

PM goes 'back to school'

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin yesterday paid a visit to SMK Datok Lokman in Jalan Kampung Pandan here to check on how the school is coping with resuming classes for its Form Five students.

The prime minister had his temperature screened at the school entrance before proceeding.

He was then accompanied by the school principal Latifah Mohd Yusof and taken through a designated, marked route before reaching the school's main hall for a briefing.

The school has 255 Fifth Formers who were originally from nine classes. They have since been split up into 14 classes to ensure social distancing.

The prime minister then inspected how classroom lessons were being conducted under the new guidelines, which included limiting each classroom to only 20 students.

"I was also told that recess was taken in batches.

"Food orders are made through the teachers and meals are eaten in the classrooms," he wrote in a Facebook posting yesterday.

The prime minister also dispensed advice to the students on the importance of hygiene.

"I reminded them to always be disciplined with regards to hygiene, advising them to wash their hands frequently, maintain a safe distance from each other and to avoid narrow and crowded areas.

"*Insyah-Allah* with thorough implementation and the adherence to the standard operating procedures by all parties, I am confident that infection among students can be prevented.

"I pray that our children who are now back in school are protected by Allah and that their schooling is eased in this new norm."

The prime minister also con-

veyed his thanks to teachers, parents, parent-teacher associations as well as state and district education offices for their thorough preparation to ensure that all guidelines and SOP are adhered to ahead of the reopening of schools.

This, Muhyiddin said would instil confidence among parents that the children's safety is prioritised, given that there are still some misgivings over returning to school while the pandemic was still present.

"After being away from school for three months, there are definitely mixed feelings and this was expressed to me.

"There are those who admitted that they were nervous and worried about their safety as the Covid-19 threat has yet to end.

"However, they were still happy to see their teachers and friends after having participated in remote learning sessions throughout the period," he said. **By Veena Babulal**