



Scoil Thomáis

Laurel Lodge, Castleknock, Dublin 15

Phone/Fax: (01) 8201022

NUACHTLITIR

Dated 6th November 2020

FAO: Parents/Guardians

We have completed the first week of school after midterm and well done to everyone for settling back to school and to all classes who are working so well. As the winter mornings and evenings are now upon us we ask all parents and pupils to take extra care when coming to school with school traffic and please ensure that your children wear suitable footwear and warm coats etc.

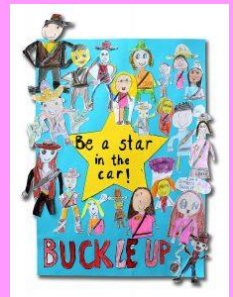
Road Safety at the School: Parents are asked NOT TO STOP in the middle of roadways at the school to drop off/collect pupils as this is unsafe practice. Pupils are reminded only to cross road at traffic lights or where there is a school warden (lollipop lady) managing the crossings. The vicinity of the school is especially busy at 9am school starting time and at 1.40 and 2.30/40pm so please be vigilant and take care - as we do not want any accidents.



Parking at the School: Please do not park near school gate areas, observe the KEEP CLEAR signs at footpaths; it is important that the road view is not blocked for pupils exiting the school. This is particularly important at the RISE - GATE R where cars parking right at the gateway is a serious hazard for pupils and those waiting to collect pupils. Parents should also be very careful when parking at the community centre car park at morning and hometime.

School Gates: Parents/guardians are reminded that pupils must enter and leave by their designated CLASS GATE at morning entry and hometime exit. First class parents should note that they must exit at Gate C (at Community Centre) at 2.30pm. The gate arrangements are in place to avoid the mixing of class levels as part of the school's Covid Safety response. Check the Gates Notice on the school website.

Congratulations to pupils in Room 2 Ms Kelly's Class who came 2nd in the Road Safety Authority (RSA) Seat Belt Sheriff Poster Competition held in May 2020 organised by their last year's teacher Ms Harney. Next week the Class will be presented with a special trophy to honour their success. The school was delighted to receive a cheque from RSA for €500 which will be lodged to the school fundraising account. Here is their winning poster.



The popular **Folens Christmas Annuals** for class levels can be ordered via the school again this year, cost €4 each - an email has been sent home to parents this week with details and payment must be made online (by 18th Nov) via the Aladdin link sent to parent email. Orders will arrive to school in Dec.

Scoil Thomáis Annual Fundraising Raffle is being organised for mid December in association with the Parents' Association. Funds raised will go towards the installation of a soft play surface for the junior courtyard as this is the focus for 2020/21 fundraising. It would be appreciated if each family would support the raffle. Tickets cost €10 for a book of 5 tickets, to be distributed to pupils in late November. Payments can only be made online via Aladdin. If any parent or local business can donate a raffle prize, voucher, or cash prize it would be very welcome- please contact the PA or Geraldine in the office if you can offer a prize. All raffle donations will be acknowledged.

Internet Safety is an important issue for parents and pupils. The school has arranged a webinar workshop for all 5th Classes in December as part of the SPHE curriculum. The cost will be €5 per pupil payable online via Aladdin. An information note about the webinar and a payment link will be sent to parents later this month.

STAFF NEWS: We welcome teacher Ms Browne who joins Scoil Thomáis as a Supply Teacher serving this school and local schools. We also send congratulations to teacher Ms Whelan on the birth of a baby girl in mid-October.

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.



Halloween Walk 2020 Well done to the school community for their support for the Walk on 23rd October, a selection of lovely photographs of the event are now on the school website. The funds raised for the walk will go to the Soft Play project. The Spooky Courtyard Experience was enjoyed by all classes before midterm.

Many pupils reported enjoying walking and cycling in local parks and amenity areas over this past midterm - it was a good opportunity to explore the local area and all the amenities it has to offer for families.

New Classroom Build: There is now visible progress on the completion of the new classroom with all exterior fencing now removed and internal electrical and plumbing works will be done over the coming weeks. It is expected that the classroom will be completed by early January.



Remote Learning Planning: We are finalising our school remote learning plan outlining the ICT platforms that may be used by pupils in the event of a class/classes needing to remain at home if advised by Public Health.

Parents have been asked to give permission for their child/ren to access these ICT teaching support tools. Please note that Seesaw App will be used for Infants -

3rd Classes and Google Classroom skills are being taught to pupils in 4th, 5th and 6th Classes.

Parents have been notified of a **FREE** webinar for parents on how Google Classroom works in a school context on 24th November at 7pm. Booking via dwec.ie/courses/



COVID UPDATE: Thank you to everyone for ongoing co-operation with Covid Safety procedures at the school. Please continue to **KEEP THIS UP** as it is vital that the cases of the virus in the community continue to be suppressed. This will help to ensure that schools can remain open over the coming months, All persons dropping off or collecting pupils **MUST** wear face coverings and keep **SOCIAL DISTANCE** and **PLEASE DO NOT DELAY** at the school gates. Due to the increased Covid concerns, all school staff have been advised to wear face masks as an enhanced safety measure within the school.

BOM MEETING: The Board of Management held a meeting on 20th October and the following policies were ratified. Safety Statement Update, Critical Incident Policy Update. The BOM plans to upgrade aspects of the ICT infrastructure in the school and a new Server system has been installed recently to support the school network. The BOM continue to support Covid related expenditure and safety measures in the school. The next BOM meeting will be held on 1st December 2020.

HAND SANITISER. The school confirms that the sanitiser products used in the school (CLEAN RITE) are fully compliant with the 20th October Department of Education updated approved listing for school.

MOBILE PHONES: Parents/Guardians and pupils are reminded that **MOBILE PHONES** are not permitted in school in accordance with the school policy (available on the website). Parents are responsible for their child's compliance with this school rule. This is particularly relevant to 5th & 6th Class pupils. This policy will be strictly enforced in the school. The cooperation of all is appreciated in this matter.

Wishing everyone a nice weekend - please keep safe

Mary McGarry & Mary Ryan , 6th November 2020