



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



6th September 2022

## Rule of the Week

I must have respect for people and for property.

## Code of Behaviour/Anti Bullying

As part of our Anti Bullying Policy, all pupils will complete an online questionnaire in the coming weeks about bullying. For our new pupils they will be asked two questions. If they answer yes to any of the questions, the teacher will speak with them and any issues identified will be dealt with. The questionnaire is completed by every pupil in the school every 6 weeks approx. The questions are:

- Do you know anyone having a hard time?
- Would you like to talk to someone about bullying?

Our Code of Behaviour and Anti Bullying Policy are still relevant.

## Attendance/Punctuality

There will be an attendance drive for the whole school for the week of the 26th. As we did last year 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 from for a prize. There will be five prizes per class so if you're not in you can't win!! There will be more information in the coming weeks. There will be prizes for whole classes with the best attendance- Citywise and individual trip with Dublin Bus.

## TUSLA

As you know all absences must be explained to TUSLA. However once the school receives an explanation of the reason for any absence, we will then record the absence as an explained absence. If your child has been absent from school it is really important that the reason for the absence is explained. You can do this by ringing Mairead on 4526555, sending in a note with your child or sending an e mail to [info@stthomas.ie](mailto:info@stthomas.ie) The school is obliged, by law, to inform Tusla when a pupil is absent for a total of 20 school days in one school year.

## Secondary School for 6th Class Pupils

Even though we are only three weeks into the school year, secondary school is not far from the minds of our 6th class pupils. Now is the time to start thinking about which secondary school your son/daughter will be attending in September 2023/24. Take the time to start looking at school websites, attend the parent's nights and gather all the necessary information needed for the application process. In general, applying for a position happens in October ( this may vary from school to school) and places can fill up very quickly. Schools will be looking for **proof of address, birth certs** and any **assessments** that were carried out. Our HSCL, Julie McKenna, has put together a padlet -

<https://padlet.com/julie997/vw4dpxygcxlksfe>

with lots of information on the different secondary schools in the Tallaght area. Please take the time to read through it, identify the important dates/ information and discuss it with your child.

## Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are not allowed to be brought into school. School should be a chance for pupils to get a break from mobile phones and concentrate on their learning, making friends and living in the moment. The school will not accept responsibility for phones lost, stolen or damaged in school. If a pupil has a phone during the day it will be confiscated and must be collected by an adult.

We have also had an increase in Snapchat incidents involving name calling, "slagging", recorded messages being with bad language and sometimes threatening behaviour. A Lot of the time this is in group chats. Please talk to your children about their online activity and the importance of behaving correctly.

## School Fees

Thank you to those who have paid all/some of the €25 for the books and stationery. If you have not yet paid we would appreciate it if you could do so.

## Entry/Exit Times

Please ensure that pupils are not on school grounds before the official opening time of school at 8.50am as the Board of Management does not accept responsibility for pupils at these times. All pupils will be walked to their exit gate by their teachers. This is to ensure that your children stay with their class from the time they come to school until the time they go home. Parents who wish to have their children collected from the back gate can send in a note to the class teacher. This is particularly relevant for 6th classes as they exit via the front small gate. Also please send in a note if your child is allowed to walk home by themselves as the school cannot be responsible for looking after children after the official closing time.



## St. Thomas' Senior National School Jobstown, Tallaght, Dublin D24 YN90

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### LETTER FOR PARENTS OF PUPILS IN 6TH CLASS

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

We hope that all your children have enjoyed the return to school and are excited about all that is ahead of them for the coming year. They have much to look forward to: Confirmation, Graduation, school tours and eventually moving on from primary to secondary school.

With this in mind it is important that thoughts are directed to which secondary school your son/daughter will be attending in September 2023/24. Now is the time to look at different school websites, attend the parent's nights and gather all the necessary information needed for the application process. In general, applying for a position happens in October (this can vary from class to class) and places can fill up very quickly. Please be aware of this.

Schools will be looking for **proof of address**, **birth certs** and any **assessments** that were carried out.

Our HSCL, Julie McKenna, has put together a padlet with lots of information on the different secondary school in the area- <https://padlet.com/julie997/vw4dqpxygcxlksfe> Please take the time to read through it, identify the important dates/ information and discuss it with your child.

Ms McKenna ( HSCL) will be contacting all 6th class parents in the coming weeks so that we have a picture of where the boys and girls will be going.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the school or Ms McKenna.

Kind regards,

John Rennick