



Scoil Thomáis

Laurel Lodge, Castleknock, Dublin 15

Phone/Fax: (01) 8201022

Dear Parents/Guardians

We are all delighted that school is back in action since 1st September and well done to all our pupils who are happy to be back and are enjoying seeing their friends, teachers, SNAs and school staff. We welcome some new teachers and SNAs to the school this year and we hope that they will enjoy working in Scoil Thomáis.

All classes are keen to continue their learning and have made a great start on the work of this new school year. Our new Junior Infants have settled in very well and will be in school for their full day from 9.10am – 1.40pm from next Monday 21st September. We are very pleased with how quickly the children are walking from their entry gate and getting to their classrooms each morning. Please keep up this great routine. Again at hometime all pupils and parents must exit the school promptly and go home via their allocated gates.

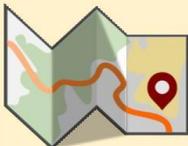
The safety of all our pupils and staff is priority and we are all managing the new school routines including morning and hometime arrangements, sanitising and washing hands and being in 'pods' and 'bubbles'. The new systems and routines in school are working well and are being reviewed on an ongoing basis and adjusted as necessary. The school cannot eliminate all risk but be assured that everyone is doing their best to keep your children, and our staff, as safe as they can be.

However we do need the ongoing co-operation and patience of parents/guardians and minders especially at morning drop off and hometime collection of pupils. The staggered entry and exit times for various classes have been adjusted to 'as near normal times' as possible. Please come to the gates notified to you for your child's class. Classes must only come in and go home via the specific gates allocated to their classroom. It will be necessary to continue with the present morning and hometime system for the foreseeable future to minimise the mixing of classes as recommended by the return to school protocol.

School Gates must close each morning at 9.20am – any parent/guardian and child arriving after this time should go to the small Vale Gate and come to the school office to be admitted to class.



Scoil Thomáis - School Timetable for all Classes from Week of 21st September 2020

Group	Class	Come to School	Use Gate	Parent Note	Home time	Use Gate	Parent Note
 Group A 1st Class 2nd Class 5th Class 6th Class	1 st Class	9am to 9.10am	Gate C (Comm Centre)	Parent/Guardian will leave child inside Gate C. Child will walk to entry door. Teacher will be there.	2.30pm	Gate C (Comm Centre)	Parent/Guardian will walk to the class line in the Yard and wait there for child.
	2 nd Class	9am to 9.10am	Gate S (Shops)	Parent/Guardian will leave child inside Gate S. Child will walk to entry door. Teacher will be there.	2.30pm	Gate S (Shops)	Parent/Guardian will walk to the class line and wait there for child.
	5 th Class	9am to 9.10am	Gate R (C'knock Rise)	Pupils will walk directly to their classroom and enter via fire door.	2.30pm	Gate R (C'knock Rise)	Parent/Guardian will wait outside Gate R for child.
	6 th Class	9am to 9.10am	Gate V (C'knock Vale)	Pupils will walk directly to their classroom and enter via fire door.	2.30pm	Gate V (C'knock Vale)	Parent/Guardian will wait outside Gate V for child.
Group	Class	Come to School	Use Gate	Parent Note	Home time	Use Gate	Parent Note
 Group B Junior Infants Senior Infants 3rd Class 4th Class	Junior Infants	9.10am to 9.20am	Gate C (Comm Centre)	Parent/Guardian will accompany child to class line in the Yard. Teacher will meet class at the line.	1.40pm	Gate C (Comm Centre)	Parent/Guardian will walk to the class line in the Yard and wait there for child.
	Senior Infants	9.10am to 9.20am	Big Gate (C'knock Vale)	Parent/Guardian will leave child inside Big Gate on C'knock Vale. Child will walk to entry door. Teacher will be there.	1.40pm	Big Gate (C'knock Vale)	Parent/Guardian will walk to the entry door at Room 3/4 and wait for child
	3 rd Class	9.10am to 9.20am	Gate R (C'knock Rise)	Pupils will walk directly to their classroom via specific entry doors	2.40pm	Gate R (C'knock Rise)	Parent/Guardian will wait outside Gate R for child.
	4 th Class	9.10am to 9.20am	Gate V (C'knock Vale)	Pupils will walk directly to their classroom and enter via fire door.	2.40pm	Gate V (C'knock Vale)	Parent/Guardian will wait outside Gate V for child.

Parents/guardians and minders dropping off and collecting pupils MUST observe social distancing rules – please keep 2 meters from other adults and please wear a face mask when at the school. We must all follow the guidelines if we want our schools to stay open, particularly now that there are so many cases of Covid in Dublin. Encourage the children to talk about covid safety and # be sure to keep to the safety rules at home, just as they are doing in school. This will keep us all safer. Please check with the school website www.scoilthomais.ie for updated information and guidance from the HSE and Department of Education

Road Safety: please be extra careful at the school gates when dropping off or collecting pupils. **Cars should not be parked at the KEEP CLEAR AREAS and parents/guardians should not allow children to hop out of cars onto the road to get to the school gate.** Please park safely and either wait for your child in the car or walk to the school gate. All cars should drive very slowly on the roads at the school entrances and everyone should co-operate with lollipop ladies on duty in the morning and at hometime.

School Attendance: Please ensure that your child is in school every day unless sick or for other good reason. Again, parents/guardians are reminded NOT to send your child to school if they are unwell or have any Covid-type symptoms – please get medical advice if in doubt. The school must implement our Covid response plan if a child becomes unwell whilst in school, parents will be contacted and asked to collect the child promptly. The child will be given a mask and removed from class and brought to the isolation area by a staff member to await collection. We ask that parents send a follow up email to the office/teacher to update the teacher on the child's health and expected return to school.

Booklists 2020/21: Today you should receive an email with your child's booklist for this school year. All books are available to buy online or in person at Book Haven Bookshop in Roselawn. The bookstore will give a discount to Scoil Thomáis parents so please quote the code on your booklist to avail of the school discount. Please buy your child's books over the coming week and pupils need to bring their new school books to school on Monday 28th September as teacher will be working from these books at that stage. Any parent with difficulty with the book bill may contact the school and a payment plan may be agreed as relevant.

Pupil Personal Accident Insurance: A final reminder to play online if you wish to include your child in the Scoil Thomáis Pupil Personal Accident Insurance Plan 2020/21 organised by the PA. – An application form and information note was emailed to all parents recently. The cost is €10 per pupil payable online via the Aladdin link sent to you.

Application Forms for Secondary Schools for 6th Class Pupils: Applications form for LCC and CCC are now available from each of the relevant schools via their websites – please download and make your application by the due date for First Year places for Sept 2021. If you have any queries, please contact the relevant Secondary School.

School Lunches: Please continue to give your child healthy lunches and a drink each day for snacktime and lunchtime. Please note that NUT BASED FOODS are NOT allowed as there are many children in the school who have allergies related to nuts. This year we are asking that all pupils bring home any food waste in their lunchboxes and place in the brown bin at home. It will also help parents to monitor how much your child has eaten during the school day. Please encourage your child to eat all of their lunch/fruit in so far as is possible.

New School Staff: Welcome to teachers who have joined the staff this school year : Ms O'Connor (Junior Infants), Ms Fleming (4th Class), Mr McGowan (5th Class), Ms Rodgers (SEN) and a special welcome back to teachers Mr Freeman and Ms Healy. Two new SNAs Amanda and Erica also joined the staff this September. We are also delighted to have teachers Mr Troy, Mr Finegan, Mr Duffy & Mr O'Donnell working as Supply Teachers to serve the substitute needs of Scoil Thomáis and some local schools when teachers are absent.

First Communion 2020: Best wishes to all the First Communion pupils in 3rd Classes who have been preparing for the sacrament of Penance and Communion with their teachers. Due to the likely new level 3 Covid 19 restrictions Fr Brendan brought forward the First Communion Masses for Room 15 & Room 16 pupils to this evening Friday 18th September. Masses will take place in the Church at 5pm for Ms Lenihans' Class and at 6pm for Ms Travers Class. Special thanks to teacher Mr Kelly and to parent Sinead O'Donnell who will provide the music and singing for both Masses.

The First Penance and Communion Masses for Room 13 & Rooms 14 pupils due to take place next Saturday 26th September must be postponed if Level 3 restrictions are imposed, their First Penance and Communion Masses will be celebrated as soon as the Churches are allowed to resume religious ceremonies.

We appreciate the support of all parents in coping with the revised arrangements for the sacraments and we commend the children on their understanding and positive attitude during these emergency times. We also acknowledge the help of parish priest Fr Brendan and the teachers with the Communion pupils this month.

Have a lovely weekend everyone, please keep safe and keep to the Covid Rules to help everyone stay healthy.

Mary McGarry, Principal & Mary Ryan, Deputy Principal

18th September 2020