



St. Thomas' S.N.S. Newsletter



14th October 2019

Rule of the Week

I do my best in class and allow others do the same.

Board of Management

A reminder of the meeting on Tuesday of next week (22nd October) to elect two parent nominees for the Board of Management—one Mother and one Father. The meeting will start at 7.00pm.

Child Protection

We all—parents, school and community members have a duty to protect children as the welfare and protection of children is of paramount importance. Please read the letter overleaf which outlines the responsibility of this school in relation to issues of child protection. The Child Protection Safeguarding Statement is on the school website www.stthomas.ie

Homework

All pupils will get homework Monday to Thursday. It is very important that pupils do their homework each night. Please check your child's homework and sign the journal each night. If there is an issue with the homework please speak with your child's teacher.



Halloween



It's coming to that spooky time of year again. Derek O'Brien—Community Guard and Joanne from Dublin Bus will visit classes today to speak to the children about safety at Halloween.



Fundraising



We are having a fundraising clothing collection which will benefit Laura Lynn Foundation and the school. If you are doing a clear out you can send in any clothing, pairs of shoes, handbags, hats, scarves, ties, belts etc. Bags of clothes can be sent to the Parents Room on **Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday ONLY** of next week (21st to 23rd October).

Teacher Shortage

There is a shortage of substitute teachers in the Dublin area in particular. In the event of teacher absences and there being no substitute teachers available, classes may be split between other classes or support teachers may have to provide cover.

Science Workshops

We are delighted to be involved with a new initiative with UCD whereby a group of 4th class pupils will travel to the Science Laboratory at UCD for 6 weekly workshops starting this week.

Mr Murphy and 24 pupils will travel there on Thursday for the first workshop. Transport has been provided.

Parish News

GODLY PLAY SACRED STORIES We are delighted to invite you all to enjoy three more Tuesdays of new Godly play stories from the Old Testament!

Adults 11:00am-12:00pm, Children 3pm-4pm

Dates are: 8th, 15th, 22nd and of October.

JUNIOR CHOIR We are continuing practises with this new season with many blessings, new voice warm ups, new games, songs and friends! We are meeting in our Parish Church on **Wednesdays at 2:45pm until 4:00pm**. Led by Olivia & Saule

WOMEN'S GROUP We are delighted to announce the return of the Women's group to the Pastoral centre. The group is meeting every **Monday at 7:30pm until 9:30pm**.

Group is led by Liz Murphy

THURSDAY DROP IN MORNING Come for a chat, for a cup of tea/coffee, meet new people, reconnect, Every Thursday in the Pastoral centre **from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm**. Facilitated by Liz Murphy

School News

- A. **Music Generation** are working with 4th classes today.
- B. **Swimming** for 4th classes tomorrow—session 3 of 8 swims.
- C. **Football:** Good luck to the Junior Football team who have a home match on the Astro tomorrow (weather dependent) starting at 2.00pm.
- D. **Shared Reading:** Transition year students will do shared reading with Mr Daly's class on Wednesday (2 of 4 sessions)



St. Thomas' Senior National School

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Re: Child Protection Guidelines

14/10/19

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In recent years we have all become very aware of the problem of child abuse through neglect, emotional, physical, or sexual abuse.

Each one of us has a duty to protect children. *Children First*, the National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children note that teachers are particularly well placed to observe and monitor children for concerns that might relate to neglect and/or abuse.

The Department of Education and Skills has issued Guidelines and Procedures for all schools in relation to child welfare and protection. These guidelines promote the welfare of all children and are to be welcomed. They can be accessed on the Department's website www.education.ie. A copy of the guidelines can also be viewed in the school on request.

The Board of Management of St. Thomas' Senior School has adopted the guidelines as school policy. If school staff have a concern or are given information about possible child abuse or neglect (including emotional, physical or sexual abuse) **they are obliged to refer this matter to TUSLA, the child protection agency**. TUSLA will then assess the situation and may follow up with the family and child concerned.

I am the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for the school. I will liaise with all parties in relation to child welfare and protection. In my absence, Ms. Maire Moloney will act as Deputy DLP.

We are obliged to inform parents/guardians of the procedures that operate under these guidelines and this letter is simply to do that. The Child Safeguarding Statement for St. Thomas Senior National School can be viewed on our website www.stthomas.ie under School Documents in the Parents' Zone.

If you have any questions about the child protection guidelines please feel free to discuss them with our Home-School-Liaison Teacher Lisa Rohan or myself.

Yours Sincerely,

Eithne O Shea
Principal

