

Well Done to the pupils from Ms O'Boyle's Sixth Class R.16 who took charge of the entrance doors and assisted at breaktimes for the term Sept to Dec.
Pupils from Ms Steen's Sixth Class R.18 have taken over duty for the term Jan to April. The Minders are organised and mentored by Assistant Principal Ms Lenihan.



Congratulations to all the cast of the Coolmine Panto group on their fantastic production of Cinderella over the past weeks in Draíocht. Many past pupils of Scoil Thomáis are involved in this year's show as well as two of our present 5th Class pupils Tara Cullen & Maeve Durand

AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES

A range of after-school activities have been organised for pupils from Second Class to Sixth Class. The classes will run for 8 weeks (excluding mid-term: 17th—21st Feb) Activities include After-School Sports for 3rd class pupils, Scratch Kids Computer Club, Music, Drama, Art & GAA training /matches. A full menu of classes was sent home this week. If you are interested in your child participating in Scoil Thomáis After-School Activities please return forms and money asap. As numbers are limited in various classes applications are accepted on a first come - first served basis.

The next meeting of Scoil Thomáis Board of Management will take place on Monday 3rd February 2014 at 7.45pm in the school. BOM members please note

SCHOOL UNIFORM SURVEY

The Minister for Education has asked all primary and post-primary schools to survey parents regarding school uniforms. We are liaising with our Parents' Association to finalise the survey for our school. Parents/Guardians of each family in Scoil Thomáis will receive a one page survey to complete in late February

Scoil Thomáis staff wishes all our pupils and their families a Happy 2014.

©Scoil Thomáis : 17th January 2014

UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS

- A speaker from the Charity GOAL will speak to the 6th classes about its aid work on Friday 17th January.
- Mr Kelly is organising our school quiz team to take part in the Credit Union Quiz on Monday 3rd February
- Senior Infants & Second Classes start four weeks of FAI soccer coaching as part of their PE Programme on Wednesday 15th January .
- GAA coaching with Brendan Phelan has commenced for 4th Classes
- Cricket Ireland will visit the school in March to teach cricket skills to all pupils in Fifth Class.
- Fourth Class R.19 & First Class R.11 continue with their swimming lessons on Thursday afternoons in Coolmine Pool until the end of January.



THE THREE TENORS CONCERT

Teacher Mr Kelly will be singing with the Three Tenors at a special concert in the Draíocht on **Friday evening 28th Feb at 8pm**. Scoil Thomáis Choir has been invited to accompany the Tenors on stage for a number of songs. This is a great honour for the pupils involved and they are very much looking forward to the event. Parents may wish to attend the concert and tickets may be booked at the Draíocht (tel: 8852622) or online at draíocht.ie **There is a discounted ticket price for Scoil Thomáis families for this show: €22.50 (adults) + €15 (children)** Mention Scoil Thomáis when booking.

Scoil Thomáis, Laurel Lodge, Castleknock, Dublin 15

Nuacht Litir - January 2014

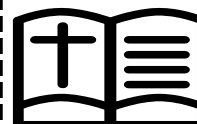


PARENTS: PLEASE NOTE - EARLY CLOSING

School will finish at 1.40pm for all classes on **Tuesday 28th January**. This means that classes **1st to 6th** will go home at the same time as the Junior and Senior Infants on this day only. This early hometime is to allow for school based staff inservice which takes place all afternoon.

Stay Safe Programme for Children

An Information Meeting about the STAY SAFE PROGRAMME for parents of pupils in all classes will take place on the evening of **Thursday 6th February 2014 from 8pm—9pm** in Classroom 13 in the school. Speaker Joan Duggan from the Child Abuse Prevention Programme (CAPP) will give an overview of the Stay Safe lessons to teach children personal safety skills lessons. She will also show video clips and lesson plans for the programme. Stay Safe lessons will be taught to all pupils in Senior Infants, First Class, Third Class and Fifth Class in March & April. It is an important part of the school's Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum. We ask that as many parents as possible attend this meeting so that you can support your child as they learn about Stay Safe.



Catholic Schools Week 2014

runs from Sunday 26th January until 2nd February. During this week Catholic parishes and schools will celebrate their contribution to faith formation and education in our Catholic Schools. This year's theme is 'Catholic Schools – Places of Faith and Learning'. Classes in Scoil Thomáis will focus on this theme in their Alive-O lessons this week. On Sunday 26th January a group of 3rd Class pupils representing Scoil Thomáis will take part in the Offertory at each of the Sunday Masses in Laurel Lodge Church.

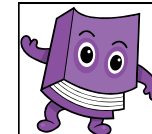


FEBRUARY MID TERM 2014

A reminder that Scoil Thomáis will be closed for mid-term for the week Monday 17th until Friday 21st February. School will re-open on Monday 24th February at 9am.

Log onto

www.scoilthomais.ie for the school calendar for 2013/14.



TAKING CARE OF SCHOOL RENTAL BOOKS

It is very important that all pupils take good care of the school rental books which they got on loan last September. The school has spent a lot of money purchasing new books this year and these books need to have a life span of a few years. Rental books will be collected again from pupils in June. Books that are returned in poor condition will have to be paid for in full by parents. Parents are asked to support the school in ensuring that your child looks after all school books.



Junior Infants Class—September 2014

Enrolment for Junior Infants in Scoil Thomáis for September 2014 will take place in the school this **Monday 20th & Tuesday 21st & Wednesday 22nd January from 9.15–10.30am.**

Parents seeking to enrol a child for junior infant class must attend on one of the mornings.

Application Forms will be provided and parents complete forms at the school.

Please bring the following documents with you: **Birth Certificate + Baptismal Certificate (if applicable) + Proof of Residence** ie two utility bills

Children who are due to start school must be 4 years by June 2014. Our current school Enrolment Policy is available on www.scoilthomais.ie — click on POLICIES to access

Thank you to all parents and friends who attended the Nativity plays in many classes just before the Christmas break. Well done to all our teachers involved for their preparation with the children and for transforming their classrooms for the staging of the Christmas plays. All the pupils involved were great and they really enjoyed having parents and family come to the school to see them.



We thank Mr John Cooke, uncle of pupils Thomas & Emily Igoe for his visit to 5th Class pupils this week. John is living in India and is home on holidays and brought pictures and stories to share with the children. He answered lots of their questions and they thoroughly enjoyed his talk.

Preparations are ongoing for those pupils in 2nd Class who are making their First Holy Communion.



First Penance Service will be on Thursday 27th March at 7.30pm in the Church. First Holy Communion date is Saturday 17th May 2013.

The pupils in Sixth Class who are making their Confirmation are preparing for this Sacrament. Reminder of Confirmation Preparation Mass on Saturday Evening 18 January at 6.30pm in Laurel Lodge Church.



Confirmation Service of Light will take place on Thursday 20th March at 7.30pm in the Church.

A Retreat for Confirmation pupils has been arranged for early April. A reminder that Confirmation ceremony will take place on Friday 9th May in Laurel Lodge Church with Bishop Field.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE 2013.

We also acknowledge our pupils and their teachers from 4th,

5th & 6th Classes who took part in Scoil Thomáis Christmas Carol Service in the Church on Thursday 19th Dec. The school celebrated the message of Christmas with prayers, reflections and a lively selection of carols. The Church resounded with the lovely singing from our 4th, 5th & 6th class choirs. Fr Mick concluded the service with his special Christmas Blessing. Special thanks to teacher Ms Bonner who co-ordinated the service and to her team of pupils and staff who assisted. We were delighted to see so many parents and families join us in the Church for the Carol Service



PAYMENTS ONLINE FOR PARENTS :

Scoil Thomáis will be moving to an online system for the payment of school monies over the coming months. This is to allow for a more efficient method of collecting school money and also to reduce the time and costs and security issues associated with lodging money to the bank. Parents will be able to log onto the school website and click on EASI PAYMENTS button, identify your child and the bill to be paid and then make a payment using Laser or Credit Card. Parents must register their child at the first log on. All payments go directly to the school bank account through a secure payments system. Many schools now use online payments systems and parents find it very helpful. An note about how to use the system to pay will be sent to parents as school monies are due.

A reminder to 6th Class Parents & Pupils. An Assessment Morning for those pupils who have accepted FIRST YEAR places in Castleknock Community College & Lutterlstown Community College will be held on **Saturday 1st February 2014.** Parents will have received full details from the Secondary Schools involved.

FUNDRAISING RAFFLE 2013

Our final total for the Fundraising Raffle held before Christmas was **€5,425.** This money will be used to fund the upgrade of our computer room and other ICT projects to support teaching and learning.



A Cycle Safety Course has been organised again this year for 5th Class pupils in association with Fingal County Council over six weeks. A trainer will begin the course on Tuesday 11th March with a workshop on cycle safety. Over the following weeks pupils will have cycle training on bikes supplied by Fingal CoCo. All pupils will be provided with a helmet for the training. The course is subsidised by Scoil Thomáis Parents' Association, Scoil Thomáis BOM and Fingal CoCo and pupils are asked to pay €4 towards the cost of the course. A note will issue to all fifth classes shortly about the course.

GREEN SCHOOL NEWS :

In November our Green School Committee in Scoil Thomáis sent our application for our First Green Flag to An Taisce.

We are awaiting a visit from the Green Flag Assessor and we expect this to take place over the coming weeks. The Green School Committee of pupils and staff held their first meeting of 2014 on Tuesday 14th January and discussed plans for the coming term.

The Committee is asking all classes to work extra hard to reduce the amount of recycling materials we place in the Green Bin. Suggestions to reduce waste packaging in lunches include: not using clingfilm/tinfoil in lunchbox and using a water flask or bottle that can be refilled each day.

The green team has also organised a competition to design a Scoil Thomáis Green School Mascot Logo. The winning entry will be used on all green school notes and posters in the future. Entries to be in by end January.

Check our school website for GREEN NEWS updates.

