



ST. JOSEPH'S CO-ED. PRIMARY SCHOOL, EAST WALL, DUBLIN 3

Roll Number: 19774P

01-8556284

admin@stjosephscoed.ie

www.stjosephscoed.ie

24 August 2020

Re: Welcome back to school

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope that this finds you all safe and well. We are really looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Thursday, 27 August.

As you will be aware, we have been working hard throughout the summer on the plan for reopening the school. Thank you for your patience and support over the last number of weeks.

There is a lot of detail in the three documents in the links posted today. There is also a summary document highlighting the key points for parents. Please take the time to go through all of the documents. Our school motto is, '**Ní neart go gur le chéile.**' When translated, it means 'in unity, there is strength.' We are so lucky in St. Joseph's, East Wall to have terrific support from parents/guardians of the pupils. I speak for all of the staff and the Board of Management in the school when I state that we will need your co-operation, patience and flexibility more than ever before in the coming weeks and months. Our priority is that your children come to school safe, happy and full of positivity each day. I have no doubt that you will work with us every step of the way to ensure your child can adapt to the changes that have been made to school life. We will closely monitor everything in our plans on a regular basis and some things may have to change at short notice. As always, we will listen to the voice of parents/guardians. Your opinions are valued.

If your child is feeling nervous or anxious about returning to school, please be mindful that this is natural and to be expected. It has been a long time since they have been in school. Their teachers cannot wait to see them on Thursday. It will be wonderful to once again, hear classrooms filled with laughter, opinions and questions and to see the beaming smiles on the children's faces as they engage in learning with both their teacher and one another. We look forward to giving a special welcome to the children from Reception Class who will also start in the school this week.

We are aware that parents are concerned about the time children have missed from school in the past five months. My advice to all parents is not to be overly concerned about this. Our highly skilled team of dedicated teachers will work with your children to catch up on work that has been missed. However, most importantly at this early stage of the school year, each teacher's main focus will be on wellbeing, physical activity and socialisation of the pupils in their classrooms. Encourage your child to stay positive, remind them that they are returning to a very calm, peaceful and happy school.

If your child is feeling particularly anxious, please do let us know in advance and we will do everything we possibly can to ensure that he/she feels comfortable and happy. Every staff member will be working very hard to ease any potential anxieties that there may be.

Parents/guardians are kindly asked to respect the position of the school secretary and school caretaker, who live in the community. Please do not discuss school matters with either staff member outside of school and outside of school hours.

This year, Ms. Savage, Ms. Carrick and Ms. Murphy are on maternity leave. Ms. Costello and Ms. Boyle are also on leave this year. We welcome Ms. O' Grady, Ms. Lavery, Ms. Heatherton, Ms. Healy and Ms. Casey as new teachers to our school.

Finally, after 34 years as a teacher in our school, Ms. Coady has retired from teaching. She will be so dearly missed by all of us in the school. Ms. Coady has been such a positive influence on so many pupils, parents, grandparents and staff members during her time in St. Joseph's, East Wall. I know that many of our current pupils and parents will be so sorry to see her leave. As a staff, we will certainly miss her educational expertise and advice as well as her wonderful sense of humour. We thank Ms. Coady for all she has done for the school and the lasting impact and legacy she has left behind. We wish her many long years of health and happiness in her retirement. We look forward to giving her a memorable send off from all of us in the school in the coming months.

Mr. Keogh is the Acting Deputy Principal in the school.

I look forward to seeing the children back at school on Thursday.

As always, thank you all for your support.

Is mise,

Niall Heneghan

Principal