



For the attention of Parents/Guardians

Here are some important school information notes and updates for your attention.

June Bank Holiday Weekend: Reminder that there will be no school for pupils tomorrow Friday 4th June (School Holiday) and Monday 7th June (Bank Holiday). Back to school on Tuesday 8th June for everyone for the last few weeks of this school term. Note: School finishes at 12 noon on Friday 25th June for the summer holidays. All pupils should attend school until the end of the school term. Parents are asked NOT to take children out of school before the end of term for holidays etc. School will reopen on Tuesday 31st August for Senior Infants to 6th classes and the incoming Junior Infants will have their first day of school on Wednesday 1st September. The full school calendar for 2021/22 is now available on the school website www.scoilthomais.ie



Covid Update: A reminder to all parents/guardians to continue to follow all Covid safety procedures and guidance. The recent easing of restrictions is welcomed by everyone and hopefully there will be much to look forward to over the coming summer months. Meanwhile, it is especially important that parents and children continue to be careful and avoid undue mixing with others and not attend social events with large groups of people. Please be careful and remain on guard over the coming June weekend. So far we have been doing relatively well with few Covid cases being recorded in school. Parents, school staff and above all the children want to be in-school for the final three weeks of this school year. Please be responsible and do your part to avoid transmission of Covid within the school community.

- 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, if 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 so your child becomes a close contact case and should NOT attend school.
- The school continues to follow all HSE /Public Health advice in the event of any cases notified to the school.
- Follow public health guidelines on social distancing and mask wearing and to 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: Thank you to the parents who attended the Infant Induction Meetings on 26th May via Zoom. After the meeting all parents were sent an email with a copy of the meeting notes, book lists, uniform suppliers & price lists and other useful information to prepare for your child starting school. A preview visit for new Infants is arranged for Monday 30th August. Times will be notified to parents in late August.

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 applications for places to join various classes 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.



FIRST COMMUNION PUPILS: Fr Brendan will celebrate a First Communion Enrolment Mass in the Church for those pupils in 2nd Classes who are registered for First Communion preparation on 15th, 16th, 17th June at 9am. Parents will be notified of the Mass date for their class by teacher and ONE parent may attend the Mass with their child. Some parents have not yet forwarded a copy of their child's baptismal certificates - please do so immediately for the Parish records.

CONFIRMATION A Service of Light Ceremony will be held in the Church for each class on: Wednesday 9th June @1.30pm for Mr O'Mahony's Class on *Thursday 10th June @11am for Ms O'Mahony's Class (note change of time). A new date will be arranged for Mr Finegan's Class Service of Light. One parent/guardian may attend the Service of Light ceremony in the Church with their child. A provisional date of Saturday 28th August has been set for Confirmation Ceremony with each class having a ceremony on this date. REMINDER: Confirmation pupils and their families are invited to attend the final Confirmation Preparation Mass on Saturday 12th at 6.30pm via the Church webcam - log onto www.laurellodgeparish.ie. Pupils from Ms O'Mahony's Class will lead the readings and prayers for this Mass. Thank you to 6th class parent volunteers and Sinead O'Connell for their help with the online Saturday evening class Confirmation Preparation Masses in May and June.

VISIT OF MINISTER JACK CHAMBERS: Minister Jack Chambers TD who has responsibility for Sport, Gaeltacht and is Government Chief Whip visited the school on Monday 24th May. The Minister had a guided tour of the school facilities. He also met with members of the Student Council with each member posing very relevant and interesting questions to the Minister. Pictured are the 14 Student Council pupils from 5th & 6th Classes with the Minister



PRESENTATION OF BADGES: Student Council pupils were presented with special badges by Ms Lenihan today to acknowledge their role as members of the Student Council in school. We hope each pupil will wear their badge with honour and pride.



REMINDER TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND PUPILS: Please check that your child has his/her school lunch, drink and other necessary requirements for school. Dropping off items to the school office for delivery to pupils is not permitted due to the Covid risks involved.



A reminder to parents to activate your Aladdin Connect App via the registration link sent by email recently. Approx 67% of Scoil Thomáis parents have already linked into Connect and it is essential that all remaining parents sign up to join so that the system is rolled out to all school parents before the end of June. Aladdin Connect allows each parent to have secure password protected access to communications from the school in respect of their child including school reports. This year's End of Year school report for each pupil will be issued via Aladdin Connect. **If you have any problems or need help downloading the CONNECT APP please email the school office and Geraldine or Collette will assist you.**

BAGS TO SCHOOL INITIATIVE: Scoil Thomáis Parents' Association was very pleased with the response to the Bags2 School clothes recycle collection which took place this week. The PA will receive €518 funding from this fundraiser.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND BOOKLISTS FOR 2021/22: Payment for School Supplies for your child for Sept 2021 must be made via Aladdin payment link by WEDNESDAY 9th JUNE please. School Books should be purchased over the coming weeks and all class books are available from Book Haven Bookstore in Roselawn Shopping Centre -parents have received book bills with a quick code and note about the 5% discount which will be applied to all online book orders made before 25th June - www.bookhaven.ie. Parents who need assistance with school book payments should contact the school office and arrangements can be made for payment support. School books should be purchased well in advance of September return to school as sometimes some popular books may not be in stock later in August. Shop early and be ready for September !!!



Congratulations to pupil Jason Liu from Mr Mc Gowan's 5th Class who was awarded 1st place in an All Ireland Primary School Chess competition held earlier this year. This is a fantastic achievement for Jason and for the school.

SCOIL THOMÁIS STUDENT COUNCIL: Next week pupils in each 5th Class will take part in a Litter Action Week organised by the 5th Class Student Council pupils. They have already surveyed the school grounds and identified many litter blackspots and these areas will be the focus of their litter picking activity. Pupil Katie Lane designed a lovely poster for the Litter Action Week which will be posted on all school gates next week.

SCHOOL UNIFORM: Pupils in Junior & Senior Infants should wear their school tracksuit uniform each day at school. Navy School shorts may be worn in June as part of the school uniform. Parents should note that the approved Scoil Thomáis school uniform suppliers are *Leddy Uniforms*, Blanchardstown and *Happy Events* in Blanchardstown Centre. Both companies stock high quality school uniforms including crested tracksuits tops and bottoms (with stripe), polo shirts, shirts, jumpers, cardigans, pinafores, trousers and school ties, Please support our School Uniform suppliers when purchasing uniforms for your child's return to school.

Staff News: Welcome back to teacher Ms Whelan who has returned from maternity leave. Also teacher Ms Murphy will be returning to school next week. Congratulations to teacher Ms O'Keeffe on the birth of a baby girl named Caoimhe last weekend.

Soft Play Project - Good News. Work commenced yesterday (Wednesday 2nd June) on the installation of the playground equipment and wetpour surfacing of the Infant courtyard. The work is being undertaken by Kompan, an Irish company who specialise in playgrounds and is expected to be completed next week. Junior Classes will then be able to enjoy this play area over the last school weeks of June. Money for this project was raised through fundraising activities this school year which were so well supported by parents. The BOM has also made a financial contribution to ensure that the project could be completed in one phase. Well done to everyone involved in this project.



June Fundraising Event - The school is organising a **Non Uniform Day Fundraiser for all classes to be held next Friday 11th June** - pupils can wear their own 'summer clothes' to school on this day and each pupil should bring in €2 which will be collected by class teacher. Money from this event will go to the Soft Play Project fund.

All parents are encouraged to support this final fundraiser of this school year. Again many thanks for your support with walks, raffles, Christmas cards etc fundraising events since last September.

BOM MEETING REPORT: The BOM met on Tuesday 1st June and discussed many school matters. The BoM noted the upcoming roof repairs work planned to be done over the summer break subject to the appointment of a building contractor for the job. The BOM are in the process of finalising other maintenance jobs including the upgrade of the school alarm system and the replacement of very worn carpets in selected classrooms. An update on the curricular work this term was given to the BOM by the Principal. The BOM acknowledged the great work of school staff and pupils and the support given by parents during this 2020/21 challenging school year and wish everyone a safe and pleasant summer break.



END OF YEAR EVENTS FOR 6TH CLASSES: Teachers are in the process of organising Covid Safe end of year events for 6th classes to celebrate the completion of their time in primary school. The Department of Education has clearly stated that parents cannot attend the school for end of year events. Sixth classes will have an in-school class graduation on the morning of Wednesday 23rd June which will be made as memorable as possible by the school. Parents will be informed of the format of this year's graduation and other end of year activities for the 6th class when plans are finalised over the coming week.

SUMMER SCHOOL PROVISION: The school will be offering a school based Summer Provision for eligible pupils under the recently announced Department of Education programme over two weeks starting on 19th July. The programme will be organised and co-ordinated by teacher Mr Ryan. He will contact relevant parents with offers of places for their child for the summer school.

SCHOOL REPORTS: Teachers are preparing their school reports for each child over the coming weeks. The school reports will be shared with parents via Aladdin Connect before the 25th June closure. Please use this opportunity to praise and affirm the efforts and progress made by your child during this challenging year for all pupils.

MOBILE PHONES SCHOOL POLICY: Parents are reminded that pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones to school - unless in very exceptional cases where specific written permission has been granted by the Principal/Deputy Principal. All pupils in 5th and 6th Classes are regularly reminded of this school rule by teachers. Pupils who are found to have a mobile phone in school must hand over the phone and parents will be required to attend a meeting on the matter. All matters relating to mobile phones are clarified in the school policy (available on the website www.scoilthomais.ie)



CYBERBULLYING ISSUES: Recently many cases of repeated negative messaging using mobile phones (outside of school time) has come to the attention of teachers. Some pupils are using mobile apps to write very unkind and disrespectful comments about classmates and other children in their online group. This behaviour is totally unacceptable and disappointing given that 5th & 6th Class pupils had workshops on cyber bullying and respectful use of online communications. Parents/Guardians must check and be aware of their child's behaviour and how they use their mobile phones. Incidents of such behaviour which come to the attention of the school may be dealt with under the school's Anti-bullying policy and Code of Behaviour. Parents please monitor your child's mobile phone usage and be aware of the social media and other communication sites that your child is accessing - many of which are not suitable for primary school children. Please check out www.webwise.ie which provides up to date information for parents on advising your child/ren about safe online communication and useful tips on how to monitor children's online behaviour.

Wishing everyone a safe June Bank Holiday Weekend and we will see all the pupils back at school on Tuesday 8th June.

M. McGarry, Principal & Mary Ryan, Deputy Principal Date 3rd June 2021