

December 2020



Dear Parents,

Firstly, we Hope you and all your families continue to be safe and well in these strange times.

This is the first issue of our monthly newsletter to keep you all informed about the PTA's work to support the running of the school! Here's a couple of discussion points from this month's meeting!

If you have anything queries or you want anything raised at next month's meeting, please get in touch!

Jennifer Martin, Chairperson

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**Current public health guidelines mean that any indoor area where groups gather must be well ventilated. That clearly means that, even with the heat on, school will be a lot chillier than usual. We are being asked as parents to support the school uniform code, here's a few ways the students can stay WARM & SAFE!**

- Did you know students can wear Grey trousers?! Available from school warehouse, cheaper than a skirt!
- Students can wear their tracksuit any day they have sport or PE! (New comfier tracksuit now available!)
- Students can layer up with thermals **UNDER** their uniform or tracksuit!
- Black tights are part of the uniform, thick thermal ones are widely and cheaply available!
- The students are allowed to keep their coats on during classes due to need for ventilation!
- Approval has been given to wear a **PLAIN BLACK** scarf if a student doesn't have the school scarf!

### Why Can't I see a student's Monthly assessments in VsWare anymore?

- VSWare is used to monitor attendance, record behaviour and issue termly reports.
- SchoolWise is a platform (accessed by students on their iPad) used to plan lessons, share academic content, submit, correct and return assignments and provide feedback to students. This data will move with the student from year to year, so all teachers can see their history in a given subject
- The school encourages parents and guardians to look at the gradebook in SchoolWise regularly with their child. The formative feedback provided to students here is an important aspect of their academic growth.

### Exciting Plans being drawn up for Redevelopment of St Thomas Building & More Classrooms!

The new Board of Management took office in October and has begun work on plans for its three-year term of office. Plans are underway to refurbish classrooms in St Thomas' building. Funding for this, and the wider development of the school are vital. The PTA are working on a fundraising proposal document to be used to help us fundraise for these and other upgrades. Details of these projects and the fundraising proposal will be shared with parents as they become available. In the meantime, if you feel you can help in any way, please get in touch.

