



St. Thomas' S.N.S. Newsletter



6th September 2021

Thank You

I'd like to thank you all on behalf of the school community—for all your cooperation and support in ensuring the return to school has been smooth and stress free.

It was a pleasure to meet all the pupils during the week. Their manners and respect for each other, the staff and school itself is a credit to you all. I received a warm welcome from all the pupils on my visits to their classes.

You should be very proud of your children who have been fantastic in every way in continuing to adhere to the routines and procedures that have been put in place due to Covid. It has become second nature to them at this stage. Hopefully there will be an end soon.

Attendance

Next week there will be an attendance challenge for the whole school. Each pupil will receive one raffle ticket if they are in school, **plus a bonus ticket for being in on time!** They will be given an envelope for holding their own tickets and on Friday, five tickets will be pulled for a prize. There will be five prizes per class so if you're not in you can't win!!

On Friday there will also be draws for a €25 voucher for Dunnes Stores for one lucky parent and one lucky member of staff!

Please remember how important it is that your child makes it to school. Even if they have slept in, it's crucial that they come. It's better to be in late than not in at all.

Your support during the week will be greatly appreciated.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Break Times

As before, 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

Please ensure that the pupils are not 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 as the Board of Management does not accept responsibility for pupils before these times.. 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.

Book Rental

Thank you to those who have paid all/some of the €75 for the books. If you have not yet paid we would appreciate if you could do so.

Medical Conditions

If your child has a medical condition it is very important that we are aware of this. If your child needs to take any medication in school please let us know as you will need to fill in a form.

Contact Details

It is more important now than ever that we have a working number at which you can be contacted. If you have a new number please contact Mairead, the school secretary on 01 4526555

Contacting the school

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

Visitors to the School

Because of Covid19 visitors to the school must be kept to a minimum and be 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.

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.

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 to collect your child.

HSCL

Lisa Rohan is our Home School Liaison Community Coordinator and will be linking in with you this year.

Communions/Confirmation

Please see information regarding the First Holy Communion Ceremonies 2020 and 2021 and Confirmation 2020 and 2021 that was sent out during the week. The parish team is looking after all the ceremonies and have arranged both the times and dates. Details can be found on the St Marks facebook page and/or website and also on our website www.stthomas.ie.

THANK YOU

Finally, I would like to thank all the staff in the school. Your children are very lucky to have such brilliant, caring and hard working people looking after them. If you have any concerns please don't hesitate to contact the school.

