



Scoil Thomáis

Laurel Lodge, Castleknock, Dublin 15, D15 VWO2
www.scoilthomais.ie

Dear Parents/Guardians and pupils

We are all looking forward to seeing all our pupils from Senior Infants - 6th Classes in school tomorrow **Tuesday 1st September**. A special welcome for our new junior infants who will have their 'first day at school' on Wednesday 2nd September, a detailed timetable for the initial weeks of school was emailed to junior infant parents last week. It was lovely to see the smiling faces of the incoming junior infant pupils last Friday 28th August for their 'Meet the Teacher School Visit'

Here are some important reminders and information points for all Scoil Thomáis parents and pupils returning to school on Tuesday 1st September

The priority for the school is to have all pupils and staff return to school safely and in a managed manner and to keep the Covid-19 virus out of our school. The BOM has finalised a Covid-19 Response Plan & Risk Assessment (available on school website ABOUT US/POLICIES). The BOM and school management have implemented many procedures and new practices to ensure the safe and sustainable return to school for everyone.

1. A key safety measure is to ensure social distancing both inside the school building and in classrooms, on school yard outside areas and at the school gates. That is why the school must stagger the entry and exit times for all classes over the first week as almost 700 Scoil Thomáis pupils return to their classrooms. Parents are asked to be patient and understanding with the staggered times which may be inconvenient but are necessary. The school hopes to be able to adjust the entry and exit times for classes for Week 2 to nearer normal school times when we see how the entry and exit plans work over the first few days of school. Updates will be notified to parents via the school website as soon as planning is finalised.

- Please do not congregate at the school gates before/after school and all pupils must make their way quickly to the exit gates at home time.
- The bike racks are not operation until further notice and hopefully will be operational again when the return to school has settled.
- Remember there is a Classroom Building Project on site, safety is a priority for everyone and the building works must continue when school reopens.

2. Another important safety measure is the focus on sanitisation, handwashing and regular cleaning within the classes and throughout the entire school. Hand sanitising units are located at all classroom entrances and foam soap and paper towel dispensers are located in all toilet blocks. Pupils are also asked to bring their own small bottle of handsanitiser (to be kept in their pencil case) to be used at intervals during the school day under the direction of teacher such as before/after eating lunch, after using shared teaching resources etc.

3. Access to the school MUST be limited in order to minimise the contacts on the school premises and this includes parents and other visitors to the school. Face to face meetings with school staff will be for essential reasons only and must be made by prior appointment. Please do not call into the school office unless it is absolutely necessary - instead email your query or phone the office. Please be patient as the school office is very busy these days and it may not always be possible to respond immediately to calls or emails. Forgotten lunches etc cannot be accepted in the school office so please check that your child has his/her school essentials before coming to school

IMPORTANT: Please note the **School Day Times, Entry /Exit Gates and Routes to Classroom** and specific arrangements for teacher to meet your child's class - check the school website.

School Gates (VALE - SHOPS - RISE - COMMUNITY CENTRE) will open at 9am for pupil entry and there will be a 15min window for pupils to come through the gates - so please no rushing or congestion at the school gates before school time. School staff will be in the school yard from 9am to help and direct pupils to their classline up area or classroom and at hometime.

For Week 1 (Tuesday 1st - Friday 4th September) classes from Senior Infants to Sixth Classes come to/finish school at times shown here (also on website) NOTE :Group A or B

Group	Class	Parents Note	Come to School	Hometime	Gate	Route
 Group A Senior Infants 5th Class 6th Class	Senior Infants	Parent/guardian to accompany to class line	9am - 9.15am	1.40pm	Community Centre Gate - C	Teacher meets class in yard
	5 th Class	Pupils only NO parent/guardian	9am - 9.15am	1.40pm	Castleknock Rise Gate - R	Pupil walks directly in to classroom
	6 th Class	Pupils only NO parent/guardian	9am - 9.15am	1.40pm	Castleknock Vale Gate - V	Pupil walks directly to classroom
 Group B 1st Class 2nd Class 3rd Class 4th Class	1 st Class	Parent/guardian to accompany to class line	10am - 10.15am	2.40pm	Community Centre Gate - C	Teacher meets class in yard
	2 nd Class	Parent/guardian to accompany to class line	10am - 10.15am	2.40pm	Shops Gate - S	Teacher meets class in yard
	3 rd Class	Pupils only NO parent/guardian	10am - 10.15am	2.40pm	Castleknock Rise Gate - R	Teacher meets class in yard
	4 th Class	Pupils only NO parent/guardian	10am - 10.15am	2.40pm	Castleknock Vale Gate - V	Teacher meets class in yard

Junior Classes (Infant - 2nd Class) may have one parent/guardian accompany them onto the school grounds. Senior Classes (3rd - 6th Class) are expected to walk from the school gates to their teacher/classroom WITHOUT a parent.

Have a look at the helpful maps of the school entrance /exit gates to help plan your child's return to school this September. http://scoilthomais.ie/images/20202021/Group_A.pdf

http://scoilthomais.ie/images/20202021/Group_B.pdf

The school has compiled a **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** document to assist pupils and parents/guardians - please read this as it contains lots of helpful advice

http://scoilthomais.ie/images/20202021/SCT_FREQUENTLY_ASKED_QUESTIONS_for_web.pdf

IMPORTANT - Health Review for your Child Returning to School

Please do not send your child back to school if he/she is sick or is displaying any Covid-19 type symptoms. Please use this review checklist as a guide to confirm your child's eligibility to return to school safely, here is the link to the checklist

http://scoilthomais.ie/images/20202021/Return_to_School_Checklist_COVID_for_parents.pdf

Pupils and parents who have returned from recent travels abroad (green listed countries) should NOT under any circumstances return to school unless the 14 day mandatory quarantine has been completed. Non-compliance with this will be regarded as a serious matter, Full co-operation on this matter is required for the health and safety of all staff and pupils. The BOM further advises that pupils/parents who have returned from non-green listed countries SHOULD NOT return to school until after 14 days from inward travel date.

A Reminder to all parents and pupils that pupils are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones to school - this is a strict school rule so please make sure that your child does not have a mobile phone with them coming to school. Please consult the school policy - ABOUT US/POLICIES. This directive will be strictly enforced by the school.

Finally a special word of thanks to all the teachers and SNAs who have been busily preparing classrooms for the return of the children over the past week. During the summer Geraldine and Collete (secretaries) and Mick and Tony (caretakers) did fantastic work to support the school reopening. Cleaning staff Pauline and Regina worked too to ensure that all areas of the school were thoroughly cleaned and are fully ready for the pupils and staff coming back to school.

We hope that the return to school is as smooth as possible for everyone. We encourage all children to go to bed early tonight, have a good night's sleep and be ready for school start in the morning. Remember full school uniforms for all pupils from 1st - 6th class and tracksuit uniform for Infants. Don't forget to pack a healthy lunch and a drink (NO NUT BASED FOODS PLEASE) and bring back all your last year's school books including rental books.

With good wishes for the school year ahead.

Mary McGarry, Principal & Mary Ryan, Deputy Principal

31st August 2020