

How to help your child make friends at primary school

1. **Tip 1:** Encourage empathy early on. ...
2. **Tip 2:** Stand back while they solve squabbles. ...
3. **Tip 3:** Take time to talk every day. ...
4. **Tip 4:** Help children name their feelings. ...
5. **Tip 5:** Spot the signs of bullying. ...
6. Notice and praise caring behaviour. ...



ST. THOMAS' N.S.

Welcome Back

September 2022 Newsletter

Dear Members of our School Community,

Welcome back to our new school year 2022-2023. We are sending out our newsletters by email again this year. If you would like a hard copy please email the school for same. There is a lot of important information in this letter. Please print it and retain for your information through the year. I would like to extend a special welcome to our new Junior Infants Ava, Fiadh, Grace, Robyn, Daithí, Nathan and Stephen. I hope that your time in St. Thomas' National School will be worthwhile, fruitful and enjoyable. Our focus in school will be very much on your child's safety and wellbeing and academic attainment.

We are also very excited to see Peterswell Montessori and After-School opening on our school grounds. We feel this will be an invaluable service to our community and thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this happy. I would like to wish a warm welcome to their staff members Amanda, Chloe and Genevieve and to all of their pre-school students. Best wishes to everybody who is using this service.



Summary Checklist for Parents

- Children must go straight to their classroom in the morning.
- Ensure your contact numbers and email addresses are correct.
- Phone Mary (Secretary) 0858747269 with any **urgent** messages during the school day.
- Label your child's property

First Holy Communion

A date will be set in the coming weeks of our First Holy Communion. Best wishes to all this years candidates.

Sensory Walkway

We have received some funding from the Windfarm Fund for developing a sensory space in our school. We have decided to use this funding to help with building a sensory walkway to run along one side of our pitch. Suzanne Orford has kindly agreed to help with the design of this walkway and in the coming weeks we hope to start work on it. It would be great if you could avail of the help of some parental volunteers with the manual work involved in laying the path for the walkway. If you feel you would be in a position to offer some help, please let us know.



The following is our staffing schedule for the academic year 2021-2022:

Infants-1st	Ms. Geraldine Nolan Deputy Principal
2nd-3rd	Ms Emma Moloney
4th- 6th	Mr. Michael Mulkerrins Príomh Oide
Special Education Teacher	Ms. Eimear Marren Assistant Principal 2
SNA	Ms. Lorraine O'Neill and Ms Fiona Buckley
Secretary	Mrs. Mary Mulkerrins
Principal Release	Ms Escriva Hannon

I wish all of our wonderful staff a happy and rewarding year and urge you to support positive home-school links throughout the year.

Junior Infants will finish at 12:00pm until September 9th (Note Change of Date) . They will finish at 2pm for the rest of the year. Senior Infants will finish at 2pm with 1st-3rd at 2:58pm and the Senior classes at 3.05pm.

END OF NEWSLETTER:

I would like to wish all members of our school community a happy and safe year ahead. I look forward to working with you all and continuing to develop the great relationships that our school has with the wider community.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Mulkerrins

Personal Hygiene Pack

While we take appropriate measures in the school concerning hygiene, we suggest that you supply your child with a Personal Hygiene Pack. This is a bag or wash bag containing: *A small towel or face towel, Alcohol gel, Tissues*. The use of a Personal Hygiene Pack is a very effective way of taking care of personal hygiene. It is desirable that each child has a pack of tissues on his/her person at all times.

Indoor Shoes

All pupils 3rd to 6th of the school must have and must use indoor shoes which are black plimsolls (Non marking soles).

Monies

All monies to be submitted through Aladdin.

Appointments

If you need to speak to a staff member please ring the school secretary Mary (0858747269) to make an appointment. Alternatively drop a line in your child's homework diary. It is not possible for a teacher to leave a class to speak with a parent, without having made prior arrangements for the class. The class teacher is always your first point of contact for issues relating to your child.

Labeling of Property

I would ask parents to label clearly all of your child or children's property, e.g. books, copies, pencils, pens, coats, shoes, slippers, sports gear, lunch boxes, etc. Every year we have lots of unclaimed property. Labelling would eliminate this!

School Uniform

PE Uniform to be worn by all students on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Formal Uniform to be worn on Tuesdays and Thursday except on days when GAA coaching is taking place.

Personal Accident Insurance

Our Board of Management has decided that all children in our school should have Personal Accident Insurance. The Board decided that we should ask all children in the school to take out 24 hour cover. Please remember that you can now claim all expenses incurred if your child has an accident anywhere, at any time, 24 hours per day, and 365 days a year. Payment link will be sent shortly by Aladdin. [Please make payment of €8 per child to the school by Friday, 16th September](#). If you need to make a claim on this scheme, contact the school for the necessary form. Our experience in the past has been that Allianz Insurances pays promptly and without difficulty.

Board of Management

The Board of management are the overall managers of the school and meet throughout the year. There are 2 parents nominees, 2 community nominees, 2 patrons nominees (including the chairperson) 1 Teachers nominee and myself as Principal and Secretary to the Board.

The board works on a voluntary basis for a 4 year term. The current term finishes in November 2023. The nominees, while elected by various groups (parents, patron), do not represent those groups at Board of Management level, rather, they work together as a "Corporate Body", making decisions as a unit to the overall benefit of the school they serve.

Summer Projects

It was a busy summer in Peterswell NS. The flat roof section at the rear of the school has been replaced by a new warm roof system. New skylights have been visited in our hallway which have really brightened up the area and this area has also been freshly painted.

One of our support classrooms has also been converted into a pre-school and after-school setting.

Stephen Quinn kindly volunteered to repair the concrete posts at the entrance to the school pitch. Thank you Stephen.

Please note the following closures for Term 1:

Mid Term School closed October 31st to November 4th inclusive.

Christmas Holidays:

School closes at 12 noon on Wednesday 21st December

School reopens on Thursday , January 5th, 2023.

Half Day Closure— We will be closing at 12:30pm on Friday the 9th of December to facilitate staff training in the new Primary Language Curriculum.

Exam Students:

We wish our Leaving Certificate students all the best this year. We wish them well in their chosen path.

Music Lessons:

Tin whistle lessons for 1st to 4th will resume in school with Ms Karina Cahill. Lessons begin on Tuesday October 4th and cost will be €4 per child for each week or €10 for a family of 3 or more.

Lessons will also be available for 5th and 6th class with their own chosen instrument. Cost will again be €4 per session. If you wish to avail of these lessons, please inform the class teacher by email to teachermmulkerrins@gmail.com
Lessons will run for 10 weeks.

Parental Notes

- (a) Put in telephone numbers in child's diary. Email school immediately of number changes.
- (b) We need to get notes from parents in order to monitor our pupils effectively. Please send notes in the homework diary:
- ♦ When a child is absent or late.
 - ♦ If a child wishes to leave school during school hours

Please note:

When "Parking" it is extremely important that the driver reverses to the kerb and that your child walks on the path, to the school gate to gain access.

Grandparents Day

The school is delighted to invite all our Grandparents to visit the school for Grandparents Day on October 6th. Further details to follow closer to the time.

GAA Coaching

Lauren Solan from Galway GAA will be taking all students for hurling/camogie every Tuesday for 5 weeks starting on September 6th.

Some spare helmets are available for use from the school and please see email from August 31st regarding school helmet subsidy scheme for any students interested in purchasing a helmet at a reduced rate.

Friendship Fortnight: September 12th to 30th

Friendship fortnight continues to bloom in our school. It is a lovely way to begin a new year. As a school full of kind, special and hardworking children, it has been a delight to see them rise to the challenge of becoming an even better friend. During the month of September, the children will make friendship posters and much more. Each child will take it upon themselves to watch out for others who might need a kind word or helping hand .

