



September 2020

Plan to return to school.

Guide for parents.

Sept 2020.

The children will be split into group A and Group B.

Group A –Children in 5th/6th class, their siblings, children on the bus.

Group B- Children in infants -4th.

Morning

Group A will come into school from 8:45am until 8:55am they will go directly into their own classrooms.

Group B will enter the school grounds from 8:55am- 9:05am and go directly into the classroom.

Parents are asked to ‘drop and go’ in the car park at their set time. **No parking will be allowed.**

Children on the bus will be in Group A. Children going to child-care will be split into two groups A and B.

Children will go directly to their classrooms on arrival. Other staff members (including Special Education Teachers, SNA and the Principal) will be available outside and inside the building to receive the children and to help them to their classrooms.

Afternoon:

(Special arrangements will be put in place for Junior Infants for the first two weeks of the school year. Junior infants will go home at 12 noon from 31st of Aug -11th of Sept 2020(inclusive) Class teacher will bring **Junior Infants** to the school gate. Parents/Guardians are asked to drive in, ‘pick up and go’.

From 14th September onwards:

1.40p.m. Class teacher will bring **Junior Infants** to the school gate. Parents/Guardians are asked to drive in, ‘pick up and go’,

From 31st of August onwards:

1:40p.m. Class teacher will bring **Senior Infants** to the school gate. Parents/Guardians are asked to drive in, ‘pick up and go’,

2:30p.m. Class teacher will bring Group A to the school gate. Parents/Guardians are asked to drive in, ‘pick up and go’ immediately .There will be a special point where children will wait if their parents are not there. Children on the bus and children going to ‘ after school’ care in group A will leave at this time.

2:40p.m. Class teachers will bring Group B to the school gate. Parents/Guardians are asked to drive in, ‘pick up and go’. After school Group B will go at this time.

Parents should stay in their cars at all times. The teacher will direct the children out the gate.

This system will apply rain, hail or shine so please make sure that your child comes to school prepared for the weather!

Changes to Classroom and School Layout and to School Routines

The DES guidelines recognise that a common-sense approach is needed in our Primary schools. To that end, every effort will be made to limit interaction within classrooms, to limit contact between class groups and to limit the sharing of common facilities.

The children and their teachers will work in **Class Bubbles**. A Class Bubble is a grouping which stays apart from other classes as much as possible. The aim of the system within the school is that class groupings mix only with their own class from arrival at school in the morning until the children go home at the end of the school day.

Team Teaching/Special Education Teachers/Special Needs Assistants

Staff members (particularly Learning Support Teachers and SNA) can rotate between areas/classes but this will be minimized where possible. When rotation occurs, agreed sanitising routines will be observed.

In keeping with our Special Education policy, learning support will be provided by a blended approach of in-class support and withdrawal. The provision of support will be organised to ensure our support teachers will work as far as possible, within the confines of a bubble.

- Where a support teacher is working alongside a class teacher in a classroom, both teachers must be mindful of maintaining social distance from one another.
- The tables and chairs in SET rooms will be wiped clean in between different pupils or small groups attending.

Junior and Senior Infants	SET 1 Mrs Buckley	
First and Second Classes	SET 2 (Ms Mc Cormack	
Third and Fourth Classes	SET 1 Ms Buckley	
Fifth and Sixth Classes	SET 2 Ms Mc Cormack	

Junior Infants to Second Class

It is recognised that younger children are unlikely to maintain physical distancing indoors so there is no requirement for children from Junior Infants to Second Class to maintain a physical distance within their Class Bubble.

Third Class to Sixth Class

Children from Third Class to Sixth Class will be arranged in Pods within their Class Bubbles, with a maximum of 6 pupils per Pod. As far as possible, each Pod will be at least 1 metre distance from the next Pod. All unnecessary furniture will be removed from these classrooms to create as much space as possible.

Class- room 5 (opposite the office)

It will be divided for use as an additional Learning Support Space.

Corridors

The children will not be allowed out in the corridors without a teacher/SNA. They will be encouraged and trained to social distance .There will be arrows and markings to assist a one-way system.

Additional Measures to Limit Interactions

Children will go straight to their classrooms from the yard and will not congregate outside before school.

While we will all be delighted to see each other again, hand shaking and hugging will not be allowed.

Doors and Windows

To ensure that classrooms are well ventilated, windows will be kept open as often as possible, and will be opened while children are taking breaks in the playground.

Windows should be opened when children are singing as a group, or when they are playing musical instruments.

Cloakrooms and Toilets

- Only one child at a time in the toilet.
- Strict hand hygiene rules will apply.
- Every child will have a designated coat hanger.

Frequency of Hand Hygiene.

Pupils should perform hand hygiene

- Before leaving home in the morning.
- On arrival at school
- Before and after eating/drinking
- Before/after using the toilet.
- After playing outside
- When their hands are physically dirty.
- Before using concrete materials
- When they cough and sneeze.
- Before reading with the teacher.

Lunches

Parents/Guardians must make sure that children bring their lunches to school to avoid adults having to come to the school during the day. Please remind your children not to share their food or drinks with other children.

Please provide plenty of drinks every day, children will no longer be able to fill up bottles or use school cups.

Children will eat their lunches at their desks, as per our usual practice. Lunch must be in a plastic box which must be sterilised every evening. All wrapping/food will go home with the children every day.

Books, Copies, Pencils, etc.

Children do not require a school bag as they are considered a high risk in the spread of infection.

They may use a strong plastic bag to carry in their books, copies the first day.

All children must have a plastic zip-lock folder for school. All homework will be sent home in this folder. It is easy to clean and sanitise.

Children should have a pencil case which can be left in school from 3rd-6th. This will have all their requisites needed for the school day in it.

Jun infants-2nd will be provided with a special box for all classroom requisites. Please send in all stationary on the first day back.

A supply should be left at home for homework.

Children should use their own books, pens, pencils, etc. and as far as possible should not share with other pupils.

Uniforms/Tracksuits

There is no guidance or advice to say that school uniforms or tracksuits should be washed every day and this is probably not practical for most families. Please wash if necessary.

As a school we strongly advise that children should wear their school uniforms or tracksuits **only for school related activities.** Uniforms or tracksuits should be taken off straight after the child arrives home from school for the day. They should not be worn in after-school facilities, shops, during after-school activities, etc.

Office

The secretary will be situated in the new hall way. All money must be sent in an envelope. From Sept we ask that the oldest child in each family brings in the fees in an envelope with the children's names on the front.

Children should not be sent to the Secretary's Office or to the Reception area to deliver messages.

ICTs

A timetable will be drawn up for the use of common ICTs. Devices should be cleaned after use and before they are returned to the Sen room.

Visiting Teachers/Coaches

The possibility of facilitating extra-curricular activities such as gymnastics, coaching for games, Tin Whistles will be explored. However, children from different bubbles will not participate in extra-curricular activities at the same time.

There will be no book-club until further notice.

Physical Education and P.E. Equipment

Physical Education lessons will take place outside when the weather allows.

Staff members and pupils may take additional breaks outside during the school day.

Formal Parent/ Teacher Meetings:

We will assess the situation closer to the time.

Staff:

All staff will wear face coverings at all.

All staff members should maintain a physical distance of 2 metres when they are not engaged in teaching e.g. when they are using the staff room and arriving to work.

Staff meetings will be held remotely or in small groups or in large spaces to facilitate physical distancing.

Teaching and Learning

As a staff, we are very aware that the children have been away from school since March 12th. We appreciate the time and effort that went into Home Learning, and we recognise the challenges that Home Learning presented for all families.

Each child will be at a different place in relation to his/her learning, and we wish to assure you that staff will take that into consideration when planning for Teaching and Learning during the 2020/2021 school year. The Department of Education and Skills has published Curriculum guidelines for us, and we ask you to trust our experience and professional expertise as we work with all the children during the return to school.

Parents/visitor

Parents will be asked not to come into the school grounds where possible.

Early collection-This will only be facilitated by prior knowledge by email or Aladdin Connect message. The parent will go to the front door (new building) and the secretary will call the child.

All parents/visitors must sign a contact tracing form if they need to enter the building.

Parents must use hand sanitizer.

Parents must wear a facemask.

Physical distancing (of 2 metres) should be maintained between staff and visitors at all times.

Supporting the Learning of Children who Cannot Attend School

If a child is not able to attend school for an extended period of time, the class teacher (and/or the Special Education Teacher, where relevant) will provide work to support the child's learning at home and this will be shared with parents/guardians.

The majority of parents have already provided an email address at which the school can contact them to support Home Learning. This will be especially important if the school, or parts of the school have to close due to HSE advice. Parents/Guardians, if you have not already done so, please email streamstownschoo@gmail.com

A specific plan will be put in place should there be a whole school closure.

Wellbeing of the School Community

We will work on the recommended five principles to support the wellbeing of all our pupils and staff. These are promoting:

- A sense of safety
- A sense of calm
- A sense of belonging and connectedness to school
- A sense of self-efficacy and school-community efficacy
- A sense of hope

Our usual practice is to provide support to pupils based on what is known as the Continuum of Support. This is a tiered system that provides Whole School and Classroom Support for all pupils, additional School Support for some pupils, and School Support plus extra targeted intervention for a few pupils with complex needs.

The Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Staff members are required to wear face-coverings. However, for a limited number of staff, PPE will need to be used occasionally or constantly due to the nature of certain work activities or work areas. This might include roles such as:

- Assisting with intimate care needs
- Where a suspected case of COVID-19 is identified while the school is in operation
- Where staff are particularly vulnerable to infection but are not on the list of those categorised as people in very high-risk groups or may be living with those who are in the very high-risk category.

Appropriate PPE will be available for dealing with suspected COVID-19 cases, intimate care needs and for first aid. Where staff provide healthcare to children with medical needs in the school environment, they will apply standard precautions as per usual.

Masks

The children **are not** required to wear masks or face coverings

Gloves

There is no need for the children to wear disposable gloves. They are considered inappropriate under the guidelines.

Staff members do not need to wear disposable gloves unless they are looking after a pupil's intimate care needs or administering First Aid.

There will be an emphasis on hand hygiene rather than on the wearing of disposable gloves.

Hygiene and Cleaning

13 sanitiser dispensers have been installed throughout the school e.g. at each entrance, in each classroom.

Warm water and soap is available in all the classrooms, staff bathrooms and staff room.

Hand hygiene will be promoted and encouraged, and parents/guardians are asked to support the school in reinforcing this message.

In accordance with the DES guidelines, the school will be thoroughly cleaned at least once per day. Particular attention will be focused on frequently touched surfaces – door handles, handrails, chairs/arm rests, communal eating areas, sink and toilet facilities.

All staff will have access to cleaning products and will be required to maintain cleanliness of their own work area. Under no circumstances should these cleaning materials be removed from the building. Staff should thoroughly clean and disinfect their work area before and after use each day.

Waste will be collected daily from offices and classrooms within the school.

Illness and Dealing with a Suspected Case of COVID-19

We love to see all of our children at school every day. However, under the current circumstances, parents/guardians must keep children at home if they display any Covid-19 Symptoms. <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/symptoms.html>

Symptoms:

Fever

Cough

Shortness of breath

Aches and pains

Sore throat

Headaches

Loss of taste and smell.

Runny nose.

Pupils must not attend school if they display any symptoms.

A designated isolation area has been created near the staff room.

If a staff member/pupil displays symptoms of COVID-19 while at school, the following procedure will be implemented:

The pupil will be accompanied to the isolation area. A distance of 2 meters will be maintained. If this is not possible, the person accompanying the child must wear a face covering and gloves.

If a pupil has a suspected case, parents/guardians will be contacted immediately by telephone. To help us in this regard, parents, Guardians are asked to make sure that their contact details are kept up to date at all times.

Staff members who are symptomatic should immediately inform the Principal/Deputy Principal.

Children who have been out of the country and have returned since the 17th of August must self-isolate for two weeks, notify the school.

A face covering will be provided to the staff member/child who is symptomatic.

The staff member or child who is symptomatic should avoid touching people, surfaces and objects.

If the staff member/child is well enough to go home, arrangements will be made for them to be transported home by a family member, as soon as possible.

Anyone who is symptomatic is advised to inform their general practitioner by phone of their symptoms. Public transport of any kind should not be used to travel home.

If the staff member/child is too unwell to go home or advice is required, the school will contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the sick person is a Covid-19 suspect.

The isolation area and work areas will be thoroughly cleaned in line with the guidelines.

The HSE will inform any staff/parents who have come into close contact with a diagnosed case via the contact tracing process. The HSE will contact all relevant persons where a diagnosis of COVID-19 is made. The instructions of the HSE should be followed and staff and pupil confidentiality is essential at all times.

It is important to remember that any of us can get sick or unwell, and if we do, we need understanding and support from those around us. It is essential that anyone who feels unwell makes that known to the Principal/Deputy Principal as soon as possible.

COVID-19 Related Absence Management

COVID-19 related absences will be managed in line with agreed procedures with the Department of Education.

