

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.

Commencing 25 October (Week 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early childhood centres (ECEC) • Preschool and kindergarten • Years 1 and 2 • Year 6 • Years 9 and 10 • Out of school hours care (OSHC)
Commencing 1 November (Week 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years 3, 4 and 5 • Years 7 and 8
<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.

Use of Check in CBR app	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.
Student illness	Staff and students who are unwell are not able to attend school. Students who present unwell will be required to go home.
Hygiene	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.

Masks	<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>
Physical Distancing	<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>
Environmental cleaning	<p>Our school cleaning program includes regular cleaning of high touch services, frequently used objects, and play equipment.</p>
Ventilation	<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>
Managing suspected cases	<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>
Will schools have routine testing for COVID-19?	<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>
Wellbeing supports	<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>Cohorts</p>	<p>For Term 4, classes and staff across the school into four cohorts. This will support us to minimise unnecessary interactions, but still meet the social and learning needs of all our students</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="320 297 1481 633"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white;">Green</th> <th style="background-color: #FFC107;">Yellow</th> <th style="background-color: #2196F3; color: white;">Blue</th> <th style="background-color: #F44336; color: white;">Red</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="background-color: #BDBDBD;">Classes</td> <td>SGNY KKH KSV 1BT 1CP 2AC 2CC</td> <td>3TW 3KO 4JA 4JM SGGC SGPS</td> <td>5/6BW 5/6AF 5/6SW</td> <td>All Preschool classes</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Where possible, we aim to minimise staff working across these cohorts. The cohorts will help us to determine operations across the school such as entry points and break time areas.</p>		Green	Yellow	Blue	Red	Classes	SGNY KKH KSV 1BT 1CP 2AC 2CC	3TW 3KO 4JA 4JM SGGC SGPS	5/6BW 5/6AF 5/6SW	All Preschool classes
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<p>Drop off and pick up</p>	<p>We ask that all parents/carers always remain outside of the school premises unless negotiated prior with the school. All adults are encouraged to social distance when waiting outside of the school gates.</p> <p>We have two main entry/exit points for our K-6 students These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Arboretum Gate (Green & Blue) • The Multi Gate (Yellow) <p>We encourage all students to use their allocated gate.</p> <p>Morning: If entering prior to 9:00am, we ask our students to transition to their designated morning duty areas. There will be teacher supervision from 8:40am.</p> <p>5/6: Grass Oval area 3/4: Multipurpose Court 1/2: Barnyard K: Kindergarten Classroom</p> <p>Staff will be available at the Arboretum Gate to support transition younger students. Students in the SGP will either wait with their year level peers or go directly to their classroom. Students arriving late (after 9:20am) should enter through the Front Office.</p> <p>Afternoon: At the end of the day, students will exit through the same gate except for Years 1/2 who will exit directly from the building out to the kiss and collect area.</p> <p>Kindergarten students will be transitioned to the Arboretum gate by staff where they will be handed over to parents.</p>										
<p>Hygiene routines</p>	<p>Hand sanitiser will be located at key locations across the school to easily accessible.</p> <p>Staff and students are encouraged to undertake hand hygiene regularly, particularly on arrival and before and after eating. Our toilet blocks have been identified for use by cohorts.</p>										

Teaching and learning	<p>We have made some adjustments to our staffing to support our cohort structure and minimise staff working across areas of the school. Our specialist and support programs will be integrated into each cohort with these specialist teachers now taking on the role of co-teachers for each area of the school. These teaching teams will work flexibly to meet the needs of all students. In the first week back at school our teachers will prioritise re-establishing routines and expectations, building relationships and collaboration. For any specific curriculum or programming related questions, please touch base with your child's teacher.</p> <p>There will be necessary adjustments made to extra-curricular activities such as the Instrumental Music Program and this will be communicated to students and families impacted.</p>																
Break times	<p>We are moving to a three-break timetable to allow more frequent opportunities for our students and staff to access fresh air and give equitable access to play areas.</p> <p>All students in K-6 will follow the same timetable, however, each cohort will have an allocated play area each break time.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="320 741 1481 1066"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Multipurpose Court</th> <th>Barnyard</th> <th>Beach</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>B1 (10:30am - 11:00am)</td> <td style="background-color: #90EE90;"></td> <td style="background-color: #FFD700;"></td> <td style="background-color: #6495ED;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>B2 (12:00pm - 12:30pm)</td> <td style="background-color: #FFD700;"></td> <td style="background-color: #6495ED;"></td> <td style="background-color: #90EE90;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>B3 (1:30pm - 2:00pm)</td> <td style="background-color: #6495ED;"></td> <td style="background-color: #90EE90;"></td> <td style="background-color: #FFD700;"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Students will also have eating time within their classes before each break.</p>		Multipurpose Court	Barnyard	Beach	B1 (10:30am - 11:00am)				B2 (12:00pm - 12:30pm)				B3 (1:30pm - 2:00pm)			
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Before and After School Care	<p>Educators have been working for the duration of the lockdown. They will continue to follow the Organisation's COVID Response Plan, as well as adhere to ACT Health requirements. Masks are mandatory, both inside and outside, they will sign in using the school's check-in code each time they work, use appropriate hand & respiratory health practices, as well as maintain social distancing from adults.</p> <p>All students attending before school care are to be taken to the front office entry. Once here, you are to contact a staff member from OSHC who will support the transition of your child to their designated location.</p> <p>For picking up from after school care, please go to the front office entry and contact a staff member from OSHC who will transition your child to you.</p>																
School canteens	<p>We are still working with the P&C and will advise on the operation of the canteen in due course.</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,

Michael Hatswell

Evatt Primary School