September 2016.

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 in helping supervise swimming we would ask to call to office for a national vetting bureau form.

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 2016 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 €1,650

This spend covered supply and fitting of insulation to all external walls as per NSAI agreement number 06/0168.

The timber fencing at the upper entrance to the school has also been replaced with safer fencing as per BOM Safety Officer. (Invoice as yet to be submitted)

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 2016 / 2017.**

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.**

* This year our school will participate in the Food Dudes Healthy Easting Programme.

Food Dudes in Ireland is a Healthy Eating Programme for Kids. Food Dudes is a programme to encourage children to eat more fruit and vegetables both in school and at home. It is based on positive role models (the Food Dudes characters) repeated tasting and awards. This programme is managed by Bord Bia and receives financial support from the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine and the European Union through the School Fruit Scheme.

* Tin whistle for 1st class to 6th class with Mr. Roy Galvin will start back the first week of October. (term one) and Feb 2017 (term two)
* An 8 week swimming course will commence in Sean Treacy’s swimming pool on October 5th 2016. Many thanks to all those who help to supervise.
* On Wednesday September 28th, 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 Healthy Schools Flag.

1. **After schools service – Wild Explorers.**

Wild Explorers are Tipperary’s newest after schools service, based in Golden and serving Golden and Thomastown National School. Contact Rachael Wilde on mobile number **083 8416800** to arrange pick up at the school or click on web address to make inquiries. You are welcome to arrange to see facility and meet the team. Web address: - <http://www.wildexplorers.ie/>

**Communion** Saturday May 27th2017

**Confirmation** Friday May 5th 2017

*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 The Parents’ Association who helped out in the school during the past year.

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. Our school blog keeps parents up to date on various activities.

Yours Sincerely,

Brian Cahill

Brian Cahill (Principal)

**Parents Association.**

* Non-uniform 1st Friday of every month. 2 euro per child.
* Tin whistle 10 euro per term for each student.
* Swimming fee 40 euro per term.

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

***School Year holiday calendar***

**October 2016 mid-term break**

School will close from **Monday 31st October 2016 to Friday 4th November 2016**inclusive.

### Holy Day 8th December

### School will close on Thursday 8th December 2016

### Christmas 2016

School will close on **Thursday 22nd December 2016**, which will be the final day of the school term.   
The school will re-open on **Monday 9thJanuary 2017**

### February 2017 mid-term break

School will close on **Thursday 23rd February 2017 and Friday 24th February 2017.**

### St. Patrick’s Day

### School will close on Friday 17th March 2017

### Easter 2017

The school will close on **Friday 7th April 2017**, 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 12th April 2017**.   
All schools will re-open on **Monday 24th April 2017**.

### May Bank Holiday

The school will close on **Monday 1st May 2017**

### June Bank Holiday

The school will close on **Monday 5th June 2017**

### Summer Holidays 2017

### School will close on Friday 23rd June 2017, which will be the final day of the school term.

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