



Scoil Thomáis

Laurel Lodge, Castleknock, Dublin 15

Phone/Fax: (01) 8201022

NUACHTLITIR

Dated 9th October 2020

Please note that school will be closed for Halloween midterm break from Monday 26th to Friday 30th and will reopen on Monday 2nd November.



Halloween in Scoil Thomáis

Pupils and school staff are looking forward to the Halloween season, which we plan to celebrate in school just before midterm. This year we are organising a fun filled Halloween Dress Up Day on Friday 23rd October.

Pupils in all classes are invited to dress up in their Halloween outfits (home made costumes are encouraged). In order to comply with Covid safety rules and to minimise the risks for everyone, pupils will not be allowed to bring in or wear any Halloween masks or have wands and broomsticks etc as part of their dress up costume. Please respect this advice this year.

As we cannot have our usual Halloween Bake Sale this year all classes will

take part in a Halloween Parade walking around the outside of the school - the route will start at Castleknock Vale gate and go along the footpaths circling the school grounds and returning to the school via the Rise Gate for Junior Classes and via the Vale Gate for Senior Classes. The Spooky Halloween Walk 'Siúlód na Samhna' is the school fundraiser for this term and all pupils are asked to bring in €2 which will be collected by class teacher.

An Art Competition has been organised for 6th Class pupils to design a poster for the Halloween Walk with prizes for winners in each class. Over the coming week school staff will design and create an outdoor Halloween display in the pebble courtyard near the school hall, which all classes will get to visit before midterm. Some Funds from the Siúlóid will be used to purchase outdoor Halloween decorations. Please support this school fundraiser and we hope to bring some Halloween cheer to school on Friday 23rd.



Parent – Teacher Communication by Email: To minimise the risk of transmission of Covid infection the school is restricting the sending and receiving of notes/letters from teachers to parents and via versa. Instead, we are using email as a form of communication between home and school where possible. However we ask that parents keep all emails to teachers or to the school office *brief and to the point* - email only for sharing important information ie pupil is absent or sick etc. ***Please respect teacher's working day when sending emails to the school – you may schedule emails for school to send between 8am and 5pm. Teachers cannot respond to parent emails during class time – but will aim to reply at some stage during the 8am – 5pm time.*** Teachers will not involve themselves in detailed discussion about pupil matters by email - should such discussions be necessary then a phone call can be arranged by teacher/parent. If necessary, a face to face meeting may be arranged subject to social distancing and safety measures.



Road Safety: Parents and pupils are asked to cross the road safely by using the Lollipop Crossing at Castleknock Rise Gate and at the Community Centre Crossing - please be extra careful on the Castleknock Vale Road, it is a narrow roadway and please be aware of traffic at morning and hometime on school days. The schools still awaits a decision from Fingal CoCo on our request for an additional school warden service at the Castleknock Vale Gate Road crossing.

We are pleased to welcome back Castleknock GAA Coach Maria Bergin who is in Scoil Thomáis for outdoor GAA coaching for classes who have PE on Thursdays. Pupils started learning GAA skills this week and are enjoying the sessions. All GAA classes must be outdoors and will be weather dependent – GAA coaching will not take place on wet days.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Visits to the school are strictly by prior arrangement or appointment only.

All parent/visitors to the school office must ring the school office at 8201022 when you arrive at CASTLEKNOCK VALE small GATE V entrance. Please do NOT enter the school grounds until you have made contact with the school office.

STRICTLY NO ADMISSION unless authorised by the school office/school staff.

Pupils in Ms O'Reilly's 4th Class Room 19 attended a special tree planting ceremony this week to remember their classmate Rory Bruen RIP to mark his first anniversary at the end of October. Rory's parents and brothers joined the class to watch a Sweet Gum Tree being planted in his memory at the grass area near their classroom. We remember Rory and his family in a special way during this month.



Scoil Thomáis Parents' Association recently donated a selection of Spring Bulbs for Junior Infant classes and pupils and teachers will plant the bulbs before midterm break. Over the past few years the PA has sponsored planting lots of spring bulbs which provide a lovely display on the school grounds in Springtime.

Scoil Thomáis Admissions to School Policy has been posted on the school website www.scoilthomais.ie.

This policy will guide enrolment process from the school year 2020/21 onwards.

Enrolment Applications for Junior Infants for Sept 2021 will be available on the school website from next January.

For the Attention of 6th Class Parent for Secondary School Applications:

Applications for admission to Edmund Rice College for school year 2020/21 must be made to the school by 6th November 2020

Please check the website www.edmundricecollegedublin.ie to download the admission policy and application form.

Applications for 1st year 2020/21 for Luttrellstown Community College are available now from the school website

www.luttrellstowncc.ie The closing date for applications is Friday 23rd October 2020 .

All applications to the First Year Group Class in Castleknock Community College will only be accepted after 1st October 2020 and the closing date for receipt of applications is the Monday 2nd November 2020 at 3pm

Application forms and information are available on www.castleknockcc.ie



Ventilation in Classrooms: The school Covid Response Plan notes that all teaching areas must be well ventilated during the school day – therefore teachers need to keep windows and doors open as much as possible during classtime to allow for circulation of air to help prevent Covid

Infections. However in cold weather it may not be possible to have windows and doors open as much as necessary.

All pupils are advised to wear warm underclothes or may bring a warm jumper/fleece to wear over their school uniform during classtime. Pupils normally will not wear coats in class but should wear suitable coats/jackets for outdoor yard

breaks. Please ensure that your child brings extra warm clothes to school as the colder weather approaches,

Christmas Cards 2020:



Last year Scoil Thomáis Parents' Association organised a very successful Christmas Card fundraiser project. They will go ahead again this year with this project. During the coming week pupils in all classes will be given a template page to design or to colour in to create their own Christmas Card. Each child will bring home their card and PARENTAL ORDER FORM. Parents may note the number of packs of their child's personalised Christmas card that they wish to buy. The cost is €10 for a pack of 12 cards and envelopes and this year payment must be made online via the Aladdin link that will be emailed to parents. All orders must be paid for in advance and late orders cannot be accepted by the printing company. All card orders must be received by midterm so that the orders can be placed with the printers who will have the cards ready in early December. The cards can be sent to family and friends for Christmas. Parents are encouraged to buy at least one pack and the money raised from the sale of the cards will be used for school play area improvement works

News2 Day on RTE TV: Pupils in Mr Ryan's 5th Class will feature in a question and answer session with Dr Ronan Glynn, Deputy Chief Medical Officer on RTE TV News2day over the coming week. Congratulations to pupil Florence Ward whose question was chosen from a long list of questions sent in by many schools.

SPACE WEBINAR: Pupils in all three First Classes enjoyed an online webinar on Space which was watched from their classroom organised by the EPIC Museum on Thursday 8th October. The pupils learnt lots of new facts about space exploration and travel.



Covid_19 Update: *The continued safety of all pupils and school staff is the priority for the school. We have all learnt to live with the everyday routines of sanitisation and handwashing and social distancing.*

We must all continue with our efforts to keep the virus out of our school. We ask everyone to keep to the rules when at school and at home. Adults dropping off or collecting children must wear a mask whilst at the school to protect themselves and others nearby.

Thank you to parents/guardians for your cooperation to date especially in keeping your child out of school if they are unwell or have any Covid type symptoms. Please continue to cooperate with public health advice and seek medical advice if you have any concerns about your child's health. Remember that it is better to be safe than sorry and do not take any chances by sending your child to school if they are have any symptoms.

Please see the school weblink on www.scoilthomais.ie

http://scoilthomais.ie/images/20202021/SCOIL_THOMASIS_Covid_HSE_advice_Sept_2020.pdf for advice on how the school must deal with suspected or confirmed cases of Covid should they arise in the school. The school must follow Public Health advice at all times.

Reminder to parents ; please be sure to check each morning that your child has his/her lunch and a drink in school each day - the school cannot be accepting forgotten lunches etc at the school office during the present times.