



### Important Dates:

11<sup>th</sup> November P4 - P7 Internet Safety Talk

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November - Odd Socks Day

22<sup>nd</sup> December Close at 11.30am for Christmas Break.

School re-opens Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Confirmation 13<sup>th</sup> March @ 11am

Holy Communion 24<sup>th</sup> April @ 11am

### Annual Flu Immunisation Programme.

Our pupils received the Flu Vaccine on 9<sup>th</sup> November. The School Nurse team will return at a later TBC to administer the vaccine to any children that were not in school on 9<sup>th</sup> November whose parents had consented.

## November

### **Anti-Bullying Week: Monday 16th to Friday 20th November**

Anti-Bullying Week, which is coordinated by the Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum, takes place week from 16th to 20th November. The focus of Anti-Bullying Week 2020 is 'United Against Bullying'.

Whether it is verbal, physical, online or in-person, bullying can have a significant impact on a child's life well in to adulthood.

By making small, simple changes, we can break this cycle and create a safe environment for everyone, where everyone is heard. Because together, we can end bullying.

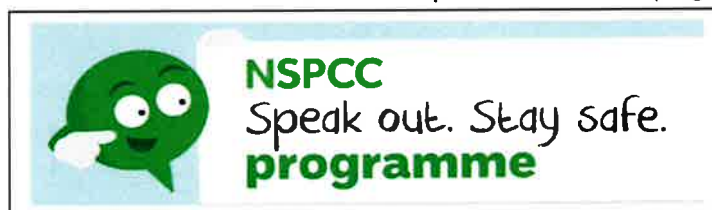
**We're all a piece in the puzzle, and together, we're united against bullying.**



## Odd Socks Day - Monday 16th November

To highlight Anti-Bullying week, children are invited to wear odd socks to school on Monday 16th November. Odd Socks day is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity to encourage children to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! There is no pressure to wear the latest fashion or for parents to buy expensive costumes. All you have to do to take part is wear odd socks to school!

For more information and resources, visit <http://www.endbullying.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/>



During Anti-Bullying week, we will also be participating in the NSPCC's **Speak out. Stay safe.** online programme. The programme aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse in a child friendly, interactive way. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult or Childline.



## After School Clubs

### Mondays

#### **Multi Sport Club**

P1 - P3 2.30 - 3.20

P4 - P7 3.30 - 4.20

### Thursdays

#### **Dance Club**

P1 - P3 2.30 - 3.20

P4 - P7 3.30 - 4.20

All children should be collected from the Front Door. Please ensure you collect your child promptly as the coaches need to leave promptly.

## Parent Teacher Telephone Meetings

We realise how vital parent/teacher meetings are to each child's continued learning and improvement, and how important it is to maintain communication with parents. However, this year due to COVID we have to approach the meetings in a different way. To this end, teachers will carry out telephone meetings with all parents in the coming months. The P1 teacher will make her telephone calls this week. All other classes - P2, P3, P4, P5, P6 and P7 will be carried out in February.

## COVID-19 Absences

Please remember to keep school informed should your child be absent for any reason, including the need to self-isolate. Please also make us aware if your child develops COVID -19 symptoms, if you have booked a COVID test and are awaiting results.

Teachers will communicate homework etc via Seesaw.

## Friends of St Matthew's PTA

I would like to thank our outgoing chair Ciara McNickle and our outgoing Secretary Pamela Duddy for all their dedication and support over the last number of years.

I would like to welcome the New Chair Natalie McGee and the New Secretary Sue Ellen O'Kane.

Unfortunately, due to COVID this year we will not be organising any fundraising events before Christmas.

If you would like to join the Friends of St Matthew's PTA please email: [akealey695@c2kni.net](mailto:akealey695@c2kni.net)

## Nut Allergies

We must ask that you do not send nuts or nut products into school (either for healthy break or packed lunch). This includes peanut paste, nutella, all nuts and cooking oil containing peanut oil, as well as foods containing nuts such as cereals and muesli bars. This is particularly relevant now that children are eating lunches in their classrooms. Thank you for your co-operation.



## Free School Meals

Applications for free school meals can be made online on the EA website at



<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

## School Collection

Thank you to everyone for following our new "pick up" rules. Our children's safety is our first and main priority. Please, wear a face mask and adhere to social distancing rules when collecting children.

## School Day

All children should be dropped off to school between 8.45am and 9am.

As all P1 children are now well settled into school life at St Matthew's they should also arrive between 8.45am and 9am.



## Be Safe, Be Seen

As the darker nights are now upon us, we would ask for your support in promoting the Be Safe Be Seen message – a good reminder for adults as well as children.

School uniforms are traditionally dark. Wearing reflective/fluorescent strips, arm bands or attaching reflective badges to school bags is an ideal way of enabling other road users to see you. Fluorescent colours are very bright and show up best during daylight but not at night-time. Reflective materials reflect the light from car headlights and at night-time can be seen up to three times as far away by drivers as non-reflective materials. Reflective materials are not as effective during daylight.

Remember – fluorescent by day – reflective by night or always wear or carry something white, bright or colourful.

Safety for children on our roads is a prime concern for everyone, so here are some simple steps to ensure your children remain safe when taking the journey to and from school and home:

- Looking out for and encouraging your children to be aware of hidden entrances or driveways when crossing pavements.
- Making sure your children walk on the side of pavements away from the traffic.
- When crossing the road your child should always choose a safe place and time to cross. It's always safer to cross at a pedestrian or patrolled crossing.
- Avoid crossing between parked cars as drivers won't be able to see children who do this very well.
- It's important to stop at the curb, look both ways and listen to traffic before crossing. Pedestrian crossings can still be dangerous if care is not taken.
- All pedestrians should wait on the pavement until all the traffic from both directions has stopped as this is the safest time to cross. Islands are often provided in the middle of the road, so children should treat each half as a separate crossing.
- Children should avoid playing near busy roads as they can often forget their surroundings and become unaware of the dangers on the road