September 2015.

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the staff of Thomastown School, I send our best wishes to you and your family at the start of this new school year. I would like to extend a particular welcome to our new pupils in all year groups and their parents.

Starting in a new environment can be daunting but I hope new pupils will settle happily into our school.

Just a brief outline on what is happening in the school at present and what will take place in the future.

1. **Garda Vetting for Parents**

Anyone interested and available to help during shuttle runs to Golden for Communion practice and matches etc, must be Garda Vetted. If you have already been vetted for the swimming then this is sufficient. Forms are available in the school and we would appreciate your help for the odd shuttle runs etc.

1. **Parent Teacher Meetings**

Parent Teacher meetings will take place in January. Note will follow to confirm date. All parents will receive a written report in June 2016.

1. **Change of Address or Mobile number.**

If there is a change in your address or mobile number please inform the school in writing with regard to receiving information/updates from the school.

1. **Child absent.**

If your child is absent a ***written*** note must be presented on return to the school.

1. **Parking Reminder.**

As the parking area outside the school is very limited we would like to remind parents to enter the parking area at the upper end of the school (i.e. at the side nearest the houses) and exit at the lower end (nearest Thomastown Cross). When parking please park your car in the space provided and leave space behind for other cars to pass.

***In the interest of safety please do not stop at school gate.***

1. **Board of Management**

Summer works 2015 have been carried out in the school. This spend was agreed with the BOM earlier in the year and the cost of these works has come in at €4,617.18

The main area improved was in the senior section classrooms where non slip floors were fitted.

1. **Child Protection Policy.**

**DLP** (Designated Liaison Person) - Brian Cahill Principal

**DDLP** (Deputy Designated Liaison Person) - Joanne Healy Ryan Deputy Principal.

1. **Photocopying / Insurance Fee 2015 / 2016.**

There is a charge of €35 per child (€65 per family), which covers the cost of photocopying, paper, printing supplies, binding costs of booklets etc. and pupil insurance. ***This money is now due*** and we would be obliged if you would settle a.s.a.p. and thank you.

1. **School times.**

School opening time: 9.00 a.m. School closing time: 2.40 pm.

Infants: 1.40 p.m.

Infants must be collected promptly.

1. **Current Activities.**

* At present pupils from 1st class to 6th class are learning the tin whistle with Mr. Roy Galvin.
* An 8 week swimming course will commence in Sean Treacy’s swimming pool beginning October 14th 2015.
* On Wednesday September 30th, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th class pupils will take part in the Tipperary Primary Schools Cross Country Athletics in Thurles.
* The school will be taking part in the boys’ football and ladies’ football throughout the month of October and November.
* The school is currently applying for its first Green Flag and also the Active School Flag.
* Defence forces have been tasked by the government to deliver a National Flag to every primary school in the Country. They will visit Thomastown School on October 2nd. The visit will involve a brief introduction, questions on the proclamation and flag and also reading a pre-selected extract. The defence forces will then hand over a pack containing a flag and a copy of the proclamation.
* This year 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th class will participate in the Kilkenny Peace Proms on Saturday

6th & Sunday 7th March 2016 Peace Prom choirs plays a vital role in enhancing Music and Arts Education in Ireland and beyond through their Peace Proms program.  Peace Proms is a choral education program which impacts 20,000 primary school children in Ireland and Northern Ireland. This programme is recognised as Ireland’s most valuable Arts Education initiative.

**Communion 2016 -**  *Date to be advised*

*Please ensure that your child/children’s jumpers/sweaters are clearly marked with their name as it gets difficult finding them if they have no name.*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who help out in the school during the past year and also during the summer in particular with the book rental scheme.

Your time is sincerely appreciated and is a huge help to the smooth running of the school.

If your child is having any problems whatsoever please begin with [talking with his/her class teacher](http://www.babycenter.com/0_how-to-talk-to-a-teacher-about-your-concerns_67304.bc) and if you do not see any improvement after a period of time then the next step is to contact the school principal.

Please note the school web address above.

Yours Sincerely,

Brian Cahill

Brian Cahill (Principal)

**Parents Association.**

* Non-uniform 1st Friday of every month.
* Tin whistle 2 euro per family every Tuesday.
* Swimming fee to be advised.

*See School Year holiday calendar on back of this page.*

***School Year holiday calendar***

**October 2015 mid-term break**

School will close from **Monday 26thOctober 2015 to Friday 30thOctober 2015**inclusive.

### Holy Day 8th December

### School will close on Tuesday 8th December 2015

### Christmas 2015

School will close on **Tuesday 22nd December 2015**, which will be the final day of the school term.   
The school will re-open on **Thursday 7thJanuary 2016**.

### February 2016 mid-term break

School will close on **Thursday 18thFebruary 2016 and Friday 19th February 2016.**

### Easter 2016

The school will close on **Wednesday 16thMarch 2016**, which will be the final day of the school term, unless changes are required as part of contingency arrangements to make up for time lost due to unforeseen school closures. Where contingency arrangements are required the length of the Easter break may be reduced and the school may remain open up to and including **Wednesday 23rd March 2016**.   
All schools will re-open on **Monday 4thApril 2016**.

### May Bank Holiday

The school will close on **Monday 2nd May 2016**

### June Bank Holiday

The school will close on **Monday 6th June 2016**

### Summer Holidays 2016

### School will close on Friday 24th June 2016, which will be the final day of the school term.

***It is imperative that children are not taken out of the school for holidays.***