

## Returning to School - Communicating with Students

Many children with special educational needs will soon be returning to school, and may be returning at different times from their peers or siblings. It is important to ensure that children understand what is happening and why. Doing so can help to reduce anxiety and promote a sense of safety and calm around returning to school.

NCSE have produced previous guidance on supporting students with the return to school <https://ncse.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Social-Stories-Supporting-students-with-ASD-transition-back-to-school.pdf> and this guidance includes advice about using very simple scripts to explain to children what is happening and why. These are often known as Social Stories™.

NCSE have created a simple script for parents and teachers to use to explain what is happening in the current context. There is a version for children who are returning to school, and another version for those who are not returning at the moment due to underlying clinical vulnerability.

# Simple Script: Returning to School

I have been learning at home.  
This was so I could stay healthy.



I will be going back to school soon.

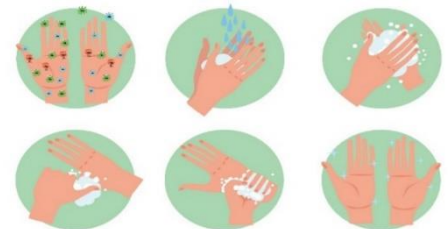


Some of my friends will be there too.  
Some children will stay at home a bit longer.



I can wash my hands or use hand sanitiser.

I will remember to keep my distance from people.



If I need to cough I can do this in a tissue or in my elbow.



If I feel worried that is ok. I can talk to an adult I trust.

I am going back to school soon.



# Simple Script: Staying at Home

I have been learning at home.  
This is so I can stay healthy.



Some children may be returning to school.



I will stay at home at this time.



If I am worried that is ok.  
I can talk to an adult I trust.



I am learning at home.

