

After School Classes for this term start this week Monday 30th September.

A wide range of after-school activities is available to pupils from 2nd- 6th classes and the schedule is on the school website. After-School Classes continue over eight weeks during this term excluding Halloween mid-term break. **NOTE: After-school classes do not take place during the week of Parent-Teacher Meetings in November.** Parents collecting pupils from After-School at 3.30pm should wait outside the school office door where pupils will exit.

Scoil Thomáis GAA News:

This term Senior and Junior Boys and Senior Girls from Scoil Thomáis are playing in the Cumann na mBunscol Football League.

Congratulations to the Girls' Senior Football Team coached by teachers Ms Scally and Ms Sloyan who have played very well in all their league games. The girls had a great win against Gaelscoil Naomh Phadráig last week and are in a quarter final at 3pm, Somerton this Wed 2nd October v St Brigid's Glasnevin. Best of luck to the Scoil Thomáis Girls.

The Junior Boys played two games to date in the Go Games League recording a great win against St Patrick's Corduff and a narrow loss to Garristown NS. The team is trained by teachers Mr Brooks, Mr O'Mahony & Mr Bracken and the boys have a few more games to play over the coming weeks.

The Senior Boys Footballers have had a great run in the Cumann na mBunscol league winning all their matches against St Mochtas, Scoil Áine Esker & Scoil Grainne. They are now in the quarter final this Thur. 3rd Oct at 3pm against Star of the Sea NS in Somerton.

Best of luck to the boys who are coached by Mr Gurhy & Mr Ryan. **Hopefully there will be lots of support to cheer on the Scoil Thomáis Girls & Boys teams as they play their quarter final matches this week.**

NOTE ABOUT 'AWAY MATCHES'

Again this year the school will book bus transport for school GAA teams when travelling to away matches. School teams are accompanied on the bus by two teachers and players must travel to and from the match on the bus. Again thanks to those parents who support the school teams at matches.

PEACE PROMS CHOIR:

Pupils from 5th & 6th Classes will represent Scoil Thomáis again this year in the Cross Border Peace Proms Choral Festival to be held in the RDS on 1st Feb 2020. Auditions have been held and the choir pupils will now begin to rehearse their songs and routines over the coming months directed by teachers Mr O'Mahony, Mr Bracken & Mr Brooks

SWIMMING CLASSES

Lessons for Ms Boyce's 4th Class (R. 25) & Mr Brooks 1st Class (R.9) started on Thursday 19th September in Coolmine Pool and continue for 6 weeks until mid-term. Pupils and teachers travel to the pool by bus at 1pm and return to school for homework. Thank you to teacher Ms O'Reilly, Swimming Co-ordinator and to all those parents from both classes who volunteered to assist teachers at the pool on swim days.



IMPORTANT: HSE Consent Forms for the MMR Vaccinations and Vision & Hearing Testing for Junior Infants were sent home in early September.

The HSE has confirmed that Hearing & Vision tests will be carried out by their HSE medical team for junior infants on Tuesday 8th & Wednesday 9th October. Please make sure you have returned your parental consent form to teacher.

Health & Safety Matters for pupils: Parents are reminded that pupils are not allowed to wear nail polish/false nails or make-up to school. Please note that only stud earring are allowed to be worn by pupils - no long earrings permitted.

Reminder: Healthy Lunches at School

Please ensure that your child brings a healthy lunch to school to sustain them during the school day—sandwiches, fruit, vegetables & fruit juice/water or milk.

NOTE: Yogurts/Frubes, Biscuits, Popcorn, Chocolate, and Nut based foods are not allowed. Pupils should NOT be bringing deli wedges or fast-foods for lunch.

Mr Ryan's 4th Class, R.24 went to Fighting Words, Behan Square beside Croke Park to participate in a writing workshop today, Monday 30th Sept. This is a great opportunity for pupils to develop their thinking and creative writing skills.



Scoil Thomáis Parents Association Annual TABLE QUIZ & SOCIAL NIGHT will be held on **Friday 15th November at 8pm** upstairs in the Carpenter pub. Tables of 4 for €40 so please come along and support the school. Table bookings will be organised by the PA in October.

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Scoil Thomáis, Laurel Lodge, Castleknock, Dublin 15

Nuacht – Litir: October 2019



Halloween Mid-term: School will be closed from Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November.

School re-opens on Monday 4th November at 9am.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no school for pupils on Wednesday 4th December as teachers are required to attend in-service for the implementation of the Primary Language Curriculum as directed by the Department of Education.



HALLOWEEN BAKE SALE organised by Scoil Thomáis and the Parents' Association will be held in the hall on **Friday 25th October from 9.30am to 12pm.**

All school families are invited to bake cakes, buns etc for the sale. Entries are also invited for the popular Halloween Cake Competition with prizes for the winners. Funds from this Halloween Bake Sale go to the sensory project & sports fund. More details about Bake Sale soon. **Congratulations to Martin Malone who bakes lovely breads for Scoil Thomáis Bake Sale. He participated in the home made brown bread competition finals at the National Ploughing Championships.**

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR PARENTS

Scoil Thomáis opens for all classes at 9a.m. No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before that time.

School gates open at 8.50am to allow time for the entry of pupils and assembly in their class lines in the yard area. Pupils and their parents/guardians should wait at their class lines each morning until class teachers meet the classes at 9am.

Classes commence each day at 9.10a.m. Pupils should be in their classroom by 9.10am at the latest. Pupils arriving late must enter at the office door.

Classes finish each day at 1.40pm (Infants) and at 2.40pm for 1st – 6th.

Parents who wish to have their children escorted home should arrange to meet child/ren in the school yard at home time and exit the school grounds in an orderly manner.

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW PUPILS TO CLIMB ONTO THE LOW WALL OR ONTO THE FENCE

at the ASTRO PLAY area at the Castleknock Rise Gate.

NUT BASED FOODS IMPORTANT NOTICE:

There are pupils with severe nut allergies in the school at various class levels. Parents should make sure that their child/ren do not bring any nut based foods such as Peanut butter, Nutella, nut or cereal bars to eat at school. These foods can trigger anaphalactic reactions. Please co-operate with this policy to ensure the safety of pupils.

FOR YOUR DIARY PARENT –TEACHER

MEETINGS FOR ALL CLASSES will be held on

Wednesday 20th & Thursday 21st November 2019

from 2.45—5.15pm.

Meeting Appointment times will be notified to parents after mid-term.

School Attendance: It is important that all children attend school every day unless sick etc. In order to comply with the TUSLA/NEWB guidelines parents must give a written note to their child's teacher if their child is absent from school for any reason. All notes explaining pupil absences are kept on file by the school. The school is obliged to report on pupil attendance to the National Education Welfare Board (TUSLA) and to report concerns about ongoing absences as necessary.

Junior Infant Parent Night.

Parents of Junior Infants in Ms Scally's, Room 6 Ms Kelly's Room 7 and Ms O'Donnell's Room 8 are invited to come to the school on this **Wednesday 2nd October at 7.45pm**. Each teacher will speak about the Junior Infant curriculum and give parents an overview of how to support your child's learning. The meeting will last approx. 45mins and there will be refreshments in the hall after the meeting. It is important that all parents attend this meeting.

PUPIL PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Scoil Thomás Parents' Association has organised the registration of pupils and fee collection for the Pupil Personal Accident Insurance for 2019/20 school year through Dunne Insurances Ltd. All applications forms received to date will be included in the scheme for this year. The scheme is now closed for applications for this school year.

BOM REPORT : At its recent September meeting the BOM ratified the Digital Learning Plan which the school has developed under the school self evaluation process. A curricular plan integrating digital learning is being implemented across all class levels this school year. Classroom Build Update: It has been confirmed to the BOM that planning permission has been granted by Fingal Co Co for the additional classroom. The project now advances to the next stage subject to DES approval.



FIRST COMMUNION 2020

The 'Do This In Memory' Enrolment Mass was held last Sunday 29th September.

First Holy Communion Masses will be celebrated on Saturday 16th May
10am Mass for Ms Travers Class R.1 & Ms Lenihan's Class R.2
11.30am Mass for Ms Galligan's Class R.15 & Ms Boland/Ms Creighton's Class R.16.



Confirmation is on Thursday 30th April 2020 at 11am.

The Service of Light for Confirmation pupils is on Thursday 5th March. Pupils will go on Retreat on Friday 6th March in the Emmaus Centre. The Parish Preparation Team will be in touch with parents shortly to finalise enrolment for Confirmation.



IMPORTANT NOTE FOR PARENTS

If your child is having a birthday party and inviting pupils from the class, invitations should NOT be given to pupils in the class lines etc, as pupils who are not on the guest list can feel upset and isolated. Instead give the invites discreetly to an adult /guardian. Please do not ask teachers or the school office for phone numbers or addresses of pupils in the class. School cannot pass on this information to parents in compliance with GDPR and data protection.

ROAD SAFETY at SCHOOL GATES

Parents and those accompanying pupils to /from school are asked to co-operate with the School Wardens (Lollipop Ladies) when dropping and collecting children. It has been brought to the attention of the school that some parents / guardians/minders are letting children cross the road without going to the Lollipop Lady crossing. Parents and pupils must only cross the road with the Lollipop Lady and follow her directions for the safety of all at the school gates.

MASS FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR. Catholic Pupils from 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th classes attended a special Mass in the Church on Friday 20th September to mark the beginning of the 2019/20 school year. Thank you to Fr Dan Joe for celebrating the Mass and for his message to all the classes. Well done all those pupils who read and led the prayers of the faithful. Special mention to the traditional music group of pupils and teachers who played at during Communion. Special thanks to teachers Ms O'Boyle and Ms de Barra who organised the Mass on behalf of the school.

REMINDER: Shorts are NOT permitted at school from 1st October until warmer weather next May. Pupils should wear long trousers as prescribed in the school uniform code. Parents are asked to ensure that their child adheres to this aspect of school policy.



School Photographer (Philip Murray) will be in Scoil Thomás this Friday 4th October to take individual and family photos of Junior Infants and their brothers/sisters. A class photo of each Junior Infant Class will also be taken and will be available for purchase. Consent Forms for the Photographer were sent home last week. Please make sure to return the consent forms for your child's photo immediately. Proofs of your child's photo will be available with purchase options, prices and order forms.



School Athletics News:

Congratulations all the runners from classes 3rd—6th who participated in trials to join the Athletics Squad for this year. Training will continue over the coming months with teachers who have volunteered to help with Athletics. Well done to the squad who took part in the first Fingal Athletics Race of this school year on Tuesday 24th Sept. **The next Race Day will be held on Tuesday 22nd October in Porterstown. Park.**

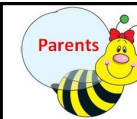
The next meeting of Scoil Thomás BOM takes place on Tuesday 22nd October 2019 at 7pm in the school.

The BOM has overall responsibility for the operation of the school. The term of the present BOM ends on 30th November 2019 and a new BOM must be formed for 1st December 2019. There will be an election process for two parent nominees, one mother and one father which will be held in November in accordance with the Governance Rules for BOMs. More details in next newsletter

CALL OUT FOR BOARD GAMES

The school is asking for donations of board games ie ludo, snakes & ladders, chess, draughts etc and jigsaws (with all the pieces). These games would be used by pupils during wet days when the pupil cannot go out to yard and are supervised indoors. If you have any such games (in good condition please) do drop them into the school office.

Head Lice: Parents are asked to check their child's hair regularly. If your child's hair is affected please treat immediately to prevent reinfection.



PARENTS ASSOCIATION AGM 2019

The AGM of Scoil Thomás Parents' Association will be held in the School Hall on **Thursday 10th Oct at 7.45pm**. All Parents are encouraged to attend this meeting and support the work of the Parents' Association. Chairperson Pascal Brogan & the PA Committee will present a review of their work and financial report for 2018/29. Bernard O'Shea will be a guest speaker at the AGM. **Please put this date in your diary and come along to support the PA on this evening.**