



Scoil Thomáis

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

RETURN TO SCHOOL - 31ST AUGUST 2021
IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR
PARENTS/GUARDIANS

We look forward to welcoming our staff and pupils back to school for the new school year 2021/22

Covid 19: The Department of Education has informed schools that all the Covid safety procedures that were in place in schools up to last June **MUST** continue to be implemented for the return to school this September. Covid 19 rates are currently high in the community and the virus continues to be a risk for everyone despite the good uptake of vaccinations. Parents and pupils and school staff in Scoil Thomáis must work together and fully comply with infection prevention measures and restrictions inside and outside of the school. We all hope that schools can remain open and that we will have a full school year of in-school learning.

School Reopens on Tuesday 31st August for Senior Infants, First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Classes. The first day of school for **Junior Infants will be Wednesday 1st September**, the timetable for the first two weeks of school has been notified to Junior Infant parents.

PUPIL SAFETY: Pupils will continue to be assigned to PODS and must generally stay with their class BUBBLE and must sanitise their hand regularly during the school day as advised by teachers. Please sure that your child brings his/her own small bottle of handsanitiser and keeps it in their pencil case for personal use.

Return to School Declarations are not necessary this September for pupils to come back to school - however it is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure that their child is Covid-free and is not a close contact of a confirmed case when they come back to school - please take this responsibility seriously in the interests of the health and safety of school staff and other pupils in the class/school.

NOTE: Please check the school website www.scoilthomais.ie for the list of classes and teachers for Return to School 2021/22- Please note your child's teacher's name and classroom number, Start & Finish times, and Entry and Exit Gates - posted on website from 12noon on 27/08/2021

It will be necessary to stagger classes entering and exiting the school in the morning and at hometime to ease congestion and the congregation of persons on or near the school building. Classes will have nominated entrance gates and routes to their new classrooms and these arrangements must be strictly adhered to so that all the pupils can settle in quickly.

SCHOOL TIMES: Again this year the school times will be 9am/9.10am (start times) and pupils will go home at 2.30/2.40pm for all classes (except Infants who go home at 1.40pm).

ENTRY/EXIT GATES: Please wait with your child at the correct gate for morning entry and for hometime exit. School Staff will be at all gates in the morning and at hometime to help guide children to their classrooms. Parents/Guardians/Adults waiting with or for children must **KEEP TO SOCIAL DISTANCING RULES** and the **WEARING OF MASKS** will continue to be necessary whilst on the school premises.

IF YOUR CHILD IS UNWELL (AT HOME): If your child is unwell at home or is displaying any symptoms* (see list of symptoms) of Covid, please **DO NOT SEND** your child to school. Please seek the advice of your doctor.

IF YOUR CHILD IS UNWELL (AT SCHOOL): If your child is unwell in school or is displaying any symptoms* associated with Covid, teacher must ensure that the child goes to a designated **ISOLATION AREA**. A parent/guardian will be contacted and asked to take the child home immediately. Please co-operate in the interests of the safety of all the school community and always have some family member on call for such emergencies.

Common symptoms of coronavirus include: fever (high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above); a new cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just dry; shortness of breath or breathing difficulties; loss or change in your sense of smell or taste - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal; fatigue, aches and pains **Other uncommon symptoms of coronavirus include:** sore throat, headaches, runny or stuffy noses, feeling sick or vomiting or diarrhoea. **Symptoms may be subject to change so keeping a regular check on www.hse.ie is advised.**



Scoil Thomáis

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

RETURN TO SCHOOL - 31st AUGUST 2021

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

In cases of a confirmed diagnosis of Covid (in the class/school): The HSE will undertake a risk assessment with the school and will notify all relevant contact persons if necessary. The HSE will advise the school on the actions to be taken (ie test CLASS/POD) and all necessary actions in such cases. Such information will be communicated to parents/guardians by the School and/or HSE as necessary. The school must respect the confidentiality of all health related issues for staff and pupils and cannot discuss details of any such cases.

The School has a Covid19 Policy (available on the school website). Other practical information for parents will be also posted on the school website - please check for updates.

FACE COVERINGS: All school staff will wear face masks as per school policy. All adults entering the school premises or on the school grounds **SHOULD WEAR A FACE COVERING**. Children under 13 years do not have to wear masks - however if you wish your child to wear a mask he/she must be able to manage to place and remove it themselves as school staff cannot assist with pupil's masks.

VISITING THE SCHOOL: All visitors or parents seeking to come to the school must make an appointment. Meetings with teachers or other school staff cannot be held face to face unless deemed essential - meetings can be held by telephone or remotely by arrangement. Phone the school 8201022 or email secretary@scoilthomais.ie Visitors coming to arranged meetings or school business must sign the contact tracing log at the school office.

SCHOOL LUNCH: Pupils bring lunch to school as usual - remember healthy lunches and a drink. Please label all lunch boxes and drinks bottles and no sharing of foods or drinks. **Reminder that NUT BASED FOODS CANNOT BE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL AS THERE ARE PUPILS IN MANY CLASSES WITH NUT INTOLERANCE CONDITIONS.** Pupils will eat their snack/lunches in classrooms this school year.

FORGOTTEN ITEMS FOR YOUR CHILD: Please make sure that your child brings school lunch/drinks etc to school. We cannot facilitate dropping lunches/ school bags etc at the office except in cases of absolute need.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE SCHOOL/Teacher/SNA: Parents who wish to send a message to teacher/SNA can (i) write a note in their child's school journal (ii) send in a letter to teacher/SNA with your child (iii) email the school office secretary - and the email will be forwarded to Teacher/SNA/PRINCIPAL/DEPUTY PRINCIPAL (Teachers/SNAs cannot answer emails during classtime) (iv) arrange for a phone call via the school office Parent or Teacher/SNA requests for meetings must be kept to a minimum and must be by appointment only.

RETURNING FROM TRAVELS ABROAD - please follow the Department of Foreign Affairs advice regarding travel rules and quarantine- please comply with all regulations for the safety of your child.

YARDTIME/BREAKTIMES: Pupils will go to the yard each day, weather permitting. However there will be only two classes on each yard area with classes allocated separate areas of the yard. There will be new rosters for yard time for all classes. Windows and doors of classrooms will be open whenever possible to allow for maximum circulation of air and ventilation of rooms. Schools are due to receive CO2 monitors over the coming weeks which will help to manage air quality in classrooms.

SANITISATION AND CLEANING: There will be additional cleaning in place throughout the whole school and common touch areas will be cleaned regularly and classrooms will be sanitised daily. Sanitisation units are installed at each classroom. Disposable paper towels are in all pupils and staff toilet areas and regular handwashing will be advised for pupils and staff. All pupils should have a small bottle of hand sanitiser for their own personal use during the school day in accordance with the routines arranged by teachers.

The Department of Education has helpful advice and videos for parents/guardians to assist with the return to school <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a04fc-advice-for-students-and-their-families/>



Scoil Thomáis

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

RETURN TO SCHOOL - 31ST AUGUST 2021
IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR
PARENTS/GUARDIANS

CODE of BEHAVIOUR: Pupils are expected to co-operate with all the necessary procedures and instructions of school staff in relation to safe practices to minimise the risk of Covid 19. The school aims to ensure a culture of positivity and togetherness when dealing with Covid 19 procedures and protocols at all levels. Pupils who deliberately endanger the health and safety of other pupils or staff members will be regarded as breaching the school Code of Behaviour and will be sanctioned accordingly. Negative behaviour which in any way undermines or targets a pupil or staff member based on symptoms or a diagnosis of Covid19 will be dealt with under the school AntiBullying Policy and/or Code of Behaviour. Deliberate spitting or coughing or threatening another pupil or member of staff in school in relation to Covid 19 will be considered a serious offence and will be dealt with accordingly under the Code of Behaviour and sanctions imposed up to and including suspension.

SCHOOL STAFF WHO ARE UNWELL cannot attend school and a substitute teacher/SNA will be sourced to cover for the absent staff member. Please be aware that such cases may arise for your child's class.

CLASSROOMS have been rearranged to comply with DES recommended layouts and pupils must cooperate with the placements organised by teacher for the class. Excess furniture and toys etc have been removed and sharing of school equipment and resources amongst pupils will be minimised. The school library, computer room and PE hall will not be operational for classes for some time; this will be reviewed as the weeks go by.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS: Pupils wear full school uniform (1st-6th Classes) each day - and wear their tracksuit uniforms for PE days only as advised by teacher. Junior Infants & Senior Infants wear tracksuit uniforms every day. School navy shorts may be worn during the month of September. Uniforms are not required to be washed every day however, the school advises that it is good practice that children change out of their uniform as soon as they arrive home from school each afternoon.



PUPIL MOBILE PHONES: Pupils are NOT allowed to bring mobile phones to school - this rule will be strictly enforced so please ensure that pupil mobile phones remain at home during the school day.

BIKE RACKS FOR 5TH & 6TH CLASSES: Pupils will not be available until mid-September - further information will follow on the operation of the bike racks for these classes.

NEW CLASSROOM OPEN: Classroom (6A) is ready to receive Ms Boyce's Senior Infant Class. We hope they enjoy learning in this lovely new classroom, which is now fully equipped and furnished for the class.

ALADDIN CONNECT: The school has activated the Aladdin CONNECT Service for communicating with parents. Please ensure that you have activated your registration link to use this service. If you have any problems please email the school office (secretary@scoilthomais.ie)

CONFIRMATION SERVICE for each 2020/21 Sixth Class will be held on this Saturday 28th August in Laurel Lodge Church at 11am (Ms O'Mahony's 'Class), at 12noon (Mr Finegan's Class) and at 1pm (Mr O'Mahony's Class). All three ceremonies can be viewed via the parish webcam www.laurellodgeparish.ie

OUR FOCUS AS A SCHOOL: School staff are very much looking forward to welcoming your children back to school on 31st August/1st September. Our priority is to ensure the smooth and safe return to school for everyone and we are confident that the children will settle back quickly into the routine of the school day when they see all their friends and teachers and SNAs. The planning and organisation for the return to school 2021 aims to protect the health and wellbeing of pupils and staff whilst allowing for the resumption of teaching and learning activities. We wish everyone an enjoyable and happy new school year.

Kind Regards

Mary McGarry, Principal & Mary Ryan, Deputy Principal

Date: 27th August 2021