

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>• Preschool and kindergarten</li> <li>• Years 1 and 2</li> <li>• Year 6</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>• Out of school hours care (OSHC)</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>Entry gates have been allocated to each year or class group and where possible students are asked to enter and exit through these designated gates (see map below). Allowances are made for siblings travelling to and from school together and for families who live in close proximity to particular gates. If in doubt, please speak to your child's class teacher.</p> <p><b>PLEASE NOTE: ENTRY GATES WILL BE OPENED AT 8:45am</b> and students will be directed to walk straight to class.</p> <p><b>Afternoon departure times will be staggered to adhere to health and safety regulations.</b></p>  <p>Parents are encouraged to drop off their child as close to allocated times and students will go straight to class in the mornings and straight home in the afternoon.</p> <p><i>Kinder: Drop off 8:45am, pick up 2:45pm</i>  <i>Year 1 and year 5: Drop off at 8:50am, pick up 2:50pm</i>  <i>Year 2 and year 6: Drop off at 8:55am, pick up 2:55pm</i>  <i>Year 3 and year 4: Drop off as 9:00am, Pick up 3:00pm</i></p> <p><i>Preschool children will be met by staff at the preschool gate located on the shops side at 9:00am and escorted back to families to be collected at 3:15pm and 3:00pm on Wednesdays. For collection at the end of the day, the Frogs and Turtles preschool groups will exit via the fence gates which are located just a few metres past the existing preschool gate. Preschool families are asked not to pass the witches hats that will be positioned at the entry and exit points.</i></p>
<p><b>Hygiene routines</b></p>	<p>Hand sanitiser will be located at all entry gates and students will be asked to sanitise as they enter school grounds.</p>

	Hand sanitiser will always be located at the entry to each classroom and students will sanitise as they enter and leave the classroom and periodically throughout the day as needed.
<b>Teaching and learning</b>	Each year group will work as a cohort within their own classroom spaces. Specialist teachers and executive staff have been allocated across two cohorts to provide planning time for teaching staff and extra support for students as needed. Educators will also work across 2 cohorts supporting students. These measures are in place to limit movement across cohorts, prioritising both staff and student safety in alignment with Directorate return to face-to-face teaching protocols. As a result, the delivery of Languages, Music, PE and Library by the specialist teachers will cease for the remainder of Term 4. Music lessons, external coaches, incursions/ excursions will not take place. The library will be closed and quality literature and teaching resources to support HASS learning will be allocated to each year level. PE and sports equipment will be allocated to each year level. Year 5 and Year 6 band will continue, however in an outdoor space in alignment with Directorate protocols.
<b>Break times</b>	Staggered break times will be introduced to minimise contact between cohorts. <i>A timetable will be shared in the newsletter.</i>
<b>Before and After School Care</b>	Children attending before school care will be released to move to classes at 8:45am and those attending in the afternoon will be released from class at 2:45pm and asked to make their way directly to the After School Care building.
<b>School canteen</b>	The canteen will operate on the usual days for lunch orders online only and delivered to classrooms. The service will start in week 5 on Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> November and continue for the rest of the term every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

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.

Yours faithfully,

James M. Barnett

