



Scoil Thomáis

Laurel Lodge, Castleknock, Dublin 15

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NUACHTLITIR

October 2021

Please note that school will be closed for Halloween midterm break from Monday 25th to Friday 29th October and will reopen on Monday 1st November.



Halloween in Scoil Thomáis

Pupils and school staff are looking forward to the Halloween season, which we plan to celebrate in school just before midterm. Pupils are invited to dress up in their Halloween outfits for our fun filled **Halloween Dress Up Day on Friday 22nd October**. In order to comply with Covid-19 safety rules and to minimise the risks for everyone, we ask that pupils do not bring in accessories such as wands or broomsticks and refrain from wearing Halloween masks.

All classes will take part in a Halloween Parade walking around the outside of the school - the route will start at Castleknock Vale gate and go along the footpaths circling the school grounds and returning to the school via the Rise Gate for Junior Classes and via the Vale Gate for Senior Classes. The Spooky Halloween Walk 'Siúlód na Samhna' is the school fundraiser for this term and we kindly ask that all pupils bring in €2, which will be collected by class teacher. Please support this school fundraiser and we hope to bring some Halloween cheer to school on Friday 22nd!

A special mention to members of our staff who have carried out fabulous work in our pebble courtyard – designing and creating an outdoor Halloween display! All of our classes will get the *spook*-tacular area after their walk on Friday.



From November 1st, lots of new features of Aladdin Connect will be accessible to parents. The Aladdin App, which you can download easily, will give you access to your child /children's relevant information and will deliver push notifications from the school directly to your device.

Currently, the School Calendar 2021/22 is available to view on Connect.

Following the midterm break, all families will be required to:

- Enter **absence** reasons
- Receive **correspondence** from class teacher or offices via the noticeboard
- **Book** Parent Teacher **Meetings**
- Submit **permissions** to the school

It is essential that all families in the school sign up to Aladdin Connect, either through a device or a desktop PC.

Parent - Teacher Meetings

Parent teacher meetings will take place on Nov 16th, 17th & 18th after school. Ten-minute meetings, between teachers and parents, will be conducted over the phone. This year parents **must** book a meeting slot with the teacher(s) through Aladdin. If your child is in receipt of support a meeting with the Special Education Teacher can also be booked.

The online booking system will open after midterm. See table below for details.

Who can book?	When?
Families with 3 or more siblings in the school	Tues 2nd Nov from 9am
Families with 2 or more siblings in the school	Wed 3rd Nov from 9am
Families with 1 child in the school	Thurs 4th Nov from 9am



Road Safety: Parents and pupils are asked to cross the road safely by using the Lollipop Crossing at Castleknock Rise Gate and at the Community Centre Crossing - please be extra careful on the Castleknock Vale Road, it is a narrow roadway and please be aware of traffic at morning and hometime on school days. Please be mindful of pedestrians if parking near the church or community centre.

Pupils in Ms Galligan's 5th Class will hold a special ceremony this week at the tree they previously planted to remember their classmate Rory Bruen RIP to mark his second anniversary at the end of October. We remember Rory and his family in a special way during this month.



Scoil Thomáis Parents' Association recently donated a selection of Spring Bulbs for Junior Infant classes and pupils and teachers will plant the bulbs over the coming weeks. Thank you to the PA who has sponsored the planting of the spring bulbs, which provide a lovely display on the school grounds in springtime.

The school recently received a Furniture grant from the Dept. of Education. This means that the pupil chairs in all classes will be replaced with new strong plastic chairs that provide ergonomic back support and seat. If you know of any charity or organisation that would have use for the old chairs please contact the school office.



Christmas Cards 2021

A big thank you to all the children who worked on the Christmas template to create their own Christmas Card.

After midterm break each child will bring home a proof template and PARENTAL ORDER FORM. Parents may note the number of packs of their child's personalised Christmas card that they wish to buy. The cost is €10 for a pack of 12 cards and envelopes. The school will send you a payment link via Aladdin. Parents are encouraged to buy at least one pack and the money raised from the sale of the cards will be used for school improvements.



JUNIOR INFANT PHOTOS:

The photographer will visit the school on November 22nd and 23rd to take our Junior Infant photographs. Individual photographs of the pupils will be taken as well as a class photograph.

Further information on this will be sent to the parents of relevant classes closer to the dates.



The annual sale of Folens Christmas Annuals will begin later this week. The annuals, Súgradh, Spraoi, Siamsa and Sonas, are filled with activities, games, stories and festive fun!

More information on purchasing the annuals will be sent to all families.

Advice for parents during Covid-19:

Symptoms to look out for

If your child has any of the following symptoms of Covid-19, do not send them to school and contact your GP:

- > A temperature of 38 degrees Celcius or more
- > A new cough
- > Loss or changed sense of taste or smell
- > Shortness of breath or an existing breathing condition that has become worse
- > Fatigue
- > Aches or pains
- > Sore throats
- > Headaches
- > Diarrhoea
- > Runny or stuff nose
- > Feeling sick or vomiting



For more see gov.ie/backtoschool



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education



Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice

Thank you to parents/guardians for your cooperation to date especially in keeping your child out of school if they are unwell or have any Covid type symptoms. Please continue to cooperate with public health advice and seek medical advice if you have any concerns about your child's health.

Covid_19 School Update: As society gradually returns to normal, the school will continue to review Covid-19 procedures and practices after midterm break in line with DES advice.