



Scoil Thomáis

Laurel Lodge, Castleknock, Dublin 15

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NUACHTLITIR

Dated 20th November 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

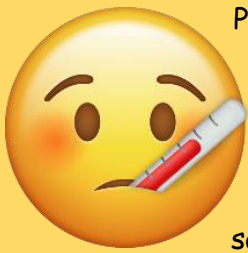
We are all aware of the ongoing need to implement Covid safety practices in school and in the community to reduce the current high rates of transmission of the virus.

This will help to keep schools open over the coming months. In Scoil Thomáis staff and pupils are continuing to implement necessary Covid response procedures so that everyone can be as safe as possible whilst at school. Pupils must keep up their good work by sanitising and washing hands regularly and staying in their class groups and pods as relevant. School staff are wearing masks in school and the school can only allow essential visitors/parents to the school on a pre-arranged basis. Parents/guardians and minders are reminded to wear a mask when at or near the school and to keep social distancing at morning drop off and home-time collection. Please do not delay whilst at the school and please refrain from engaging teachers/SNAs in lengthy conversations - only brief messages if necessary.



In September the school asked that all parents give their child a small bottle of hand sanitiser to be kept in pencil cases for their own personal use during the school day - PLEASE CHECK THAT YOUR CHILD HAS HIS/HER OWN BOTTLE of SANITISER AND TOP IT UP AS NECESSARY as this will help teacher with class sanitisation routines.

Keeping classrooms well ventilated is important for the circulation of clean air and will result in colder classrooms at this time of the year. All children should wear suitable warm underclothes (vests) and may also wear a warm jumper/fleece etc in class if necessary. Make sure that your child is wearing suitable warm coats and hats for outdoor times.



PARENTS are reminded NOT to send your child to school if they are unwell or display any Covid related symptoms. Thank you for your co-operation with this requirement to date which is helping to keep the incidents of the virus at a minimum in the school. Please check www.scoilthomais.ie to view a helpful video clip from Dr Abigail Collins explaining the HSE Guide to Parents on CLOSE CONTACTS in Covid19 cases, other useful Covid safety information links are available on the school website for parents.



Parent/Teacher Meetings 2020/21: this year it is not possible to hold our Parent/ Teacher meetings in November as normal due to Covid-19 restrictions. However the school is arranging for teachers of 6th class to have Parent-Teacher meetings by phonecall during the two weeks timeframe of weeks 30th November and 7th December.

Teachers Ms O'Mahony, Mr Finegan and Mr O' Mahony will be in contact with parents to finalise the time slots for their calls to share a progress report in respect of each pupil in their class. Parent - Teacher meetings for other class levels ie Junior Infant to 5th Class will be arranged for February with the format and dates for the meetings to notified to parents early in the New Year.

STAFF News: We welcome teacher Mr O'Riain to the staff - he will join the Supply Panel of teachers for substitute teaching cover for Scoil Thomáis and other local schools. Mr O'Riain replaces supply teacher Mr O'Donnell who is now teaching pupils in 1st Class, Room 10 replacing Ms Victory who is on leave for the remainder of this school year.

Science Week was celebrated during the week of 9th November in Scoil Thomáis with many classes undertaking exciting science based experiments and learning lots of facts on many aspects of science. Well done to the teachers for their interesting lessons and to the pupils for their enthusiasm. The Science Fair for 5th Class could not take place this year due to covid restrictions.



V de P Annual Food Appeal organised by the school and PA cannot take place in its usual format this December. However Scoil Thomáis Parents' Association encourage school families to support the V de P Christmas Appeal this year by donating vouchers that will allow needy families to buy food items (in shops ie Blanchardstown SC, Pennys, Dunnes, Lidl, Aldi, Supervalu, Tesco etc) and by gifting age appropriate children's toys for the Laurel Lodge/Carpenterstown V de P branch.



Donations can be dropped into the Community Centre by parents/adults on dates 8th, 9th 10th December from 9.10- 9.45am. The organisation of the Appeal will adhere to all social distancing protocols for accessing the Community Centre and a timetable will be notified to parents in advance. **The PA will send out information and collection timetable via Class Reps What's App Groups.**

If you have any questions do contact the PA on this email address scoilthomaisparents@gmail.com. This notice should allow time for interested families to purchase vouchers/ children's toys. **All donations and support will be much appreciated by needy families given the tough times this year.**

PARKING AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AT THE SCHOOL GATES: This is a further appeal to all parents and especially those parents/guardians who drive their children to school to be **EXTRA CAREFUL** at all school gate areas. The school is very concerned about the traffic issues at school gates at home-time and at morning drop-off as there are many drivers who are not taking due care at school gates. This is especially relevant at the **COMMUNITY CENTRE GATE** and **RISE** and **VALE GATES** especially on wet days. This week there were two 'near accidents' with cars reversing into the path of oncoming school children. The school has notified the local Gardai about these concerns.



PLEASE BE EXTRA CAREFUL AT ALL SCHOOL GATE AREA AND ROADWAYS. There are parent/guardians who drive children to/from school each day and take up parking spots close to the school gates, many are those who live locally and within walking distance of the school. We do not want to have any tragic accidents at the school **SO IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT EVERYONE CO-OPERATES** with road safety to keep the school entrances/exits and approaching roadways safe for everyone.



It has also been noted that some children and adults are choosing to cross the roads at various points along school roadways seeking to make a speedy exit - where possible please cross at the designated pedestrian crossings at the **RISE Gate** and at the **LAUREL LODGE ROAD/COMMUNITY CENTRE**. The school sought an additional school warden to be placed at the **Vale Gate** exit but unfortunately this was not supported by Fingal CoCo.

Junior Infant ENROLMENT 2021/22: Please note that the enrolment applications for September 2021 class will be accepted in January 2021. The approved Scoil Thomáis Admission Policy is now on the school website www.scoilthomais.ie (ABOUT US/POLICIES). The Annual Admission notice will be posted on the website in early December which will give the timeframe for completion of enrolment applications and supporting documents to be submitted with all applications

Fundraising Raffle 2020: This year the school will run its annual fundraising raffle in December, a book of 5 tickets for €10 will be given to each child to take home. We ask each school family to support the raffle by buying at least one book - payments for tickets (10euro) can only be made online this year via an Aladdin link which will be emailed to parents when the tickets are issued on 30th November. The raffle for prizes including a laptop, cash, vouchers and great sellers prizes will be held on 16th December. Thank you to the local business interests and companies who deal with the school who have donated prizes so far. We would welcome any further donations from parents who may be able to source a prize from their workplace. Funds raised from the raffle go to the project to resurface the junior courtyard with child friendly soft surface for PE and playtime use.

Board of Management: The upcoming meeting of the BOM will be held remotely on Tuesday 1st December as scheduled. Ms Peoples joins as teacher nominee replacing Mr Gurhy who previously served on the BOM.



Laurel Lodge Environmental Group

In Summer 2020 small group of parents set up Laurel Lodge Environmental Group, a voluntary community group to promote and look after the local environment and is linked to the Castleknock Tidy Towns initiative.

Members of the Laurel Lodge Environmental group wish to improve our local environment with actions like litter picking, weeding, leaf sweeping, graffiti removal and bulb planting. During the present time with Level 5 restrictions the group supplied litter-picking equipment to local volunteers who then adopt an area close to their homes with no mixing of households.

It is a family friendly group and children are welcome to join in with their parents/guardians. Many Scoil Thomáis children who are already involved and are enjoying helping to care for their local area. The group have had a great start so far and want to welcome more volunteers both schoolchildren and adults. ***Anyone wishing to get involved can text Anne at 087-9866667 or should email LaurelLodgeEG@gmail.com or please follow the group @laurellodgeeg on Facebook and Instagram.***

Have a look at the school website to see some photos of their great work cleaning up leaves on pathways over the recent midterm break.

That's the latest updates from school for now.

Kind Regards

Ms.McGarry & Ms Ryan.

20/11/2020