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12th September 2018

Welcome

I would like to welcome back all of our pupils and staff after the Summer break. In particular, I would like to welcome our new Junior Infants and their teacher Ms. Niamh Donovan. We hope that Clíona, Grace, Hailey, Jane, Lilyanna, Muireann and Conor have many happy years with us in Thomastown. We also welcome TJ who has joined the Senior Infant class and Keegan who has joined 6th Class.

We currently have 77 pupils enrolled in the school.

Child Protection

A copy of our Child Protection Statement is available from the school on request. A copy is also available on our school website.

The staff members with primary responsibility for child protection issues are:

* Marie Donovan : DLP (Designated Liaison Person)
* JoAnne Healy Ryan: DDLP (Deputy Designated Liaison Person)

Art/Photocopying/Insurance Fee

A fee of €40 per child is now due to cover the cost of photocopying and art supplies for the school year ahead. Pupil Personal Accident Insurance cover is also included in this fee. This is 24 hour insurance and it covers the costs of medical expenses that may be incurred as a result of your child having an accident at school or at home.

It would be appreciated if the fee of €40 per child could be sent in to school by Thursday 4th October at the latest.

Absence Notes

If your child is absent from school for any reason during the school year, you are obliged to send in a written note to the class teacher explaining the reason for the absence. The school is required to submit a Student Absence Report to Tusla (Child and Family Agency) when a student has been absent from school for twenty days or more.

Parking Outside the School

For safety reasons, we would appeal to people not to park directly outside the school gate or in the space for the school bus. Parking in these spaces during drop-off and collection times makes it very difficult for others to enter the school car park from the road.

School Calendar

Please find the school calendar attached. There may be additional closure dates during the year for staff training etc. We will give you as much notice as possible about these closures.

Healthy Eating

We operate a healthy eating policy in the school. We kindly ask parents not to include sweets, fizzy drinks etc. in your child’s lunch.

Swimming Lessons

Swimming lessons for children from 1st class upwards will commence on Wednesday 17th October and will run for 8 weeks. We would like to thank our Parent Association for organising the lessons. You will be advised of the cost of swimming lessons in due course. Please ensure that younger children are able to dry themselves properly and dress themselves before the start of their swimming lessons.

Sporting Fixtures

Cumann na mBunscol football is due to start at the end of September/early October. We are awaiting our fixture list.

Cross Country running for pupils from 3rd – 6th Class will take place in Thurles on Wednesday 26th September, starting at 10.30am

Communion and Confirmation

The dates for First Holy Communion and Confirmation have been fixed.

Confirmation will take place on Friday 10th May 2019. First Communion will take place on Saturday 18th May 2019.

The dates for upcoming Communion themed masses are as follows (all masses in Golden church):

* Sunday 23rd September
* Sunday 21st October
* Sunday 18th November
* Sunday 2nd December

The dates for Confirmation themed masses are as follows (all masses in Golden church):

* Saturday 15th September
* Saturday 13th October
* Saturday 10th November
* Saturday 8th December

Finally, I would like to thank the pupils, staff and parents for the warm welcome that I have received in the school. I look forward to working with you all in the future.

Le gach dea ghuí,

Marie Donovan