



# St. Thomas' S.N.S. Newsletter



28th February, 2022

## Rule of the Week

**I behave in a proper manner around the school**

## Welcome Back!

I am delighted to welcome you and all the pupils back to St Thomas' SNS. I hope your son/daughter had a good break and is looking forward to continuing their amazing work in term two. As I always say to the pupils they should be very proud of themselves and all they have achieved so far. The important thing for them is to build on these successes and look to set small goals for themselves as the year continues.

## Lifting of Covid Restrictions

NPHE has recommended that the following measures could be removed with effect from 28 February:

**Masks optional**- There is no longer a requirement for either staff or pupils to wear masks in school.

**Cleaning regimes** will continue as they are now.

**Pods/ Bubbles**- There is no longer a requirement for pods or bubbles. No pod lists need to be sent to Mairéad- in a situation where there is a positive Covid test then the names of those pupils sitting beside the confirmed case will be sent to Mr Rennick.

**Visitors** back and PT meetings- we will continue the phone call approach for PT meetings as dates have been communicated to parents.

**If a staff/ pupil is sick or showing any symptoms of Covid**, they should remain at home. The HSE will continue with the supply of antigen testing where necessary. Please see the following link- <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/60083-covid-19-reframing-the-challenge-continuing-our-recovery-reconnecting/#if-you-have-symptoms-of-covid-19>

**Hand hygiene** will continue with the sanitising and hand washing procedures.

**Singing** can take place indoors. There will be a **return to P.E in the hall**.

**Assembly** will continue through Google meets for the time being and we may introduce smaller groups to the hall.

**Yard/ arrival/ dismissal times** will remain the same until we have discussed it as a school community.

This is indeed a welcome step as it indicates to us that the outlook is broadly stable and positive. It is a key indicator that we are moving forward in terms of our ability to live with COVID.

The BOM will be meeting to discuss what positives have come out of the changes we had to make. Staff/ students and parents will be surveyed on what they think should be kept or not. Getting all opinions/ thoughts and views from everyone will be key in moving forward from Covid. Detailed decisions will be made over the next few weeks discussed at the next BOM and staff meeting.

Critical components of the school's response plan in relation to Covid 19 will continue to apply- **isolation if systematic or if there is a positive Covid 19 test, hand washing, respiratory hygiene and ventilation. Staff are to continue hand sanitising in the mornings and there will be no change to arrival/ dismissal times until we have discussed it as a staff. I would still be encouraging parents to make appointments to meet teachers either before or after school.** Please see the following link in relation to testing positive to Covid- 19:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/60083-covid-19-reframing-the-challenge-continuing-our-recovery-reconnecting/#if-you-have-symptoms-of-covid-19>

## Parent/Teacher Meetings

Parent teacher meetings will take place this week. Teachers have not allocated a time for when they will be ringing you. They will be ringing off a private number so please be available to take the call. Remember that this is an update on how your pupil is doing. We are aware that the last two years have been extremely difficult for everyone but especially the children. If you have any concerns please let the teacher know.

## World Book Day

This Thursday 3rd March - Encourage your child to take a break from their games console and read a book instead. Pupils are invited to dress up as their favourite book character on Thursday 3rd March. Parents are **NOT** expected to purchase costumes for World Book Day, rather, pupils should use items/clothing they already have at home or can create themselves to design their costume.



## School Garden

Ms McKenna, Ms Seagrave and Ms Maloney have put together a plan in place for the school garden. This will incorporate all classes contributing to the clean up, planting, weeding and growing of herbs/ vegetables and flowers. It is envisaged that the garden will continue to be an amazing asset to the school but also be a place of nurture for all the children in the school. The garden has a huge presence in the history of St Thomas' SNS and we aim to continue its fine tradition. A committee will be put together to oversee the project consisting of teachers/ SNAs/ pupils. Near the end of the year we will host a garden party



## Website/Twitter Feed

The school website and Twitter account continues to be an ideal forum for sharing school news and updating the school community on activities, events and successes. Teachers and pupils have been very active this year so I encourage you to go to the website regularly to keep informed. If you are not following us on Twitter please do so. **The aim is to have 500 followers by the end of term two.**

Website: 337,425 views (841 views since before midterm) Twitter Account: 435 followers (13 new followers since before midterm)



## Parent App

So far 132 parents / guardians have installed the 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](mailto:helpdesk@stthomas.ie)

## Scoil Naomh Thomáis: Seanfhocail



There is no strength without  
unity!

## Electric Scooters/Bikes

Electric scooters are **not** allowed on school grounds and please ensure that bicycles are walked when on the grounds.

## Contact the School/HSCL

You can make contact with us by e mail [info@stthomas.ie](mailto:info@stthomas.ie), by ringing Mairéad on 01 4526555, by ringing Julie (HSCL) between 9.00-2.40p.m. on 083 009 2792 or you can also send in a note with your child.