

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. ...



ST. THOMAS' N.S.

Welcome Back

September 2026 Newsletter

Dear Members of our School Community,

Welcome back to our new school year 2026-2027. 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 Chloe, Daisy, Donnacha, Fionn, Grace and Shay and welcome also to Nathaly and Mai who have joined our 4th and 5th classes. 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, wellbeing and academic attainment.

We are also very excited to see Peterswell Montessori and After-School starting their 5th year. We are delighted that their recent planning application for full daycare was recently improved. They offer a wonderful service and we are very lucky to be working with such a professional and caring team. We wish them well in the year ahead.



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

First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday May 1st at 12pm.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Ms Moloney and her husband Justin on the birth of her new baby girl Fiadh. We wish her well for her maternity leave.

Galway Cross-Country Championships

The Galway Cross-Country qualifiers take place in Galway Racecourse on September 22nd. Students from 3rd to 6th class compete. We will be bringing teams of 4 for 3rd/4th class girls, 3rd/4th class boys, 5th/6th class girls and 5th/6th class boys. We will have a trial run on the week starting September 7th to finalise teams. Best of luck to all students.

Safer Routes to School

We are delighted to see our new traffic management and parking systems being put in place. Thank you to all staff, students, BOM members and parents who have worked hard on this over the years.

The following is our staffing schedule for the academic year 2026-2027:

Infants-1st	Ms. Nuala Howley
2nd-4th	Ms Orla Mullins
5th- 6th	Mr. Michael Mulkerrins Príomh Oide
Special Education Teacher	Ms. Eimear Marren Deputy Principal
SNA	Ms. Lorraine O'Neill and Ms Fiona Buckley
Secretary	Mrs. Mary Mulkerrins
Principal Release	Ms Cliona Connolly

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 12:30pm until September 11th. They will finish at 2pm for the rest of the year. Senior Infants will finish at 2pm with 1st-4th 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.

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. Teacher contact emails are below:

Ms Howley: teachermsshowley@gmail.com

Ms Mullins: teachermsmullins@gmail.com

Mr Mulkerrins: teachermrmlulkerrins@gmail.com

Ms Marren: teachermsmarren@gmail.com

School Uniform

As per our parental survey on school uniforms, PE uniform will be worn on all school days this year. I would ask that all students wear the standard uniform including plain black tracksuits and avoid labelled clothing.

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, 11th 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 2027. 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.

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!

Please note the following closures for Term 1:

Child Protection Training: September 7th

Mid Term School closed October 26th to 30th inclusive.

Christmas Holidays:

School closes at 12 noon on Tuesday 22nd December

School reopens on Wednesday , January 6th, 2025

Exam Students:

We wish our Junior and 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 6th and cost will be €5 per child for each week or €12 for a family of 3 or more. Lessons will run for 10 weeks.

Fiona Buckley will also be supplementing Karina's work through tin whistle sessions with students from 2nd-6th.

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 there is a sign out book now inside the main entrance for use when students are being collected early

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.

GAA Coaching

We would like to acknowledge the super work done by St Thomas' Hurling and Camogie clubs in organising hurling and camogie coaching during the month of June. It was a great experience for our students to be coached in the skills of the game by our local stars. Ms Mullins and Mr Mulkerrins will continue coaching over the coming weeks in preparation for Mini 7's competitions.

Friendship Fortnight: September 7th-18th

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 .

