

# Free Book Scheme

Most pupils are taking good care of their books. Please do not write or underline the textbooks. All Books are the property of the School and all books should be returned in the condition they were received. However if a book is lost or damaged it must be replaced by you.

## Attendance

September 93.6%      October 95.8  
November 94.2%      December 91.8%  
January 93.4%

## Dates to Note:

|                        |                                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| February 5th           | Bank Holiday                      |
| February 6th           | Reunion Meeting at 8pm            |
| February 9th           | Girls 5 a side soccer             |
| February 13th          | First Confession at 7pm           |
| February 14th          | Boys 5 a side soccer              |
| February 15h and 16th  | Mid Term Break                    |
| February 20th          | Girls Olympic Handball            |
| February 21st          | Open Night                        |
| March 1st-17th         | Seachtain na Gaeilge              |
| March 8th              | School Closure Referendum         |
| March 18 <sup>th</sup> | Closed for St. Patricks Day.      |
| March 22nd             | Closing at 12 for Easter Holidays |
| April 8th              | Reopening at 9.10am               |
| April 17th             | Confirmation at 3pm               |
| May 11th               | First Holy Communion at 12pm      |

Our blog address is [www.stthomaspeterswell.blogspot.com](http://www.stthomaspeterswell.blogspot.com)

Our web site is [www.peterswellschool.ie](http://www.peterswellschool.ie)

# ST. THOMAS' N.S.

FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER



Mol an Óige agus tiocfaidh sí

## Dear Parents,

In the opening newsletter of a New Year, I would like to welcome all our staff and students back to school. It has been a busy school year thus far with the children mixing their ongoing academic work with a range of extracurricular activities and community events.

Students voice is extremely important in St Thomas NS and I would like to congratulate all our students who are working so hard on the various initiatives on going in the school. These include Students Council work, Green Schools Committee, Coiste Gaelach and The Blue Star Program.

Our school raffle was again a tremendous fundraiser for our school this year. Thank you to all who bought tickets, sold tickets or contributed to our prizes.

We are looking ahead now with optimism to the coming months and look forward to seeing all of our school teams back on the field of play in the coming weeks and months. This year, we will be entering a range of teams in GAA, olympic handball and soccer events.

I would like to finish by acknowledging our history making senior hurling team. The performances given against Ballygunnar and O Loughlin Gaels will live long in the memory of us all and in securing The Tommy Moore Cup for the 2nd time, they have brought tremendous joy to our parish. Táimid an-bhródiúl as a bhua agus bhí sibh dochchreidte i bPáirc an Chrócaigh.

Is mise le meas,

Michael Mulkerrins

## Blue Star Program

Our school is this year working on the Blue Star Program. This is our second time partaking in this and the aim of the Blue Star Program is to give students a greater understanding of the role the EU plays in our lives. Students in the senior room have recently completed Key-note projects on a range of EU members which they then presented to all other students in the school at Assembly. We will have many more educational activities linked to the Blue Star Program ongoing in the coming months.

## Thanks from the SVP

The President of the St Vincent de Paul Johnny Kelly sent a letter expressing his thanks for supporting the recent Food Appeal. **One hundred** plus hampers were distributed in the community. Without your help they would not be able to do this. **Thank you.** Thanks also for your contributions to our shoebox appeal.

## Green Schools

Spring is a great time for a 'Spring Clean' at home and at school. Please try to re-use and recycle. Bring your clothes to the charity shop or pass them on to your cousins.

We have deferred the renewal of our Green Flag until Spring 2025 as we have been so busy in the school with many other projects including the Gaelbhratach, the Blue Star Program and making preparing for our 80th Celebration in June.

In the meantime, watch out for the Spring flowers which will be appearing soon and spend more time in the outdoors. Watch out for the sights, sounds and smells in nature.

### Christmas Quiz Winners 2023

Congratulations to all our students who partook in our in-school Christmas Quiz. Well done to the winners Aaron, Evan and MJ who each received a selection box.

### Credit Union Quiz

We entered a senior and junior team in the recent Gort Credit Union quiz. It was a great experience for our junior team of Caitlin, Conall, Noah and Oisín to compete in their first school quiz.

Our senior team of Alex, Evan, Finn and Padraig put in a tremendous performance to finish 2nd overall in the event. Well done boys.

### Coiste Gaelach

Táimid an bhródúil an mhí seo mar chuir Áine ón nGaelbhratach glaoch orainn ag rá gur roghnaíodh muid chun físeáin a dhéanamh den obair atá ar siúl againn sa scoil ar son na Gaeilge. Níl ach cúpla scoil I ngach cúige roghnaithe chun é seo a dhéanamh agus is mór an onóir dúinn gur phioc siad muid. Beidh vsé seo ag tarlú I Mí Aibreáin. Beidh tionól again an mhi seo agus beimid ag imirt cluichí sa chlós chun ár gcuid Gaeilge a chleachtadh. Freisin beimid ag cleachtadh ár bhfeadóga stáin chun ceol a sheinnt ar an lá.

### Enrolment

Enrolments for Junior Infants for 2024/2025 are now open. If you are aware of anyone who is interested in enrolling their child, please ask them to email [peterswellschool1944@gmail.com](mailto:peterswellschool1944@gmail.com) to let us know.

We will be hosting an Open Night in conjunction with Peterswell Montessori on **February 21st from 7-8pm** for parents of 2024/25 Junior Infants and for any parents who are interested in using the Montessori service.

Enrolments are also being taken for Peterswell After-School & Montessori. Please email queries to [ellemenopeatd@gmail.com](mailto:ellemenopeatd@gmail.com)

## Awards

### Student of the Month — December 2023

Congratulations to: Keeva Lynskey, Tom Burke and Evan Lynskey.

### Award Wall—December 2023

**“Eco Warrior Awards”:** Congratulations to: Cillian Burke, Caitlin Connors and Méabh Stanford Kilkenny.

### Random Act of Kindness—December 2023

Congratulations to Robyn Chloe, Donagh, Gracie, Amber, Sadhbh D., Grace, MJ and Aven.

### Gaeilgeoir na Míosa Nollag 2023

Comhghairdeas do: Gráinne, Conall agus Alastar.

### Student of the Month — January 2024

Congratulations to: Niall Mulkerrins, Caitlin Mulkerrins and Joe Orford.

### Award Wall—January 2024

**“Best Starter 2024”:** Congratulations to: Stephen McSpadden, Gia and Cara Cacciapuoti and Eva Fitzgerald.

### Random Act of Kindness—January 2024

Congratulations to: Páidí, Daithí, Ava, Charlotte, Patrick, Cillian, Ella, Sarah, Eve and Manus.

### Gaelgóir na Míosa Eanáir 2024

Comhghairdeas do: Fiadh, Odhrán agus Árón.

# Events

## First Holy Communion

Our 2nd, 5th and 6th classes are working very hard on their sacramental preparation. Confirmation will take place on April 17th at 3pm. Our First Holy Communion will take place on May 11th at 12pm with First Confession on February 13th at 7pm. Thank you to Fr Roche for visiting 5th and 6th class recently to share his thoughts during the Advent season.

## Student Council

The student council continued to meet on a regular basis throughout the first term and were instrumental in the successful running of our Christmas Raffle which raised a fantastic total of €4791. A huge thank you to Aaron, Ronin, Eve, Manus, Ella and Anna for all their hard work. We look forward to the Students Council arranging more positive initiatives in the near future.

## Gort Community School Musical

2nd to 6th class were delighted to attend the Gort Community School musical 'The Adams Family' recently. It was a fantastic show and we were particularly proud to see some of our past pupils on stage and in the school orchestra. Well done Leona, Hiúdaí, Aengus and James.

## St Thomas' NS 80th Anniversary

We will be hosting a reunion weekend for all past pupils, staff and the wider community on June 14th and 15th. To help plan for this, an open meeting for anyone interested in helping to organise activities will be held on February 6th at 8pm in the school.

# Sport in St Thomas NS

Mr Mulkerrins will be taking 1st-2nd class for hurling during this term. Dates for this are February 7th, 13th, 19th and 29th. Students should bring boots, a hurl and helmet on these days.

Our U-11 students took part in the Galway Olympic Handball qualifiers on February 9th in Knocknacarra. The girls team were up first and won all their matches to qualify for a final meeting with Doorus. In a tense match, the girls came out on top by 1-0. The boys played fantastically also to qualify for the final match in their competition before losing out 4-2 to Doorus after extra-time. The girls will now compete in the county finals in Knocknacarra on February 20th.

Our senior boys and girls soccer team will be taking part in the FAI 5-a side competition in February. Girls event is in Portumna on February 9th and boys event is in Portumna on February 14th.

## Sportstars

Congratulations to our past pupils Lorraine Coen and Heather Cooney who recently received Camogie Club All Stars.

Congratulations to James Regan, Shane Cooney and Conor Cooney who were selected on the hurling team.