



Scoil Thomáis

Laurel Lodge, Castleknock, Dublin 15

Phone/Fax: (01) 8201022

NUACHTLITIR

Dated 3rd September 2021

For the attention of Parents/Guardians



Well done to all our pupils who settled back to school this week and to teachers and SNAs who are working hard to set up their classes and timetables for this school year.

Our new Junior Infants started school on 1st September and have a shorter school day for two weeks until 14th September. This year there are four classes of Junior Infants in classrooms 5, 6, 7, & 8 and they are adapting to school life very well so far.

From Wednesday 15th Junior Infants will be in school from 9.10am - 1.40pm.

We are pleased with how well pupils are walking from their entry gate and getting to their classrooms each morning. Please keep up this great routine. At hometime pupils and parents must exit the school promptly and go home via their allocated gates. The safety of all our pupils and staff is a priority and everyone must keep up the school routines including morning and hometime arrangements, sanitising and washing hands and staying in 'pods' and 'bubbles' until further notice.



MORNING ENTRY: Please come to the gates notified to you for your child's class:

There is a 10min timeframe for classes to come into the school ie from 9am - 9.10am & from 9.10 - 9.20am. We ask parents/pupils *not to arrive to school before 9am* - we are aware of congestion and safety concerns particularly at the Shops gates at morning time.

School Gates open at 9am for 1st, 2nd, 4th & 6th Classes with ten minutes allowed for pupils in these classes to come through the gates. Junior Infants, Senior Infants, 3rd and 5th Classes can enter the school from 9.10am until 9.20am.

Classes must only come in and go home via the specific gates allocated to their classroom. School Gates will close each morning at 9.20am - any parent/guardian and child arriving after this time should go to the (small) Vale Gate and come to the school office to be admitted to class.

Parents/guardians and minders dropping off and collecting pupils should observe social distancing rules and must wear a face mask when at the school. Please check with the school website www.scoilthomais.ie for all information and guidance from the HSE and Dept. of Education



SAFETY AT SCHOOL GATE AREAS: Please be extra careful at the school gates when dropping off or collecting pupils. Cars should not be parked at the KEEP CLEAR AREAS and parents/guardians should not allow children to hop out of cars onto the road at the main school gates. Please park safely and either wait for your child in your car or walk to the school gate to meet your child. Drivers of cars should drive slowly on the roads at the school entrances and everyone should follow the instructions of the school wardens on duty each day.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL: Children should be in school every day unless sick including Covid related symptoms or for other good reason. Again, parents/guardians are reminded NOT to send your child to school if they are unwell or have any Covid-type symptoms - please get medical advice if in doubt.

If a child becomes unwell whilst in school with Covid-like symptoms the school will implement our Covid Response Plan as follows: Parents/guardians will be contacted and asked to collect their child promptly. The child will be given a mask, removed from class and brought to the isolation area by a staff member to await collection. We ask parents to send a follow up email to the office/teacher with an update on the child's health and expected return date to school.

PLEASE DO NOT TAKE YOUR CHILD/REN OUT OF SCHOOL FOR HOLIDAYS DURING THE SCHOOL TERM



A reminder to parents to activate your Aladdin Connect App via the registration link sent by email recently. Almost all Scoil Thomáis parents have already activated the Connect App and all remaining parents are encouraged to sign up. Aladdin Connect allows each parent to have secure password protected access to communications from the school in respect of their child including school reports.

STAFF NEWS: We welcome the following newly appointed teachers to Scoil Thomáis: Mr Tonra (1st Class R.10), Ms Quille (1st Class R.12), Mr O'Doherty (2nd Class R.1), Ms Duhig (2nd Class R.2), Ms O'Donoghue (4th Class R.26), Mr Moore (5th Class R.14) and Ms Hevehan Supply Teacher.

INCOMING PRINCIPAL: The Board of Management is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms Lorna Diffley as Principal with effect from 4th October 2021 to replace Mary McGarry who is retiring. Lorna is currently Principal in St Brigid's GNS Killester having previously taught in Scoil Thomáis and looks forward to returning to the school.

CONFIRMATION 2021: Congratulations to our 6th class pupils from 2020/21 who were confirmed in Laurel Lodge Church last Saturday 28th August. Special thanks to Fr Brendan, Fr Damien and Fr DanJo who officiated at the Service of Confirmation for each class and to teachers Ms O'Mahony, Mr Finegan & Mr O'Mahony who prepared the pupils for the sacrament. Also to Mr Kelly and parent, Sinead O'Donnell for their music and singing which greatly added to each of the Confirmation ceremonies. A link to the Confirmation Class photos was sent to parents this week,

SUMMER PROVISION: In mid-July the school ran two weeks of Summer Schooling under the DES 2021 Scheme which was very successfully overseen by teacher Mr Ryan. Many thanks to the teachers and SNAs who gave of their time to work with the children who attended this summer.



SPECIAL APPRECIATION: During July & August secretaries Geraldine and Collette and caretakers Mick and Tony did great work over the summer weeks to organise and prepare the school for September reopening. We appreciate their co-operation and commitment to the school and how hard they worked.

SUMMER MAINTENANCE WORKS IN THE SCHOOL: Many improvement works were undertaken over the summer months organised and funded by the BOM. Classrooms 9-14 were repainted by Mick & Tony and new carpet was laid in each of these rooms. Pupils and teachers are delighted with their nice fresh classrooms. A deep clean of the school was completed in August ensuring the school was spick and span for the return to school. Intensive cleaning routines will continue during the school day this term and cleaners Pauline and Regina are busy each day keeping all areas of the school clean and sanitised. The school security and alarm system was also upgraded over the summer. Emergency Roof Repair Works funded by the Dept of Education were completed in late August with a replacement roof installed at the front reception/school offices area. The new Classroom (6A) was furnished and set up for teacher and pupils and Ms Boyce's Senior Infants class are now enjoying learning in this bright and airy classroom.

PARISH NEWS: Fr Brendan retired as Parish Priest of Laurel Lodge Parish on 22nd August - we thank him for all his great work in the parish over the past seven years. Fr Damien McNeice has been appointed as the new parish priest serving the parishes of Castleknock and Laurel Lodge. Fr Brendan will remain living in his residence in Laurel Lodge and will serve the parish and Scoil Thomáis as pastoral priest.

SCHOOL LUNCHES: Please give your child healthy lunches and a drink each day for snacktime and lunchtime.



Please note that NUT BASED FOODS are NOT allowed as food items in school, as there are many children in the school who have allergies related to nuts. Again this year we are asking that all pupils bring home any food waste in their lunchboxes and place in the brown bin at home. It will also help parents to monitor how much your child has eaten during the school day. Please encourage your child to eat all of their lunch/fruit in school as a healthy diet helps children to concentrate and learn in school.

REMINDERS: Bike Racks for 5th & 6th Class pupils are not operation as yet. Parents will receive a letter regarding the school guidelines for pupils using the bike racks in the coming weeks.

School Uniforms; A reminder that the proper school uniform must be worn by all classes as follows:

Tracksuit uniform for Junior and Senior Infants everyday. Full Uniform for 1st - 6th Class every day except PE days when school tracksuit should be worn. School shorts may be worn during the months of September and again in May & June only. During all other months please wear long uniform trousers/tracksuit bottoms on the designated days. Girls may wear a skirt/ pinafore or trousers as preferred. Parents/Guardians - please check that your child is wearing the permitted school uniform each day. As advised pupils should change out of their school inform when they get home after school. Be sure and label all tracksuits tops/jumpers, coats etc so that they can be returned if lost.



IMPORTANT NOTICE for PARENT WHATS APP GROUPS: Parents are reminded that under Scoil Thomáis Acceptable Use Policy the posting of photographs of pupils or school staff on social media or What's App groups is strictly not permitted. Do not post comments in relation to pupils or school staff.

Please respect this in the interest of child protection and privacy rights. The school newsletter and website and individual or class notices from teacher/school office is the official source of information for all parents/guardians.

Pupils are not allowed to bring Mobile Phones to school. Please ensure that your child leave his/her mobile phone at home during the school day. This rule will be strictly enforced. Please note the school policy which is available on the school website www.scoilthomais.ie/ About Us/ Policies.

SCHOOL BASED AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES OR SCHOOL SPORTS EVENTS will not be organised this term due to Covid restrictions. This policy may reviewed in the coming months as restrictions are changed for such events.

FACE COVERINGS: All school staff must wear face masks as per school policy. Adults entering the school premises or on the school grounds should wear a face covering. Children under 13 years do not have to wear masks - however if you wish your child to wear a mask he/she must be able to manage to place and remove it themselves as school staff cannot assist with pupil's masks.

VISITING THE SCHOOL: All visitors or parents seeking to come to the school must make an appointment. Meetings with teachers or other school staff cannot be held face to face unless deemed essential - meetings can be held by telephone or remotely by arrangement. Phone the school 8201022 or email secretary@scoilthomais.ie

Visitors coming to arranged meetings or school business must sign the contact tracing log at the school office.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE SCHOOL/Teacher/SNA:

Parents who wish to send a message to teacher/SNA can (i) write a note in their child's school journal (ii) send in a letter to teacher/SNA with your child (iii) email the school office secretary -and the email will be forwarded to Teacher/SNA/PRINCIPAL/DEPUTY PRINCIPAL (Teachers/SNAs cannot respond to emails during classtime) (iv) arrange for a phone call via the school office

Parent or Teacher/SNA requests for meetings must be kept to a minimum and must be by appointment only.

Mary McGarry, Principal & Mary Ryan, Deputy Principal

Date: 3rd September 2021