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Dear Parents and Carers

**Arrangements for the return of children and young people during the first week of the new school term, Tuesday 11 August to Friday 14 August.**

**1. Introduction**

On Friday 31 July, Mrs. Budge, the Director of Children's Services, wrote to inform you that the Scottish Government confirmed on Thursday 30 July that all Scottish schools will reopen full-time in August.

Mrs Budge's letter explained that a number of measures will be in place to reduce the risk of transmission and support the health and safety of all our children, young people and staff on their return to school.

**2. Phased return to school, Tuesday 11 – 14 August 2020**

In Friday's letter, there was also confirmation that, given the length of time children and young people have been away from school, the fact that many children will be starting out in a new school, and the need to go over important safety procedures and arrangements, the local authority are planning a 'soft-start' to the first week of the new term.

This means a **gradual and phased return** of children and young people into schools from Tuesday 11 August to Friday 14 August, as opposed to all children returning on the one day. This will support children reconnect with staff, their peers, and the school environment, as a whole, and enable staff to go over important safety procedures and arrangements.

As far as possible, all children and young people will be back in school full-time by Monday 17 August.

The purpose of this letter is to provide further clarification about arrangements for the first week of the new term in our school.

**3. Arrangements for Sandwick Junior High School**

<b>Monday 10 August 2020</b>	Staff Return	This is an in-service day for all staff. <b>Pupils do not attend.</b>
<b>Tuesday 11 August 2020</b>	Enhanced Transition Visits Primary/ Secondary	School staff will contact the families of pupils with additional support needs to offer visits to school that will hopefully alleviate any worries about returning to school. These families will be contacted before the end of this week to arrange a short visit.
	<b>S4 Pupils Return</b>	All S4 pupils will return.  Health and safety information will be shared and reinforced with S4 pupils.



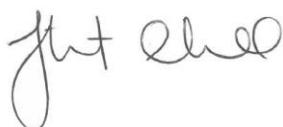
## 5. Some questions answered

I have attached some key information about returning to school. Please can you talk this through with your child at home before they return to SJHS.

If you have any general practical questions please let me know and I can try to include any relevant information in my letter to all parents/carers next week.

Thank you for your ongoing support. I am very much looking forward to our return to school next week.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Clubb  
Head Teacher

Return to Sandwick Junior High School – Information for Pupils		
1.	<b>What should I bring to school?</b>	You should bring the <b>minimum of personal possessions</b> to school. As far as possible, keep your possessions with you. You will need your <b>school bag, interval snack, and a packed lunch</b> if you wish. You should not share your personal possessions with other pupils. You can bring your own hand sanitiser and tissues.  Secondary pupils <b>make sure you have your timetable</b> , or a photo of it on your phone.
2.	<b>Do I need to bring a mask/face covering?</b>	We have been advised that face coverings are not required in school settings. However, <b>anyone wishing to wear a mask/face covering in school can do so</b> at any time. Where adults cannot keep 2m distance and are interacting face to face for a sustained period (15mins or more) face coverings will be worn.
3.	<b>Visitors to school</b>	Parents should not access the school building unless required.
4.	<b>What happens when I arrive in school?</b>	When you arrive in SJHS, you will <b>hand sanitise at the front door</b> . Primary – staff will meet you in the primary playground prior to the school day to discuss entry to the building.  Secondary - You should make your way up to your social area, <b>not gathering</b> in corridors. As the buses arrive at different times, your entrance to school will be naturally staggered.
5.	<b>Jackets and School Bags?</b>	If you need to hang up a jacket, you must use the pegs in your allocated area.  Secondary pupils must carry schools bags with them.
6.	<b>What happens around the school corridors?</b>	In certain areas of the school there will be a one-way system in operation. This will be explained to you further on your return to school. Visual signs will support movement around the school.  There are <b>hand sanitiser stations</b> around the school.

RESPECT

EQUALITY

ACHIEVEMENT

CREATIVITY

HAPPINESS

7.	<b>What happens in class?</b>	When you go to your class, your teacher will explain the health and safety rules for working in that room, and keeping you and your teacher safe.
8.	<b>How is the school cleaned?</b>	Our school is following all of the advice from the government and Shetland Islands Council. This includes <b>more day cleaning around the school</b> . Please help us by using the bins and keeping everything neat and tidy.
9.	<b>What happens at interval time?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please <b>bring your morning snack with you to school</b> (due to allergies there should be no pineapple and peanut).</li> <li>• Pupils will be asked to <b>wash their hands</b> before and after eating.</li> <li>• Please <b>stay with friends in your own year group</b>.</li> <li>• Please <b>go outside</b> if the weather is dry.</li> <li>• Ensure you have suitable clothing for all weathers.</li> </ul>
10.	<b>What happens at lunchtime?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will be extending the stagger at the start of lunchtime.</li> <li>• The Catering Service <b>will not</b> be providing a hot meal in the first instance.</li> <li>• Packed lunches will be available. A sample menu and more information will follow.</li> <li>• We will explain where you can collect lunches from and where you can eat these when you return to school.</li> <li>• We will explain where you can collect lunches from and where you can eat these when you return to school.</li> <li>• Again, please <b>go outside whenever you can</b>. Please stay with friends in your own year group.</li> </ul> <p>Secondary, <b>we would encourage pupils to bring a packed lunch</b> if possible. Do not share your lunch with anyone else. <b>A limited selection of lunch items will be available for purchase</b>, of a packed lunch style. These will cost <b>£2.60</b> consisting of either a sandwich/sausage roll or pasta salad, 2 side options, fruit and a bottle of water. Please bring the correct change or ParentPay (more details available from school office).</p>
11.	<b>What happens at the end of the day?</b>	Pupils leaving class will be staggered. <b>Please do not leave any possessions</b> in the school at the end of each day. Take all your jackets home.
12.	<b>What about my school bus?</b>	SIC school transport is operating its full normal service. If you have any queries contact SIC Transport on 01595 744886.
13.	<b>I am feeling a bit worried about coming back to school.</b>	We appreciate that the return to school may be causing children and families some anxiety, which is completely understandable. Please be reassured that your child's health, wellbeing and safety will be paramount. If you think that a visit to the prior to their planned return then please contact us via the school email <a href="mailto:sandwick@shetland.gov.uk">sandwick@shetland.gov.uk</a> someone will get back to you to arrange a mutually convenient time.
14.	<b>How do I find out about Covid-19 testing?</b>	NHS Shetland has a Testing Scheme in place. Your family can find out more about this at <a href="https://www.healthyshetland.com/health-topics/news/uk-government-testing-scheme-up-and-running-in-shetland">https://www.healthyshetland.com/health-topics/news/uk-government-testing-scheme-up-and-running-in-shetland</a>

15.	<b>Physical Distancing.</b>	<p>Two metre physical distancing between adults and between adults, children, and young people who are not from the same household should be maintained.</p> <p>The COVID-19 Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children’s Issues has published scientific advice on physical distancing in schools. The advice states:</p> <p><i>“Subject to continued suppression of the virus, and to surveillance and mitigations being in place, the balance of the evidence suggests that no distancing should be required between children in primary schools. The evidence is less clear for older pupils but at present we support the same approach being taken in secondary schools on the basis of the balance of known risks, the effectiveness of mitigations and the benefits to young people of being able to attend school.”</i></p> <p>It goes on to state:</p> <p><i>“In both primary and secondary settings, the preference would always be to avoid large gatherings and crowded spaces and, wherever possible, to keep children and young people within the same groups for the duration of the school day. In giving this advice we recognise the practical challenges. Where possible, timetabling should be reviewed to reduce movement of groups of pupils around the school estate as much as possible.”</i></p>
16.	<b>Where do I get more detailed information about the reopening of schools?</b>	<p>All the decision made around your child’s safe return to school have been based on the Scottish Government documentation and local authority guidance;</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Coronavirus (COVID-19): Guidance on preparing for the start of the new school term in August 2020</u></a></p> <p>The National Parent Forum are offering a Webinar series starting from next week. The focus is on Back to School and Learning together, supporting parents to support their child’s learning. Parents and children are all encouraged to join in and sign-up at the following address;</p> <p>Links to sign up for each are here:</p> <p><a href="https://www.npfs.org.uk/2020/07/31/back-to-school-webinars/"><u>https://www.npfs.org.uk/2020/07/31/back-to-school-webinars/</u></a></p> <p>The National Parent Forum have also produced the following guidance for parents and carers;</p> <p><a href="https://www.npfs.org.uk/2020/07/23/back-to-school-guidance-for-parents-and-carers/"><u>https://www.npfs.org.uk/2020/07/23/back-to-school-guidance-for-parents-and-carers/</u></a></p>
17.	<b>Breakfast/ Afterschool Club</b>	<p>There are currently no plans to facilitate a breakfast and/ or afterschool club. The priority is providing learning and teaching for pupils returning.</p>