



St. Thomas' S.N.S. Newsletter



14th September 2020

Thank You

We are blessed with wonderful parents in St Thomas Senior School. On behalf of the school community: thank you to all of you for your cooperation in ensuring a very safe and successful Return to School. We are delighted that the Return to School has been very smooth and so far is going really well.

Take a Bow

You should be very proud of your children who have been fantastic in every way since they returned to school. They have really taken to the new routines and procedures very well. They are practicing hand hygiene (sanitising/handwashing) on entry to school, before eating, after using the bathroom, after sneezing/coughing and after they come back in from the yard. It has become second nature to them at this stage.

St Thomas' Afternoon Show

We had our very first TV show on Friday. Well done to our three 6th class presenters Eva, Alex and Farida who did a great job.

Break Times

Pupils play with other pupils from their class bubble on the yard. Each class has their own ball so they can play football, can move freely and so far are very happy with the 2 x 20 minute breaks. Each bubble has their own area in the playground and wear coloured bibs. Breaks are staggered to ensure the pupils have lots of space at break times. 3rd & 5th classes go to the playground at a different time to 4th and 6th classes.

Entry/Exit Times

The Board of Management does not accept responsibility for pupils on the school grounds before the official opening time of the school at 8.50am for pupils in 4th/6th class and 9.00am for pupils in 3rd/5th. At home time all pupils will be walked to their exit gate by their teachers. This is to ensure that your children stay with their bubble from the time they come to school until the time they go home. Parents who wish to have their children collected from school should make sure the person collecting them is at the school at **2.30pm for pupils in 4th/6th** and **2.40pm for pupils in 3rd/5th** as the school cannot be responsible for looking after children after the official closing time. Children should not be on the school grounds before/after official school time or at weekends.

Pupil Personal Accident Policy

If parents would like to take out insurance on their children it can be organised through the school insurance company who offer a Pupil Personal Accident Policy. This is an additional insurance and you do not have to take it out but many parents do. For the sum of €4.80 your child will be covered for any accidents in school. For €7.20 they will have a 24-hour cover for any accidents both in and out of school. If you are interested please let us know and we will send an application form home with your child. If you have any queries please contact Lisa HSCL on 083 0092792. All forms must be filled in and returned with payment by Friday 25th September.

Book Rental

Thank you to those who have paid the €25 for the books and stationery. If you have not yet paid we would appreciate if you could do so. It is very little for all that is provided.

Visitors to the School

Because of COVID19 visitors to the school must be kept to a minimum and by appointment. Only essential visitors will be allowed into the school building. All visitors must wear a face mask and complete a Contact Tracing Log. Only one person at a time is allowed in the lobby area.

Contacting the School

You can contact your child's teacher by sending in a note or ringing the secretary Mairead on 01 4526555. You can also email info@stthomas.ie and we will get back to you.

Illness

If your child is not feeling well do not send them to school. If your child is unwell while at school we will contact you as we normally would (please see overleaf for further advice from HSE)

We look forward to working closely with you again this year and value your support and cooperation. If you have any concerns or suggestions you can contact us on 01 4526555. If you have any concerns about your child in school please speak with the teacher.

Advice from HSE

When to keep your child at home and phone your GP

If your child has:

- A. a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more
- B. Any other common symptoms of coronavirus such as a new cough, loss or changed sense of taste or smell, or shortness of breath
- C. Been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid19
- D. Been living with someone who is unwell and may have Covid19

You will need to:

- A. Isolate your child. This means keeping them at home and completely avoiding contact with other people, as much as possible. Your child should only leave your home to have a test or to see your GP
- B. Phone your GP. They will advise you if your child needs a Covid19 Test
- C. Everyone that your child lives with should also restrict their movements, at least until your child gets a diagnosis from their GP or a Covid19 test result. This means not going to school, childcare or work.
- D. Treat your child at home for their symptoms.

