 4th Class have finished. 1st & 2nd Class will begin swimming in April.
- 5th & 6th Class will continue French until Easter.
- Drama: In term 1, all classes took part in Drama lessons with our drama teacher Oonagh.
- Music: Junior Infants – 4th Class will continue these classes into the summer term with 2nd – 4th Class learning the Recorder. 5th & 6th Class will continue music with Mr. McAndrew.
- GAA- JI - 5th Class have so far this year taken part in GAA with Ciarán from Clanna Gael.
- Cricket- the Cricket team will soon start training with Kamal for their matches!
- Artzone Teacher in Residence Programme will take place in April and May in all classes.

We are busily implementing the new Primary Language Curriculum in Junior Classes. This is an integrated curriculum, incorporating both English and Irish. The foundations have been placed for the new curriculum to be implemented in Senior Classes when the Department of Education and Skills are ready. We are also getting ready for a new Maths Curriculum which we understand will have an emphasis on oral language, problem solving and STEM.

St. Matthew's School Improvement Plan

The Department of Education and Skills has a new initiative for self-evaluation and school improvement plans. Following our detailed review and data gathering, the teaching staff have decided to focus on the area of Labairt (Irish talk) and building on the positive initiatives already in place.

In previous years, we focused on Literacy for three years, developing the areas of spelling, oral language, poetry, writing genres, handwriting, school wide reading programme, Literacy Lift Off and reading comprehension strategies. In numeracy, we focused on developing our pupil's problem solving skills, mental maths, and real world maths and coding, maths facts and placing an emphasis on Team Teaching.

Over the coming 18 months, our focuses in labhairt will be on:

- * Our pupils learning of and retention of vocabulary and phrases
- * Caint: Get the school talking 'as Gaeilge' and make Gaeilge Bheo!
- * Look at the school's Gaeilge motivation, incentives, differentiation and hosting regular Gaeilge events/dedicated Gaeilge sessions
- * Stories/Rhymes/Poems
- * Continued Teacher CPD in the area

We hope that by choosing this area of focus, to develop the love of the Irish language in our school, to continue to work on pupil ability and confidence in spoken Irish. We hope that this development in oral language will be reflected in the children's Irish reading and writing.

Trinity College Dublin Paediatric Society's 3rd Annual Teddy Bear Hospital

Teddy Bear Hospital is a voluntary programme run by medical, nursing and allied health students that aims to alleviate childhood anxieties surrounding medical environments.

At the event, children, their teddies (acting as patients) and parents rotate through various role-playing scenarios which simulate common healthcare encounters. Children will have the opportunity to explore and learn about all aspects of healthcare including: anatomy, vital signs, first aid, surgery, exercise, nutrition and much more!

The Teddy Bear Hospital will be provided completely free of charge to the children that attend. The event is aimed at children from 4-10 years, but brothers and sisters are welcome. The event will take place on the **23rd of March** in the afternoon between 2-5pm in the Sports Centre Trinity College, Dublin 2.

Parents can book a place at a particular time slot using this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfQ2Gk-MoTeWOrd_Q5PKPaUn_4f-cS_6jglw1NJIKRxqfZvhg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Parents can also contact

teddybearhospital.tcd@gmail.com

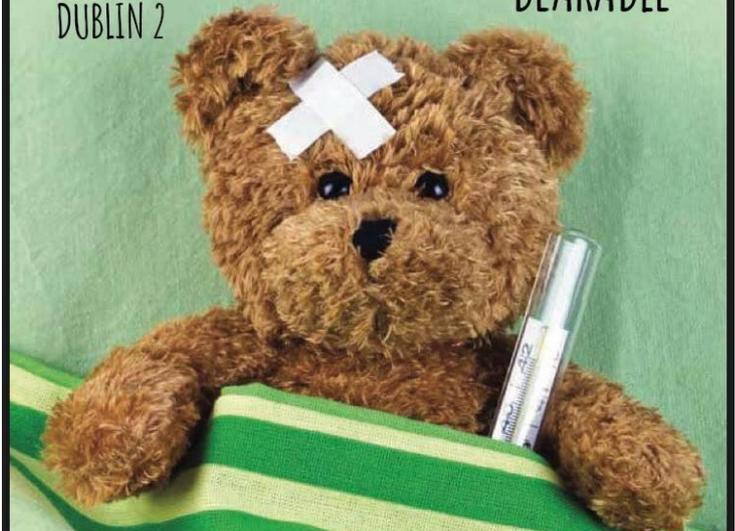
Teddy Bear Hospital

SATURDAY 23RD MARCH 2019

2PM-5PM

SPORTS CENTRE
TRINITY COLLEGE,
DUBLIN 2

MAKING
HOSPITAL
BEARABLE



KINDLY SUPPORTED BY



CONTACT US AT: [TEDDYBEARHOSPITAL.TCD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:teddybearhospital.tcd@gmail.com)