



# Scoil Thomáis

Laurel Lodge, Castleknock, Dublin 15  
Phone/Fax: (01) 8201022

# NUACHTLITIR

Dated 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians



Welcome back to school to all our pupils and staff - we look forward to a full term of school for our final term of this 2020/21 school year. Once again, a reminder to all our school families to follow the current school Covid safety procedures to help keep cases out of the school: Do NOT send your child

to school if he/she displays any Covid-like symptoms or if your child is a close contact of a confirmed case. Please inform the school immediately if your child receives a positive test result. The school continues to follow all HSE /Public Health advice in the event of confirmed cases notified to the school. Thank you to parents and staff who co-operated with public health as required prior to and over the Easter break. Continue to follow public health guidelines on social distancing and mask wearing and minimise your social contacts outside of school. Hopefully the coming months will see easing of restrictions and a return to sporting and other activities for both children and adults.

**RETURN TO SCHOOL HEALTH DECLARATION FORMS:** It is a requirement that parents/guardians complete a Return to School Health Declaration for your child/ren - this online form was emailed to all families on 9<sup>th</sup> April. A small number of parents have not completed the form to date - please do so immediately otherwise the school will have to contact you about this matter.



In school all pupils must follow the school Covid protocols ie sanitise hands frequently (**please make sure that your child brings their own small bottle of hand sanitiser to school each day for personal use at their desk**). Pupils are sitting in their new POD groups since our return to school on Monday last. Classes must continue to come to school and exit at the time and via the gates notified for their class. Parents coming to the school to drop off or collect children must keep social distance at all times and avoid congregating at the school gates. All persons on or at the school must wear a face mask to prevent any transmission of the virus to staff or other persons. School staff have been advised not to engage in lengthy outdoor conversations with parents/guardians at morning or hometime for safety reasons so please respect this. If you wish to contact a teacher or another member of school staff please do so by phoning 8201022 or by email to the school office, [secretary@scoilthoamis.ie](mailto:secretary@scoilthoamis.ie). Do NOT come to the school office unless you have an appointment. Please continue to support the school's Covid Response Plan and Covid procedures which are all available to read on [www.scoilthoamis.ie/ABOUT US/COVID 19](http://www.scoilthoamis.ie/ABOUT US/COVID 19)



**Bike Racks** - are available to pupils in 5<sup>th</sup> Class inside the 'Rise Gate' and for 6<sup>th</sup> Class inside the 'Vale Gate'. Parents of pupils who wish to cycle to school must have completed a Bike School Permission Form ( available from teacher) and must wear a helmet and are responsible for ensuring that their bikes are parked safely and locked when on school grounds. Thank you to 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Student Council pupils who are helping with the operation of the bike racks.

**Easter Raffle 2021:** The Easter Raffle organised by the school in association with the Parents' Association was held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March and was a great success. Well done to all prize winners and to those who won sellers prizes. Special thanks to the parents who donated lovely Easter hampers for the Raffle and to the sponsors of our main prizes: ie Vaugh Tech, Abal School Furniture, Ethersons Butcher, Get Fresh, Centra Pittman Traffic, School Print, Scoil Thomáis PA, D15 Locksmiths. A special word of appreciation to Geraldine in the office for her assistance with organising raffle tickets. A total of €4,600 was raised from the raffle which was a fantastic response from so many school families. This money goes to the installation of the soft surface & play equipment in the Infant courtyard scheduled for completion in early June.



**Parent Teacher Meetings (PTM)** for classes Junior Infants to 5<sup>th</sup> Classes are organised to take place early this term. Due to the pandemic meetings cannot be held in person and will be conducted via a telephone call from teacher to a nominated parent at a prearranged time in the afternoon between 4pm and 6pm. The schedule for meetings for class levels is (i) Week of 26<sup>th</sup> April for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Classes (ii) Week 4<sup>th</sup> May for Junior & Senior Infants & 2nd Classes (iii) Week 10<sup>th</sup> May for 1<sup>st</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Classes. Teachers will be in contact with parents/guardians ahead of their class PTM week to finalise arrangements and times etc. The co-operation of parents with the times offered will help the schedule to run smoothly.

**Annual Child Protection Review 2021:** The review was completed by the BOM at its recent meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021. The updated 2021 Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment documents will be available on the school website shortly.

**SCHOOL UNIFORM:** A reminder to parents and pupils that Classes First to Sixth must wear their FULL school uniform each day and tracksuit uniforms on PE days only. Parents are asked to check that your child wears his/her correct uniform each morning. Navy school shorts may be worn as part of the uniform during the months of May & June ONLY. Infant Pupils continue to wear their school tracksuit uniform each day at school.

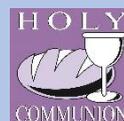
**Stay Safe Lessons:** Pupils in Senior Infants and 1<sup>st</sup> Classes will finish their Stay Safe lessons over the coming weeks. Teachers in 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Classes will be starting their series of Stay Safe lessons with pupils this week. Children will bring home their Stay Safe workbooks each week and parents are advised to chat with your child about the lesson themes covered each week. For more information on the lessons go to [www.staysafe.ie](http://www.staysafe.ie)

**Scoil Thomáis Board of Management:** The BOM met on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April and finalised the Child Protection Annual Review. The BOM discussed staffing and the organisation of classes for next school year in accordance with the DES staffing schedule. The BOM has also made an application to the Dept of Education for funding for the replacement of the flat roof over the school office/ link corridor which is defective and leaks in wet weather. The BOM finalised the ICT upgrade of teacher laptops funded from the Digital Strategy Grants to the school over recent years. The BOM is in the process of signing off on the completion of the new classroom building which will be ready for use by a class this September. The BOM ratified the school calendar for 2021/22 school year, which will be posted on the website shortly. The next BOM meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021.



**Confirmation 2021:** Registration for Confirmation 2021 has been completed by parents on behalf of their children. Thank you to those parents have volunteered to assist Sinead O'Donnell with the Confirmation Parish Preparation Programme. Proposed dates for Confirmation pupils to attend the online 6.30pm 'Be My Witness' Mass via the parish webcam: Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June. It is planned to have Confirmation Ceremonies in late June, date tbc subject to the reopening of churches.

**First Communion 2021.** A First Communion Parish Registration Form will be sent home for Catholic pupils in 2<sup>nd</sup> Class so parents can register for this sacrament. The First Communion preparation for the children will start this term with the expectation that First Penance and First Communion can be celebrated in Nov/December, if public health allows Churches to have public ceremonies. .



**May Bank Holiday:** A reminder that there will be no school on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May ( Bank Holiday), an updated 2020/21 school calendar was notified to parents in February. School will reopen for all classes the following day ie Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May ( NOTE: there will be no May Midtermweek off - only the Bank Holiday ) - the 2020/21 revised calendar is available on [www.scoilthomais.ie/ABOUT US/CALENDAR](http://www.scoilthomais.ie/ABOUT US/CALENDAR)

**A Message to Parents/Guardians and the School Community of Scoil Thomáis from Mary McGarry, Principal**

*I wish to give notice of my decision to retire as Principal of Scoil Thomáis on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 having notified the Board of Management and school staff accordingly. I look forward to completing this final term of this school year with the school community and will be here to welcome our classes back to school in September 2021 before I finish my time as Principal. By then I will have spent just over nine very fulfilling years in Scoil Thomáis working with a great school staff, wonderful pupils both past and present, supportive parents and committed members of Board of Management.*



**That's all the news for this week - We wish all our pupils and staff a good term ahead in school, with hopes of sunny days and long evenings and lots of learning and fun times over the weeks until end of term on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021.**

**M. McGarry, Principal & Mary Ryan, Deputy Principal**

**14<sup>th</sup> April 2021**