



St. Thomas' Senior National School

Jobstown, Tallaght, Dublin 24

Principal: Eithne O'Shea M.Ed. (S.E.N.) B.Ed. N.T.

Telephone: (01) 452 6555 / 462 3788

Email: info@stthomas.ie

Deputy Principal: Máire Moloney

Fax: (01) 459 7864

Website: www.stthomas.ie

10/08/20

Parent / Guardian,

RE: Physical Distancing in School

On our return to school, we must make sure that there is as much physical distancing as possible in the school. We will do this in a practical and sensible way and follow the Guidelines issued by the Department of Education and Skills. In our school

Physical Distancing will be achieved in two ways: -

Increasing Separation. We have changed the layout of the classrooms to ensure physical distancing. Each class will be called a bubble. We will make sure that there is as little contact as possible between children in different bubbles. In every class/bubble, children will be organised into pods. A pod is a group of children who will sit and stay together in their group/pod while they are in their own classroom/bubble.

Decreasing Interaction. We will decrease the opportunities for children from different classes / bubbles to mix with each other. Children will be told what doors to use to enter and exit the school. Bubbles will have different breaks and yard times. Each class / bubble will have their **own** area to play in on the yard and will not mix with other classes or Bubbles. Children will not be able to play with children from different classes /bubbles but must stay within their own area and only play with the children in their own class/bubble. As in class, during yard we will be emphasising safety at all times.

While all children will be welcome back to school, we would remind parents that, where children are displaying colds, coughs or flu like symptoms, they should not be sent to school. Children who display such symptoms in school will be isolated and parents asked to collect them from the school. **We must have a working phone number at which you can be contacted.**

If children have travelled from countries not on the Green List they should not attend school during the 14-day self-isolation period, as per the current Guidelines.

Further information on COVID-19 symptoms in children is available at: -

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/if-your-child-has-symptoms.html>

Teachers will make children aware of the proper hygiene procedures regarding hand washing and etiquette around sneezing, coughing or spitting. It would be a great help if you could also emphasise safe behaviour in this regard to your children at home as part of the preparation for returning to school.

Our aim remains to re-open the school in an orderly safe manner, while reassuring the children and making them feel comfortable, safe and relaxed with their friends in the new school environment. This will be achieved by all of us working towards this common goal.

Kin Regards and stay well.

Mary Dalton
Chairperson BOM

Eithne O Shea
Principal