September 2017.

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. There has been a shortage of male volunteers for swimming and we would appreciate your help for supervision duty if possible please.

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 2017.

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. Schools are required to submit Student Absence Reports to Tusla (Child and Family Agency) if a student has been absent from school for a cumulative total of twenty days or more. Automated text is generated after 15 days, 20 days, 25 days etc.,

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 2017 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 € 2,179

This spend covered the supply and fitting of a weld mesh fence around the oil tank and the supply of labour / materials for the installation of a new fire alarm system as per BOM Safety Officer.

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 2017 / 2018.**

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 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th class will participate in the Kilkenny Peace Proms

(Date to be advised)

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.

* An 8 week swimming course will commence in Sean Treacy’s swimming pool.

Swimming dates are Sept 26th, Oct 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, Nov 7th, 14th and 21st.

Many thanks to all those who help to supervise.

* The school will be taking part in the boys’ football and ladies’ football throughout the coming months.
* The school is currently working on our first Healthy Schools Flag.

**Communion Saturday May 19th 2018**

*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). An appointment can be made with the teacher for an informal discussion.

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.**

* Swimming fee 35 euro per term.

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

***Thomastown School Calendar 2017 - 2018***

Halloween October 2017 mid-term break school will close from **Monday 30th October 2017 to Friday 3rd November 2017 inclusive.**

Christmas 2017 school **will close on Friday 22nd December 2017**, which will be the final day of the school term. School will **re-open on Monday 8th January 2018**.

February 2018 mid-term break - school will **close on Thursday 15th February 2018 and Friday 16th February 2018**

St. Patrick’s Bank Holiday **Monday March 19th 2018**

Easter 2018 school will **close on Friday 23 rd March 2018,** 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 a school authority may reduce the length of the Easter break by remaining open up to and including Wednesday 28th March 2018 School **will re-open on Monday 9th April 2018.**

May Bank Holiday Monday **7th May 2018**

June Bank Holiday Monday **4th June 2018**

Summer holidays **Friday 22nd June 2018**

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