



St. Thomas' S.N.S. Newsletter



11th January 2022

Rule of the Week

I behave in a proper manner around the school.

Great to be back!

As I said in last week's Newsletter, a very warm welcome back to everyone. I hope that you and your family managed to get that well deserved break and the children have settled back into school life. The next few weeks are going to be challenging with case numbers to high in the community. It is going to take our collective efforts to ride this wave and as always your support is both necessary and appreciated. Please see the HSE quick guide that was sent out last week and our website for any updates in relation to Covid mitigation in St Thomas SNS. The natural ventilation (doors and windows being open) and the introduction of filters will enable us to keep the temperature in our rooms at a comfortable level. Mitigation aside, if Omicron comes into our school, it could easily spread. Therefore do have a read of it when you get the chance. I know that we don't want our children missing any more school but we have to continue to be responsible and hopefully things will improve significantly as we move towards Spring.

I have to say the positive attitude of all members of the school community towards the school has been excellent so thank you!

Website/Twitter Feed

Please continue to use the school website and Twitter account as they are an ideal forum for sharing school news and updating the school community on activities, events and successes. I encourage you to go the website regularly to keep informed (www.stthomas.ie). If you are not following us on Twitter please do so, the aim is to have 500 followers by the end of term 2

School App/€50 Raffle

So far 125 parents/guardians have installed the Eolas Parent App on their phone to keep up to date with their child's progress and receive updates from the school. We have postponed the €50 euro raffle so that we can help those who are having difficulty installing the app on their phone. If you need help installing the app on your phone please email:

helpdesk@stthomas.ie

Enrolment

Applications for 2022/23 admission to 3rd class started on Thursday 6th January and will finish on 4th February. Please see the school website for more information. Parents can enrol their child in St Thomas SNS by going to the school website, clicking on 'Admission Application' (this is the first link on our page) and entering our school Roll Number 197650 to complete the Admission Application. If you have any difficulties please contact the office on 01 4526555

Recording Absences

It is extremely important that we keep a record of absences and also the reasons for absences. Please ensure that you continue to send in a reason for absence. As always, thank you for your cooperation with this.

Contact Details

Pods may have changed on return to school.

If any of your contact details have changed over the Christmas period please make sure and notify the school.

School Uniforms/Bags/ Punctuality

We will be really pushing school bags, homework, uniform and punctuality in the New Year. Maintaining high standards across the board will be the theme across all streams this term.

Contact the School/HSCL

You can make contact with us by email info@stthomas.ie, by calling Mairéad in the office on 01 4526555 or by ringing Julie (HSCL) on 083 0092792 (between 9.00am and 2.40pm).

Alternatively you can send in a note with your child

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Online Safety/Device Usage/Mobile Phones

Over the next few weeks we will be discussing online safety and the use of mobile phones. It is important to know that YouTube, Facebook,

Snapchat and Instagram all have a 13plus policy while WhatsApp is 16plus. This means that users are meant to be over these ages in order to use these platforms. Age ratings are not put on platforms in relation to the amount and type of content the platform can collect and retain about the user. It also means that these platforms don't have to ensure that content is appropriate for under 13's/16's

which can mean younger children are inadvertently exposed to inappropriate content. If your child is regularly using any of these platforms, it might be worth having a chat with him/her to discuss what they are looking at and how they are using the platform. We will be surveying the school community in the coming week in relation to this to see how we can provide advice and guidance to you as parents.

Barnardos Online Safety workshops are to take place the week of the 17th/SPHE lessons on online etiquette.

Mobile Phones (MP's): I would like to remind you about the rules governing mobile phones in the school:

- MP's are to be powered off and in your child's school bag if they are being brought to school in the morning
- MP's are not to be on display on school grounds under any circumstances
- Pupils are to hand up their MP's to the class teacher in the morning. They will be returned at the end of the day.

Electric Scooters/Bikes

Electric scooters/bikes are NOT allowed on to the school grounds.

There are too many children/adults from both schools entering and exiting in the morning and at home time.

The scooters/bikes are too heavy and if they are being driven at any speed they can cause a serious accident.

This is a health and safety issue and both schools wish to ensure that everyone is safe at all times.

If an electric scooter/bike is on the school grounds the owner will be asked to leave it outside the school gate.

We greatly appreciate your support and understanding in this matter.
