



# St. Thomas' Senior National School

Jobstown, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 YN90

Principal: John Rennick  
Telephone: (01) 452 6555 / (01) 462 3788  
Email: [info@stthomas.ie](mailto:info@stthomas.ie)

Deputy Principal: Matthew Campbell  
Website: [www.stthomas.ie](http://www.stthomas.ie)  
Charity # 20120269

Dear Parents / Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well. As I'm sure you are aware, NPHET has recommended the wearing of face masks / coverings by children from 3rd class to 6th class in primary schools. They have advised that this measure is being introduced on a temporary basis and is subject to review in mid-February 2022.

We are all being asked to work together so that everyone is kept safe and we can enjoy the Christmas holidays. As a school we are again asking you and your children to be part of that effort.

I understand that there have been many requests asked of you all over the last two years to make our school environment as safe as possible. As a school, we appreciate this greatly. Ensuring this guidance is implemented fully will be a gradual process. We will be understanding and patient with the children over the next couple of days but hopefully by Monday we will all be adhering to the new Government guidelines.

As always, I thank you for your cooperation and understanding in these difficult times. If you have any questions please contact the office.

Please see below the main points from the new Government guidelines.

Kind regards,

John Rennick



*"Every Child is Valued"*



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## Government Guidelines

### Wearing of face masks / coverings

Pupils from 3rd class to 6th class in primary schools are required to wear a face mask / covering. Face masks / coverings must not contain any slogans / logos / images that may cause upset or be deemed offensive to any member of the school community. The exemptions to this are set out below.

### Exemptions

A medical certificate to certify that a person falls into a category listed below must be provided to the school on behalf of any person (pupil) who claims that they are covered by the exemptions below:

- any pupil with difficulty breathing or other relevant medical conditions
- any pupil who is unable to remove the cloth face-covering or visor without assistance
- any pupil who has special needs and who may feel upset or very uncomfortable wearing the cloth face covering or visor, for example, pupils with intellectual or developmental disabilities, mental health conditions, sensory concerns or tactile sensitivity.

In other circumstances where a medical certificate is not provided that person (staff or pupil) will be refused entry to the school.

### Visors

Face masks / coverings are more effective than visors. In the limited circumstances where a face mask / covering cannot be worn clear visors must be considered.

### Provision of face masks

Parents should be advised that they obtain face masks for their children which fit properly and are comfortable for the child to wear. In the event that a child forgets, loses or damages their masks during the course of the school day, then the school should have a sufficient supply to replace the mask for the child in case a back-up face covering is needed during the day or where required on an ongoing basis.



"Every Child is Valued"