

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 2023 Newsletter

Dear Members of our School Community,

Welcome back to our new school year 2023-2024. 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 Cillian, Niall and Páidí. 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 2nd year. Our first year working together was a great success and we are delighted with the service offered by the Ellemenopea team. We would like to welcome their new staff members Jennifer and Hannah to our school. Best wishes to everybody who is using this service this year.



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 and Confirmation

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

Bishop Michael Duignan will also notify us with a date for Confirmation in the near future.

Congratulations

Congratulations to all our students who had very successful summers in their extracurricular activities.

Well done to Sarah Egan who has been flying the Peterswell flag on the Irish Showjumping circuit and enjoyed great success in the RDS recently.

A number of our past and present students won County U-12 and 13 finals with St Thomas' this summer. Well done Eve Carey, Holly Chapman, MJ Fahy, Méabh Stanford Kilkenny, Sarah Egan, Eva Fitzgerald, Aveen McMahon, Grace Mulkerrins, Síomha Piggott, Ciara Dooley-Glynn, Andrea Kennedy, Isibéal Stanford Kilkenny, Roslyn Prendergast and Maye Mulkerrins on their comogie success and well done Finn Hughes, Pádraig Neylon, Manus Mulkerrins, Alex Hughes, Ronin Carey, Aaron Carey, Evan Lynskey, Joe Burke, Ciaran Brady, Jonathan Quinn and Aengus Mulkerrins on their hurling success.

If there have been any successes we are not aware of, please let us know so all our staff can offer their congratulations.

The following is our staffing schedule for the academic year 2023-2024:

Infants-1st	Ms. Geraldine Nolan Deputy Principal
2nd-4th	Ms Emma Moloney
5th- 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	Mr Sean Cronin

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 12th. 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.

Indoor Shoes

All pupils 2nd to 6th of the school are requested to wear 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.

Labelling 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, 15th 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 another busy summer in Peterswell NS. We have been working hard on our new school website. In addition to being a comprehensive overview of our school, it will also include a number of articles and sections on the history of our community. We feel this website will be a fantastic source of information for all of the Peterswell community. We will be launching this website in the coming days.

Please note the following closures for Term 1:

Mid Term School closed October 30th to November 3rd inclusive.

Christmas Holidays:

School closes at 12 noon on Friday 22nd December

School reopens on Monday , January 8th, 2024.

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 10th 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 teachermrmulkerrins@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.

80th Anniversary

St Thomas' NS will be 80 years open in 2024. We will be arranging celebrations for this significant milestone and will be forming a committee prior to Christmas to help with this. In the meantime, if you have any ideas on how best to appropriately celebrate, please let us know.

GAA Coaching

Lauren Solan from Galway GAA will be taking all students for hurling/camogie every Thursday for 6 weeks starting on September 7th.

Some spare helmets are available for use from the school

Friendship Fortnight: September 11th to 22nd

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 .

