



St. Thomas' S.N.S. Newsletter



17th September 2018

Board of Management

Congratulations to Rachel Barker who was elected Parent Nominee to Board of Management at the meeting last week. The term of office for the present Board of Management is until 30th November 2019 after which a new Board will be appointed.

School Opening/Closing Times

- A. The Board of Management does not accept responsibility for pupils on the school grounds before the official opening time of the school at 9.00am. School finishes each day at 2.40pm. Parents who wish to have their children collected from school should make sure the person collecting them is at the school at 2.40pm as the school cannot be responsible for looking after children after the official closing time of 2.40pm.
- B. Children should not be on the school grounds before/after official school times or at the weekends.

Book Rental

Thank you to the parents who have paid the full book rental and to those who are paying it by instalments.

The book rental is €75 which covers virtually everything We do not ask for additional money for photocopying, arts & crafts or voluntary contributions as other schools do. **However, we can only keep the cost low if everyone plays their part and pays the rental.** We understand that some parents might have difficulties financially but it is very hard for children to access the curriculum if they do not have the correct materials. Please call to see Ms O'Shea if we can be of assistance to you in this regard.

Swimming

Swimming starts on Tuesday 2nd October for 4th class pupils. There will be 8 sessions in total at a cost of €5 per session. This covers the cost of the bus, pool hire and swimming tuition. This is exceptional value and is based on all 4th class pupils being involved in the programme. Swimming takes place during school time and is organised by Ms O'Leary. Pupils will need to have towel, swimwear and a hat.

Savings Scheme

We will shortly be starting our Savings Scheme for 3rd and 4th classes back up. Children are encouraged to try and save whatever they can, no amount too little. It is hoped that by the end of the year some children may have enough to pay for their school tour, or book rental. There is absolutely no pressure on parents, this is a club to encourage the children to save their own money should they wish to do so.

School Attendance

All schools are obliged to keep a record of pupil absences and reasons for absences under the Education (Welfare) Act 2000.

- **Responsibility of Parents:** Under the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 parents **must inform the school if their child is absent from school and the reason for the absence.** Parents are asked to explain pupil absences from school in writing. The Child and Family Agency strongly advises against taking children out of school to go on holiday during term time.
- **Responsibility of the School:** Schools are obliged to keep a register of the pupils attending the school. They must also maintain attendance records for all pupils and inform the Educational Welfare Services (TUSLA) if a child is absent for more than 20 days in a school year. The Principal must also inform the Educational Welfare Services if a student has an attendance problem.

School News

- A. If you wish to take out the personal insurance on your child please send in the form and payment to Lisa by Friday 21st September.
- B. Aoife from Music Generation will be working with 4th classes this year.
- C. Good luck to the Junior Boys GAA team who play against St Dominic's tomorrow. They were narrowly beaten last week and the Senior Boys football match did not go ahead.