



Scoil Thomáis

Laurel Lodge, Castleknock, Dublin 15
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NUACHTLITIR

Dated 17th May 2021

For the attention of Parents/Guardians

This month of May is indeed a busy time in school with teachers and pupils working hard to complete school work in many areas of the curriculum before the end of school year assessments and preparation of pupil school reports in June.

SCHOOL CALENDAR: Reminder that there will be no school for pupils on Friday 4th June (School Holiday) and on Monday 7th June (Bank Holiday). Back to school on Tuesday 8th June for everyone for the last few weeks of this school term. School will close at 12 noon on Friday 25th June for the summer holidays. All pupils must attend school until the end of the school term. Parents are advised NOT to take children out of school before the end of term for holidays etc. Please note that the 2021/22 school calendar is available on www.scoilthomais.ie ABOUT US/CALENDAR



Covid Update: A reminder to all parents/guardians to continue to follow all school Covid safety procedures and guidance. The school is concerned that a small number of parents/guardians are NOT following HSE Public Health when a child has a cough or other related symptoms - those who do not follow HSE guidance are putting our staff and pupils at unnecessary risk. This increases the possibility of Covid cases arising in the school which may result in pupils in PODS/CLASSES and staff having to restrict movements and be absent from 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.
- DO contact your GP for advice and a Covid test may be necessary for your child. If advised, bring your child for a HSE PCR test and communicate the results to the school.
- Inform the school immediately if anyone in your household receives a positive test result, if your child becomes a close contact of a Covid Case he/she should NOT attend school until and the HSE will advise on restricted movements etc.
- The school continues to follow all HSE /Public Health advice in the event of cases notified to the school.
- Follow public health guidelines on social distancing and mask wearing and please minimise your social contacts outside of school time.
- Please make sure that your child brings their own small bottle of hand sanitiser to school each day for personal use at their desk.
- Classes must continue to come to school and exit at the time and via the gates notified for their class.
- Parents dropping off or collecting 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.
- Do NOT come to the school office unless you have an appointment. If you wish to contact a teacher or another member of school staff please do so by phone to 8201022 or by email to the school office, secretary@scoilthomais.ie.
- Please continue to support the school's Covid Response Plan and procedures which are on the website, www.scoilthomais.ie/ABOUT US



JUNIOR INFANTS SEPTEMBER 2021: Enrolment for Junior Infants Class for September 2021 is now completed and places have been offered and accepted. Parents of incoming Junior Infants are invited to attend a Parent Meeting on Wednesday 26th May (via Zoom) - a link to this meeting and times will be sent out prior to the meeting via email.

Parents are encouraged to attend this meeting which will provide information to assist in preparing your child for starting school in September.

NOT RETURNING TO SCOIL THOMÁIS IN SEPTEMBER 2021: Parents/guardians should inform Ms Ryan, Deputy Principal immediately if your child/ren are NOT returning to Scoil Thomáis in September. It is important that the school has this information at this time as we have many applications for places to join various class levels for Sept. Offers of places can only be made where spaces in classes exist so advance notification from those who may be leaving will assist the school in notifying applicants who are awaiting news on school places.

RELATIONSHIPS & SEXUALITY EDUCATION: Pupils in all class levels are being taught the 'sensitive' lesson in Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) by class teachers on specific weeks this month in accordance with the school policy and agreed content. Thank you to parents and teachers for your co-operation with this aspect of the school curriculum. RSE resources to assist parents are now available on the school website.

FIRST COMMUNION PUPILS: Pupils in Ms Diffley's, Mr Brook's and Ms Kelly's Classes who are registered for First Communion preparation visited Laurel Lodge Church on Friday 14th May. They were welcomed by Fr Brendan who gave the children a tour of the interior of the Church and spoke with them about their First Communion. Pupils will continue their preparation into next school year with the hope of having First Communion Mass in early December subject to Public Health and Church guidance.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION: Pupils in 6th Class are continuing their preparation for Confirmation. However at this stage it not possible to set a date for the ceremony as current guidance does not permit sacramental ceremonies to be held until Autumn. It is hoped that the Service of Light Ceremony can be held on a class by class basis in early June. More details will issue to parents as soon as possible. Meanwhile Confirmation pupils and their families are invited to attend a Confirmation Preparation Mass on Saturday 22nd May at 6.30pm via the Church webcam - log onto www.laurellodgeparish.ie. Pupils from Mr Finegans Class R.21 will lead the readings and prayers for this Mass,



REMINDER TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND PUPILS: Please check that your child has his/her school lunch and other necessary requirements for school. Since March there has been an increasing number of parents/guardians dropping off forgotten lunches/drinks etc at the school office. Additional visitors to the school during these Covid times are not permitted to prevent Covid transmission risk to school staff. Please respect this school Covid response procedure. Visitors to the school are by appointment only - ring the school office to arrange. Only essential visits by parents/guardians or other persons to the school can be permitted at this time.



ALADDIN CONNECT FACILITY FOR PARENTS: On Monday 10th May all parents/guardians received an information letter via email about the setting up of the Aladdin Connect Facility which will be available to parents shortly. Aladdin Connect allows each parent to have secure password protected access to

communications from the school in respect of their child including school reports. The End of Year June 2021 reports for each pupil will be issued via Aladdin Connect. This week beginning 17th May all parents/guardians will **receive an email message containing your Aladdin Connect registration link**. There will be **one link per parent, which** gives each parent access to relevant information for all their children in the school from one user account. ***** Please do not forward this text/email or share this link, as this is a unique registration code for each parent for your child/children in this school.** As part of the registration process, parents/guardians choose a password that must be used along with your email address to securely access your Aladdin Connect account. *Each registered parent/guardian will receive an email with links to download the Aladdin Connect App for your mobile device. The Aladdin Connect App will allow you to receive immediate alerts for app messages sent by the school. Downloading the App is highly recommended to give the quickest access to Aladdin Connect.*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS TO NOTE By default, both parents of each child will have access to view their child's personal details and contact details etc. *If for any reason you as a parent do NOT wish to share your own personal contact information with your child's other parent/guardian or if you have any concerns regarding your particular family situation please contact the school in confidence to discuss this. It is possible for the school to have this facility restricted if requested by a parent/guardian.*

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to inform the school should you wish to activate restricted parent access. Please do so immediately by 3pm on Monday 17th May by email to secretary @scoilthomais.ie - subject ALADDIN CONNECT RESTRICT INFORMATION. After this time/date the school will be sending out the registration emails for set up. We aim to have all families connected to this facility by end May. Many schools are already using the Connect facility and the feedback from parents and teachers is very positive as the Connect App is very user friendly and convenient to access and provides a central portal for school and pupil information for parents.



BAGS TO SCHOOL INITIATIVE: Scoil Thomáis Parents' Association is organising clothes collection by Bags2School. Last week collection bags were distributed to pupils to bring home. Please declutter your wardrobes and support this school fundraiser, money raised goes to Laura Lynn Children's Fund (10%) and Scoil Thomáis PA (90%). Bags of clothes etc should be dropped off at the Community Centre on **Monday 31st May/ Tuesday 1st June/ Wednesday 2nd June from 9.15 - 9.45am.** If you require additional bags - please phone Geraldine in the office @8201022. For more details check the PA Information Poster on www.scoilthomais.ie and this information was also posted on the PA Class Whats App Noticeboard.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND BOOKLISTS FOR 2021/22: At this time of the year we are preparing for the new school year. Booklists for all class levels and requests for School Supplies payments will be notified to parents/guardians in the coming week or so. School Books for September 2021 may be purchased online from Book Haven Bookstore, Roselawn or from any school book stockists. An Aladdin payment link for school supplies 2021/22 will be sent to parents and fees are due by **Friday 9th June**. Parents who need assistance with school book payments may contact the Principal/Deputy Principal and arrangements can be made for payments. Books should be purchased well in advance of September return to school.

PARENT/ TEACHER MEETINGS: All parent -teacher meetings have been completed for all class levels since last week. Thanks you to all teachers for their work in preparing for the P/T meetings and for phonecalls to parents. We appreciate the positive feedback from parents for the work of teachers and the school. The cooperation of parents in adhering to the arrangements for phone call meetings this school year is acknowledged.



HERB PATCH PROJECT: Well done to pupils in Ms Boland's 3rd Class and Mr Ryan's 5th Class for their gardening work in the Zen Den this past week. Pupils weeded their planting patch before planting nine specially selected sensory herbs ie Peppermint, Marigold, Lemon Balm, Heartsease, Thyme, Rosemary, Parsley, Lavender and Chamomile. Pupils can look forward to watching the herbs grow over the coming weeks. Special thanks to SNA Ger Curran for her assistance with this project. For a detailed description on each of the herbs log onto www.herbpatchproject.com

SCOIL THOMÁIS STUDENT COUNCIL: Ms Lenihan and Ms McGarry met with Student Council Representatives from 6th Classes to discuss some end of term events for 6th classes and will meet with and 5th Class Student Council members this week to discuss improvements to the school environment. Unfortunately, the Student Council could not be very active this year due to the Covid restrictions in school. Hopefully our Student Council pupils can contribute more actively to school life during the upcoming 2021/22 school year.

FRIENDSHIP SEAT: A special Friendship Seat made from recycled materials was gifted recently to the school for the children to enjoy.

SCHOOL UNIFORM: A reminder to parents and pupils that Classes from 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 May & June. (not branded shorts) Infant Pupils wear their school tracksuit uniform each day at school.

REMINDER TO 6TH CLASS PARENTS: A final reminder to parents, if you wish to purchase the specially designed Hoodies for your 6th Class child please pay immediately via the Aladdin payment link sent to you by the school. Orders for hoodies are being made by the PA this week to ensure that the hoodies are ready for distribution to 6th class pupils before they finish school.

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE: Pupils in each 6th Class have completed their work for a schoolbook publication and the draft of the book has been sent to the printer. This book contains stories and poems written by this year's 6th class pupils recounting memories of their years in Scoil Thomáis. Parents are invited to preorder one or more copies (cost €10 per book) - payable online by Aladdin payment link which will be sent to you this week. The book will be a treasured keepsake for the children in the future.



That's all the school news for now - Kind Regards from

M. McGarry, Principal & Mary Ryan, Deputy Principal Date: 17th May 2021