

The next meeting of  
Scoil Thomáis  
Board of Management will be  
held on **Tuesday 25th March**  
2014 at 7.45pm.

### MORNING & HOMETIME

Parents/Guardians/Minders  
who collect Infant pupils  
at 1.40pm are asked to  
vacate the school play area  
after collecting children.  
For safety reason school  
gates need to be closed at  
1.50pm each day.

### IMPORTANT NOTE

Parents are asked not to  
send pupils back to the  
school after hometime to  
collect forgotten school  
books etc. Children cannot be  
allowed into the school after  
hours without an adult guard-  
ian. *Please contact the school  
office before 3.30pm if  
necessary.*



### Meeting Your Child's Teacher

From time to time parents may seek to have a short meeting with class  
or support teacher/s outside of the formal parent-teacher meetings.  
Such meetings must be arranged through the school office and can only  
be scheduled before or after class time.

We ask that requests for a meeting with your child's teacher must be put in writing  
and sent to teacher or to the school office for the attention of the named teacher.  
In your written request please give a general outline of the reason for seeking the  
meeting. Parents will then be contacted with meeting date and time as necessary.

Please co-operate with these arrangements which aim to ensure efficient  
communication between home and school.

There will be occasions when your child's class teacher or support teacher/s may also  
seek to meet parents to discuss matters about your child. Again such meetings are  
scheduled outside of teaching time. Parents are asked to co-operate with teachers in  
arranging such meetings at an agreed time and date.

### SCHOOL ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

It is important that children are in school each day  
unless they are sick or for another good reason.

Under the Education Welfare Act the school must make  
a report for each child who is absent for 20 or more  
days to the National Education Welfare Board. Most  
children in Scoil Thomáis come to school each day,  
however there are a number of children who miss many  
school days which makes it very difficult for children to  
keep up with school work and to make  
ongoing progress at school.



There are also some pupils who are  
consistently late coming to school.

It is equally important that children are in  
school on time each morning so that they do not miss  
out on early morning schoolwork. School opens at 9am  
and roll call is taken by teacher before formal classes  
begin at 9.10am. Children arriving to class after roll call  
are recorded as late for class.

SCOIL THOMÁIS PARENTS ASSOCIATION  
is organising an **EASTER BAKE SALE** for  
Friday morning 11th April in the School Hall.  
All funds will go to the school for the upgrade of  
computers facilities for all classes. We look  
forward to selling lots of lovely cakes etc



## Nuacht - Litir: February 2014

Please note the following school closures:

School closed **Monday 17th** until **Friday 21st February** for Mid-Term.

School reopens on Monday 24th February at 9am.

**School closed on St Patrick's Day Monday 17th March**

School reopens on Tuesday 18th March at 9am.

*Log onto [www.scoilthomais.ie](http://www.scoilthomais.ie) for school calendar for 2013/2014*

**Important Note about PE Classes:** The primary school PE curriculum  
consists of six themed areas or strands; Athletics, Games, Aquatics,  
Gymnastics, Dance and Outdoor and Adventure. Teachers teach lessons in  
each strand over the course of the school year. Pupils have just completed  
Gymnastics lessons recently. Over the next four weeks pupils in all classes  
will be taught an Irish Dance as part of the Dance strand of the PE  
curriculum. All pupils at each class lesson must participate in all PE lessons  
including dance and will not be permitted to 'sit out' these classes.



### Book Week Events in Scoil Thomáis

After mid-term we will  
have a special Book  
Week in Scoil Thomáis  
to further develop the  
children's love for

reading, writing and poetry.

The themed week coincides with World  
Book Day on Thursday 6th March.

Teachers Ms Steen & Ms Lenihan have  
organised a series of events for pupils  
starting on Wednesday 26th February  
which include **Writing Workshop**  
with Alan Gibbons for 6th classes,  
**Storytelling** with Liz Weir & Brendan  
Nolan for junior classes, **Class Swap**  
where senior pupils read for junior  
pupils, **Drop Everything and Read**  
(DEAR) time for all classes, **Scoil  
Thomáis Book Hunt, Book Character  
Dress up Day** for 3rd—6th classes and  
a **Poetry by Heart Competition.**

On Wed. 5th March Ms O'Reilly's  
Third Class Rm 13 will participate in a  
**We Love Books Event** in the local  
Draíocht Theatre.

### GREEN TEAM NEWS

Last Friday 7th February  
Trish Kennedy, Green

Flag Assessor from  
Fingal CoCo came to the  
school to meet with Scoil Thomáis  
Green Team. She viewed our Green  
School Notice Board and asked lots  
of hard questions about the many  
initiatives that our school have  
undertaken since Sept 2012 to learn  
about recycling etc.

The boys & girls from the Green  
Team were well able to answer all  
her questions and even sang our  
'green song' for her. Trish also  
visited Ms Murphy's 3rd Class in

Room 15 to hear all about the  
schools programme to recycle and  
reduce waste. We are very proud of  
our Green Team of pupils, teachers  
and school staff for all their great  
work. We hope to hear good news  
soon from An Taisce about the  
award of our first ever Green Flag. !



### Junior Infants Class, September 2014:

Applications for enrolment for incoming junior infants were accepted at our enrolment mornings in January in Scoil Thomáis. Offers of places for September's classes have been sent by to parents by post this week and final date for acceptance of a Scoil Thomáis Junior Infant place offer is Friday 28th February 2014  
An Information Meeting for Junior Infant 2014 parents will be held in mid-May.

**SWIMMING CLASSES** for 1st Class, Room 10 & Fourth Class, Room 24 will commence on Thursday 27th February.

As previously stated Scoil Thomáis has moved to a new system of online payment of school monies via our school website. We thank those parents from Ms McManus 1st Class & Ms Lynch's 4th class who have used the system to pay the required swimming fee of €50.

Pay Now

With Easy Payments Plus

To pay online log onto [www.scoilthomais.ie](http://www.scoilthomais.ie), click on the **PAY NOW** with EASI PAYMENTS PLUS icon.

1. The first time you use this system you must enter your email address and password and register your child.
2. You make your payment with a debit card or credit card and the money is routed to the school bank account via a secure system.
3. Each parent receives a receipt by email confirming your payment.
4. You can then gain access to your Easy Payments Plus account with your email address and your own password.

**Parents who have not paid swim money yet are asked to do so by Friday 14th February as we need to finalise bus transport for trip to Coolmine Pool. Please also return your swim consent form to teacher immediately.**

*Please contact the school office if you need assistance with online payment system.*



**A Cycle Safety Course for all 5th Class pupils in association with Fingal County Council and part subsidised by our Parents' Association and BOM.** The course will start on **Tuesday 11th March**. Each pupil will be asked to **pay €4** towards the cost of the training. Pupils will have a greater awareness of cycle safety after the course.

A note will be sent home to all 5th classes with information about this course



### Scoil Thomáis Quiz Team 2014

has been chosen from 6th class pupils Well done to Jamaal Askary, Denis Botnaru, Aoife Daly, Zara Daly, Lauren Finney, Richard Flynn, Andrew Gavrilas, Niall Harrington, Giulio Iepure, Ben McDonald, Mark Priestley and Toto Okafar.

Two quiz teams represented Scoil Thomais at the Irish League of Credit Union Quiz in St Peregrine's GAA Club on 3rd Feb last. Our teams were joint 3rd & joint 5th out of 33 school teams which is a great result for Scoil Thomáis. The next Quiz outing will be in Scoil Bhríde BNS for the CUDA Quiz on Friday 28th Feb. We wish our team well at this Quiz and we thank teacher Mr Kelly for training the team.

**FOOTBALL NEWS:** Our Boys' & Girls' football teams resume training to prepare for the local Fingal Schools' League.

**CRICKET LEAGUE:** A team from Scoil Thomais will represent the school in a Leprechaun Cricket Tournament in May. The pupils are looking forward to this event.

### FIRST COMMUNION 2015:

Parents of Catholic pupils in our First Classes were notified of the new Diocesan First Communion Policy in a recent letter from the School and Parish Communion Team. From 2015 onwards First Communion pupils will receive the sacrament at Sunday Mass. Parents will be kept informed about the revised Diocesan arrangements as soon as details are finalised.

**PLEASE NOTE : First Communion will take place for this year's 2nd class pupils on Saturday 17th May 2014**



**Seachtain na Gaeilge 2014 (10ú - 14ú Márta)**  
During the week beginning Monday 10th March Scoil Thomáis will celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge with lots of events organised by teacher Ms O'Sullivan as follows:



- During Seachtain na Gaeilge we will all be making an extra special effort to speak Gaeilge during the week. There will be spot prizes for pupils who try hard to speak as Gaeilge to pupils and school staff.
- Pupils are invited to take part in a Comortós Ealáine (art competition) on the theme of Seachtain na Gaeilge and samples of pupils art work from all class levels will be displayed in the hall during Gaeilge week.
- Each year group will also have a céili in the school hall and all classes will learn a ceili dance as part of their PE programme in preparation for the Céili Mór sa Halla.
- **On Friday 14th March all classes will enjoy a Cheolchoirm Mór le grupa Áirnéain (traditional Irish music concert with Aírnéain) in the school hall.**

The group will perform four concerts over the course of the school day to cater for all classes from infants to sixth. Pupils are asked to pay €2 each towards the cost of this concert.

A note will be sent home with all pupils about the concert fee and class teachers will collect the concert money after mid-term.

### Primary School Tennis League 2014



Scoil Thomáis will have a team of six pupils who will participate in a local primary schools tennis league. Matches to be played in Castleknock Tennis Club grounds over the coming weeks against local schools. We thank Lana Rosenbergs (parent) who is assisting with training our pupils for the league.

### STAY SAFE MEETING FOR PARENTS

There was a great turnout of parents on Thursday evening 6th February for the talk on the Stay Safe Programme. Joan Duggan (speaker from CAPP) gave an outline of the lessons that will be taught to pupils in Senior Infants, First, Third and Fifth classes after mid-term. Thank you to Ms O'Sullivan, SPHE co-ordinator who organised the meeting.

**For further information on the stay safe lesson themes log onto [www.staysafe.ie](http://www.staysafe.ie)**

### RSE Lessons for 5th & 6th Classes

A letter was sent home this week to all parents with pupils in 5th & 6th class informing them about the (RSE) Relationships and Sexuality lessons that will be taught in the third term of school.

These lessons are an important part of the SPHE curriculum for primary schools.

**Parents must sign the form attached to the information letter to confirm that you give/do not give consent for your child to be present in class for the RSE lesson .**

*Please return Consent Form to your child's class teacher by Friday 28th February.*



### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2014

was celebrated in the school from 26th—31st January.

We thank our group of 3rd class pupils who represented Scoil Thomáis at each of the Sunday Masses in Laurel Lodge Church on 26th January. We had a Grandparents Day on Wednesday 29th Jan for Infant Classes and we were delighted to see so many grandparents come to the school to visit their grandchildren's class.

Fr Mick visited 1st & 2nd Classes during the week and led them in prayer.