

## St. Thomas' Senior National School Jobstown, Tallaght, Dublin 24

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## Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you and your families are keeping well and safe. It has been the strangest few months but thankfully things are beginning to get a little better for everyone. The country is opening up again, we appear to be winning the battle with the virus and there is light at the end of the tunnel.

We expect to be opening on Monday 31st August as planned and as close to normal as possible. We will at all times follow the advice from the HSE.

We will have a COVID Response Plan in place before the school reopens on 31 August but are waiting on more advice and guidance from the Department of Education and Skills. We will keep you informed and will be writing to you in August to provide you with more details.

Please do not be worrying about your children coming back to school. Rest assured that we will have our protocols and procedures in place before any child returns to school.

Some children may be anxious about returning to school, this is to be expected as they have missed so much time in school. Please reassure them that they will be well looked after and they will be safe in school. There are lots of resources from the National Educational Psychological services (NEPS) about anxiety on the school website <a href="www.stthomas.ie">www.stthomas.ie</a> which you many find useful.

We have all missed school so much and cannot wait to get back on 31st August. Uniforms / track suits can be purchased from the School Wearhouse at <a href="www.schoolwearhouse.ie">www.schoolwearhouse.ie</a>. If the children haven't got the uniforms, it's not a problem. Our main focus is to have the children back in school.

Next year, the books will be provided on the first day of school and for only €25 per child they will also get a school pack which will include the School Journal, stationery started pack, photocopying, art and craft materials etc. We are setting up an online payment system where you can pay online. This will also help to minimise the number of people coming up to the school and help to ensure everybody's safety. We will let you know more about this in August.

As ever we thank you so much for your co-operation during the year and especially since the COVID 19 school closure. You have been amazing and have supported the school so well. For this I thank you most sincerely.

In the meantime if we can do anything to support you further please contact us by e mail <u>info@stthomas.ie</u> or ring us on 4526555. There will be somebody in the school until Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

Kina	Regaras,

Eithne O Shea

Principal