



Scoil Thomáis

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NUACHTLITIR

Dated 30th April 2021



As we approach this May weekend we are looking forward to the months of May and June with the children in school for the final term of this 2020/21 school year. Well done to all the classes who are working well and to our schools staff who continue to ensure that the children are safe and happy learners at school. We are pleased with the great efforts of everyone, pupils and staff and parents, in complying with Covid procedures since the return to school on 12th April. We must all keep up this effort over the coming weeks to help avoid Covid cases arising in classes and in the school. Special thanks to Cleaners Pauline and Regina for their cleaning work during the school day to minimise the risk of transmission of the virus



Once again, a reminder to all parents/guardians to follow the school Covid safety procedures for the safety of everyone: 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. Follow GP/HSE advice at all times.

Please inform the school immediately if anyone in your household receives a positive test result or if your child becomes a confirmed Covid Case. The school continues to follow all HSE /Public Health advice in the event of cases notified to the school. Continue to follow public health guidelines on social distancing and mask wearing and to minimise your social contacts outside of school time.

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. 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 at the school



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@scoilthomais.ie. **Do NOT come to the school office unless you have an appointment.** Please continue to support Scoil Thomáis Covid Response Plan and Covid procedures which are all available to read on www.scoilthomais.ie/ABOUT US

Relations & Sexuality Education (RSE) lessons for all classes will be taught during the month of May as part of the Social Personal and Health Education Curriculum (SPHE) in accordance with the approved school RSE policy. Over specific weeks in May teachers will be teaching the 'sensitive' lesson which was due to be taught to the classes in May 2020 and will also teach the 'sensitive' lesson on the curriculum for this 2021 school year. Teacher will notify you of the day/week that the RSE themes will be taught in your child's class. Those parents who have 'opted out' their child must take their child home at the RSE lesson time. The May 2020 lessons had to be postponed because of the March - June 2020 Covid closure. An information letter was emailed to all parents in December 2020 with details of the RSE lesson for your child's class and Parental Opt Out option. Please note that information on the topics to be covered in the RSE lessons and the specific language to be taught for your child's class is again available to parents on the school website www.scoilthomais.ie.

Junior Infant Classes will be taught their RSE lesson during the week of 17th May and parents should read the Parents Information letter sent via teacher email this week. An Information Session (via Zoom) will be held on Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 8pm to explain the Junior Infant lesson topics and the teaching methodology for the lesson to parents.

A link to the meeting will be sent via the PA Whats App on this day.




Parent Teacher Meetings (PTM) for classes Junior Infants to 5th Classes began this week 26th April for 3rd & 5th Classes and continue next Week 4th May for Junior & Senior Infants & 2nd Classes and the Week of 10th May for 1st & 4th Classes. Teachers have made contact with parents/guardians ahead of their class PTM week to finalise arrangements. The co-operation of parents with the times offered is appreciated and allows the meeting schedules to run smoothly. Thank you to all our Class and SEN teachers for their work in preparing their reports for the meetings and for their calls to parents.

Confirmation Pupils Reminder: Fr Brendan will celebrate a Confirmation Enrolment Mass for pupils in 6th class who are preparing for this sacrament on this Saturday 1st May at 6.30pm. All Confirmation pupils and their families are invited to log onto www.laurellodgeparish.ie to join in the Mass via webcam. Mr O'Mahony's Class R.20 will lead the readings and prayers for this Mass.



First Communion Registration: Thank you to parents who returned the First Communion Parish Registration Forms to teacher last week. The Parish will notify you shortly of their First Communion Preparation Programme. Teachers in 2nd Class will also be starting some of the preparation lessons with the First Communion pupils as part of their Religious Education lesson over the coming weeks.

Special Hoodies for 6th Class Pupils: Scoil Thomáis 6th Class PA Representatives are organising specially designed hoodies as a presentation to mark the end of their time in primary school this June. A letter with all the details and a link to an online order form order & payment link will be emailed to parent/guardians - the cost of the hoodies is €25 which should be paid via the Aladdin payment link. This will be a nice memento for the children so we ask all parents to order a hoodie for their child. Orders must be notified by Friday 7th May so that the supplier will have hoodies ready for distribution for the final school week in June

 **Athletics Training Sessions:** Teacher Mr Doherty has organised outdoor athletic training at break time over the coming weeks for classes 4th - 6th. This gives those pupils who enjoy athletics an opportunity to keep up their fitness and to race against their age groups. Thanks you to the teachers involved for their co-operation with race trails recently.



Parents/Guardians and all those who are dropping off and collecting children from school should take every care to ensure road safety at the school gates and on roads around the school. The safety of all families coming to and leaving from the school must be a priority for everyone in the school community. It has been noted that many drivers continue to park dangerously when dropping off or collecting children at the school entrances, which leads to congestion and safety issues. This is particularly evident at the Community Centre gate with cars driving into the parking bays at the Centre whilst adults and children are lining up in the morning time and also at home time collection. It would be much safer all round if families who live nearby walked to school or parked nearby and walked to the school. The school has

completed an expression of interest to Fingal CoCo for the inclusion of the school in the Safe Schools Zone project to help improve signage and road safety in and around the school.

Aladdin Connect for Schools: The school will be activating the Aladdin Connect facility on the Aladdin Student Management System over the coming weeks. This system is highly recommended for online communication and allows parents/guardians to receive school communication via the Aladdin app. Parents will have the option of downloading an app which will be password protected to allow parents communicate with the school to report absences, complete return to school declarations, receive teacher notices and access the June 2021 End of Year School Reports for your child. Next week parents will receive information about the ALADDIN CONNECT and how to use it to communicate with the school. There will be a small additional cost to parents which will be included in the 2021/22 school supplies bill which will issue in mid- May.

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 from next week and during May & June ONLY. Infant Pupils wear their school tracksuit uniform each day at school.

Department of Education Grant Approval: The school has received approval for grant aid under the Emergency Works scheme for the repair of an area of the flat roof at the reception area and red corridor. The roof is in poor condition and with water leaks after rainfall. It is hoped that the necessary works can be undertaken over the summer months of July & August to minimise disruption to the operation of the school.



School Calendar 2021/22: The school calendar for next school year 2021/22 is now available on the school website www.scoilthomais.ie under ABOUTUS/CALENDAR. School will reopen for the new school year for pupils from Senior Infants to Sixth classes on Tuesday 31st August 2021 with Junior Infants starting school on Wednesday 1st September.

New Classroom: The building work on the new classroom is now finished and ready for a class in Sept 2021. The build includes pupil toilets within the classroom, a link corridor and separate disabled access WC facility. The build was completed to a high standard and will be fully fitted out with furniture and ICT equipment for Sept. Special thanks to caretakers Mick and Tony for their assistance to the builders and tradespersons when they were onsite.

Wishing everyone a safe and pleasant May Bank Holiday Weekend.

School reopens again on Tuesday 4th May at 9am/9.10am for all classes.

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

30th April 2021