

Scoil San Treasa

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ALADDIN CONNECT...App, push notifications etc.

For the attention of all parents - and especially parents of incoming junior infants/incoming pupils in other classes.

IMPORTANT UPDATE RE SCHOOL/HOME COMMUNICATION – please read carefully.

Summer 2019

Dear Parents,

We are pleased to announce that our school has just rolled out *Aladdin Schools Connect* to parents/guardians of children in our classes. We expect that this system will be of benefit to all parties concerned once it is engaged with more fully and once we have all had a chance to get used to it.

A brief overview:

It is planned that the following features will be available for use:

- Through the Aladdin App (which is free), parents can receive ‘**push notifications**’ from the school on their smartphone. This will help the school/teachers to communicate with parents when the need arises – without parent or school incurring additional costs. (There will be no direct charge to parents for Aladdin push notifications. Please note: to facilitate rapid circulation of relevant messages (without additional cost) re after-school activities run directly by the school, parents of all children taking part in those activities will be required to commit to using the Aladdin app.)
- Using secure log-in, parents will be enabled to access their child’s approved **school report** card. It is planned that this will replace the system in place heretofore whereby parents supplied the school with SAE for their child’s report to be posted home in hard copy. This will help to eliminate/reduce costs and should prove to be more efficient timewise for all concerned.
- This new system will ultimately include a parent/teacher meeting scheduler (for use at the time of **whole-school parent-teacher meetings**, normally in the first term). This will make it easier for parents to select their preferred time from the time-slots available.
- In due course, we hope to use the **noticeboard** facility. This is a useful way of enabling parents to conveniently access messages of a general nature.

For your information, Aladdin Schools uses state-of-the art security to safeguard information entered by the school and data is stored and processed in strict compliance with Irish and European data protection laws.

The next steps (This section is of particular relevance to parents of incoming pupils...but all parents should familiarise themselves with this information.)

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- **IMPORTANT:** By default, both parents will have access to view their child’s contact information (including phone, address, email). If for any reason you do NOT wish to share your own personal contact information within the family circle or if you have any concerns regarding this, please contact the school (by email to principal@sstreaasa.ie with **Aladdin Connect Contacts** in the subject line) **immediately**. Shortly after the commencement of the new school year, you will receive an email message containing your registration link. There will be one link per parent which will allow the parent to access information for all their children in the

school from one user account. Please do not forward this email or share this link as this is a unique registration code for each parent for your child/children in this school.

- During registration, you will choose a password that will be used in conjunction with your email address to securely access the Aladdin Connect going forward.
- Once you are registered, you will be prompted to download the App. The main advantage of using the App is to receive immediate alerts for app messages sent by your school (e.g. re after-school activities). Downloading the App is highly recommended to enhance both the parent and school's Aladdin Connect experience. **Please note that Downloading the App will be a requirement for parents of pupils engaging with after-school activities run by the school, as we will soon be relying on this system for rapid communication in relation to these activities.**
- **Please be aware:** Upon launching the Aladdin app for the first time you will be asked to choose whether your device is a personal or shared device. Please make the appropriate selection here. Should you choose to mark your device as a personal device, **it is important that you do not use the 'Keep me signed in' option as it is against our school policy to do so (for data security reasons).**
- Please ensure that the school has your current mobile phone number. Remember to notify the school immediately (in writing) if there is a change to your mobile phone number and/or email address and/or any other contact details.

Miscellaneous information:

- Much of the current school/home communication is via email. These emails – containing newsletters, for example, and general updates – are sent to parents of all children in the school (unless they have 'unsubscribed'.) Parents are discouraged from unsubscribing from the official school email circulation list since this will mean that they are likely to miss out on important information.
- Occasionally, the school sends texts e.g. re emergency school closure (snow) or other urgent notification. Once the Aladdin Connect system is operational, such texts (by default) will only be sent to one parent. (By default, the message is sent to the mother but this can be changed on written request). **However, any messages sent in this way will be received as push notifications by those having the Aladdin App.** In other words, this will mean that when both parents have the Aladdin App, they will both receive the message simultaneously and neither the school nor the parents will incur an additional cost for these messages. Having all parents use the Aladdin App will make it more attractive for the school to send more messages in this way and we hope that this will prove to be an added convenience for parents.

We hope that you find Aladdin Connect to be convenient, helpful and user-friendly. Should you have any queries, please get in touch with the school directly.

As with all new projects and approaches, there may be some challenges to 'iron out' in the early stages. Please bear with us as we do our best to ensure that the system is rolled out as smoothly as possible. Thank you for your understanding in this regard.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Anne English - Principal