



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

09/03/2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are reopening on Monday 15th March. I am sure you are as delighted as we are at the news and we look forward to welcoming all our pupils back to school. We have done everything possible to make sure the return to school is safe and successful and to prevent COVID from entering the school. Our COVID 19 Response Plan is available on school website www.stthomas.ie

Measures in place:

1. **Staggered opening times.** When pupils arrive on the school grounds they should go to their line and not mix with anyone from another class. 4th/6th pupils start at 8.50 – 2.30 and 3rd/5th class start at 9.00-2.40. Pupils should not be on the school grounds before or after these times
2. **Physical Distancing:** Pupils will be in pods in their class bubble. Each pod will be at least 1m away from other pods and pupils will be 1m away from other pupils in pod
3. **Increased ventilation:** Windows will be open before, during and after school
4. **Hand Hygiene:** Pupils and staff will perform hand hygiene at various times during the day
5. **Staggered Breaks:** Breaks will be staggered giving more space on yard and bubbles will remain separate while on yard
6. **PPE:** All school staff will wear face masks
7. **Enhanced Cleaning:** Six extra hours of cleaning each day

We need your help to keep everyone safe:

1. Following updated guidelines, you will need to fill in a **Return to School Declaration Form** to say your child has no symptoms of COVID before your child returns to school. This is a requirement of the Department of Education and Skills. **A link will be sent to you by text on Thursday** and you can fill out the form on your phone. It will take only a minute to complete but is really important that it is done. The information is only for the school and will not be shared
2. Please do not enter the school grounds unless absolutely necessary. If you must
 - a. Wear a face covering when on the school grounds
 - b. Please adhere to Public Health guidance and do not congregation on the school grounds or at the gates
 - c. Adhere to social distancing at the school gates / on yard
 - d. Please note that if you need to contact the teacher/ school it must be done by phone or e mail. You can ring the office at 014526555. All contact with teachers will be by phone or online.

3. If you received a device and charger on loan from us, please return them to the front office on Thursday or Friday as they will be needed for the pupils next week.
4. The final Google Meet will take place on Thursday– I am sure you will not be sorry to see the back of the remote learning.
5. For children returning on Monday, please put all their school books/pencil case etc in a school bag or plastic bag on Friday to quarantine for Monday
6. If you have had a death in the family since Christmas we offer our deepest sympathies. Please let us know so we can support your child at this sad time.
7. Click on the link for updated advice/guidance for parents on the safe return to school <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a04fc-advice-for-students-and-their-families/#returning-to-school-spring-2021>
8. If your child has any of the following symptoms of Covid-19, do not send them to school and contact your GP:
 - a. A temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more
 - b. Any other common symptoms of Covid-19 – a new cough, loss or changed sense of taste or smell, shortness of breath or an existing breathing condition that has become worse
 - c. Been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19
 - d. Been living with someone who is unwell and may have Covid-19
 - e. Other uncommon symptoms of Covid-19, such as sore throat, headaches or diarrhoea
 - f. Returned from another country in the last 14 days

Please let us know if you have any concerns or worries or if we can help or assist you in any way. We cannot wait to get back to school and to normal.

Stay safe and well,

Kind Regards,



Eithne O Shea
Principal