

Dear parent and carers,

As promised, I am writing with additional information about the return of students to our school campus. First, a reminder about the dates for our phased return.

<b>Commencing 25 October (Week 4)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early childhood centres (ECEC)</li> <li>• Preschool and kindergarten</li> <li>• Years 1 and 2</li> <li>• Year 6</li> <li>• Years 9 and 10</li> <li>• Out of school hours care (OSHC)</li> </ul>
<b>Commencing 1 November (Week 5)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Years 3, 4 and 5</li> <li>• Years 7 and 8</li> </ul>
<i>From weeks 1 to 4 of term, onsite supervision and care continues to be available for vulnerable children and young people whose parents are essential workers.</i>	

Drawing on national and local health advice we have developed a return to school plan which has three key priorities:

- the health and safety of staff and young people,
- the mental and emotional well-being of students and staff, and
- ensuring continuity of learning.

Below is an outline of [ACT Health Guidelines](#) that schools are required to implement to ensure effective COVID-19 measures are in place.

<b>Use of Check in CBR app</b>	All staff and visitors must check in using the 'Check in CBR' app. Parents and carers cannot enter school grounds except for an essential reason. Visitors must call to make an appointment, or in advance of attendance. All visitors must report to the front office.
<b>Student illness</b>	Staff and students who are unwell are not able to attend school. Students who present unwell will be required to go home.
<b>Hygiene</b>	Schools will maintain and promote appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene practices. Students will need to wash hands and use hand sanitisers throughout the day. Students will not be allowed to share food or drink.

<b>Masks</b>	<p>Staff, visitors and students* in years 7-12 must wear a face mask on campus. Students in years 3-6 are encouraged to wear a mask if they are comfortable doing so. Students in Preschool to year 2 are not required to wear a mask. Masks may not be suitable for students with a disability or medical condition and schools will make allowances for those students not to wear masks.</p> <p><i>* Students will be required to wear their personal masks. Masks will be available at school for those who require them. Disposable masks need to be changed every four hours.</i></p>
<b>Physical Distancing</b>	<p>Physical distancing between children and young people is not always possible, particularly in single classrooms and school environments. It is however important for limiting the transmission of COVID 19. To promote physical distancing we may adjust learning programs, breaktimes, our timetable as well as pick up and drop off arrangements. More specific information about what this means for your child is included below.</p>
<b>Environmental cleaning</b>	<p>Our school cleaning program includes regular cleaning of high touch services, frequently used objects, and play equipment.</p>
<b>Ventilation</b>	<p>All schools have been assessed to increase fresh air circulation and this may involve changes to ventilation, modified HVAC system settings and maximising the use of outdoor learning spaces.</p>
<b>Managing suspected cases</b>	<p>We are prepared to respond to a positive COVID-19 case on campus, should the need arise. ACT Health will provide direction to the school and community, which may result in a full or partial school closure. A student who presents with symptoms of COVID-19 will be isolated with suitable supervision, and parents will be required to collect their child. Symptomatic students will be required to wear a mask.</p>
<b>Will schools have routine testing for COVID-19?</b>	<p>Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms should get tested immediately. ACT Health is not recommending routine COVID-19 testing of children, young people or staff using rapid antigen testing.</p>
<b>Wellbeing supports</b>	<p>Wellbeing and learning supports, such as face to face appointments with the school psychologist or access to a Learning Support Assistant, will recommence with the return to school.</p> <p>For parents and carers of students with a medical vulnerability: if you wish the school to make reasonable adjustments for the safe return of your child, you must consult a GP and provide medical advice to that effect. Where adjustments can't be made, the school will support your child to learn from home.</p>

To further support the ACT Health Guidelines our school is making the following adjustments.

<p><b>Drop off and pick up</b></p>	<p>Before and after school routines have been adapted so adults do not need to enter the school site. The drive through drop off and pickup will continue to be supervised and support students to gather in family groups, maintaining social distance. As we know more families will need to use the drive through area, we will require each family to display their name in the windscreen of the vehicle. This will enable a staff member to call students with a microphone to approach the car. This system will allow pickup to be quick and efficient whilst maintaining distance between family groups and staff members.</p> <p>When accessing the school, each year level will have a designated door and a meeting area on the playground. After school, students being picked up can meet their adults on the oval and will be supervised until they are collected. For K-2 students, storage for bikes will be provided in the junior playground.</p> <p>Preschool routines will remain similar to the beginning of the year with only minor alterations to drop off and pick up to avoid congestion at gates.</p> <p>Please refer to the school expectations letter and year level guides for details of meeting areas for your child's year level.</p> <p>In the case of wet weather, alternative arrangements will be emailed during the day.</p>
<p><b>Hygiene routines</b></p>	<p>Sanitiser will be available at all entry points to the school grounds and in all classrooms. Students are expected to sanitise on entry to the school and at key points through the day such as before and after play, before and after bathroom visits and before and after eating.</p> <p>For those students wearing masks at school, single use masks will need to be changed at lunch time. Masks can be placed in a lidded bin or placed in a snap lock bag for disposal. Cloth masks do not need to be changed. Please ensure your child has mask supplies for the day.</p>
<p><b>Teaching and learning</b></p>	<p>Throughout the school day, students will remain with their year level cohort for learning and play. This means students and teachers will avoid contact with multiple year levels.</p> <p>For preschool, the day will run as normal. Preschool staff will support each other for breaks meaning that as much as possible, staff will not move between the preschools and primary site.</p> <p>Each year level will have an allocated meeting and eating area, timetable and door to access the school. Details for each year level are included in the school expectations letter and year level guides. Teachers will also provide students with a description of their new routine through a class meet in the week before they return to school.</p>

	<p>Each teaching team will work together but will be joined full time by an additional teacher and learning support assistant. This means specialist teachers will be based in one year level. They will continue to provide lessons which will be delivered by the year level team. All play breaks will be supervised by this staff team.</p> <p>Whole school programs such as Passion Projects will not be able to continue. As restrictions continue to be altered, we will advise you about transition programs and end of year events.</p>
<b>Break times</b>	<p>Break times have been altered to allow year levels to play without mixing. Students will now have eating breaks as well as play breaks. Eating breaks will be similar to our current recess and lunch times and allow the canteen to operate. Please see the school expectations letter and year level overview for your child's break times.</p> <p>Students will be encouraged to use toilets in their allocated play times to avoid mixing across cohorts. Of course, students will be able to access bathrooms as they need through the day.</p>
<b>Before and After School Care</b>	<p>OHSC was operating within Covid requirements through 2021. Students attending OHSC will meet carers at the same meeting place they used before remote learning. Students will then sanitise before signing in. Parents will continue to pick students up from external doors. The only difference will be that adults are now required to check in via the Check in CBR app as pickup occurs on the school site. QR codes are located at all collection points.</p>
<b>School canteens</b>	<p>The canteen will operate with food ordered and delivered to classrooms. No counter service will be available.</p> <p>As usual, ordering through Flexischools is preferred, however paper orders can be collected from classrooms.</p>

We will continue to review and adjust these measures based on the most up to date advice from ACT Health.

Remember, all adults and children aged 12 years and above are eligible for vaccination. If your child is eligible but not yet vaccinated, we encourage you to book them in by calling the COVID-19 vaccination line on 5124 7700 daily between 7am-7pm. Bookings can also be made with some [GP clinics and pharmacies](#).

We understand that there has been considerable change and uncertainty for our students during the pandemic, and as we transition back to school. I'd remind you that you and your child can book an appointment with our Telehealth Support Service on 02 6205 1559 between 9.00am and 4.30pm weekdays. With the return to school, your child will also be able to organise face to face sessions with the school psychologist.

For more information about the return to schools, I'd recommend visiting [the Education Directorate's website](#).

You can keep up to date with the latest health information, advice and resources on the [ACT's COVID-19 website](#).

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and understanding as we return to face-to-face schooling.

We look forward to seeing all our students back at school.

My regards,

Merryn O'Dea

Principal