



What you need to know about our return to school in Term 4

We're excited about our return to face-to-face learning and welcoming students and staff back onsite where we know the best learning happens. We know that while there will be excitement, there will also be some anxiety and uncertainty about being back together at school. This is a short summary of what our parents and students can expect.



Key dates for our staged return

While we know there is excitement about the return to school it's important that we stick to the staged return to give us time to be ready to welcome back students onsite. Students will return to face-to-face learning in the following order

- from 18 October – Kindergarten, Year 1 classes, 12M
- from 25 October – all remaining year groups

The school canteen will resume operations from Monday 25 October.



School attendance

All students are expected to return to school on the date indicated for their year group, unless:

- they have a medical certificate which says they can't return to school due to a condition or illness
- they are currently unwell
- they have been asked by NSW Health to self-isolate.

Any student who does not return to school will be marked as absent and normal school absence procedures will be followed. From the return dates, learning from home will cease for students in that grade and no further online work will be provided for students.

If you are worried that the impacts of COVID-19 or going back to face-to-face learning may be affecting your child's wellbeing, please discuss this with your child's teacher. You can find more information to help your child's wellbeing through the mental health and wellbeing resources on the department's website.



Our school's COVID-safe operations

Our COVID-safe return to school plan is NSW Health approved and includes numerous effective practices to support the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. These practices include vaccinations, mask wearing, reduced mingling of student groups and staff, ventilation in classrooms and continued good hygiene and cleaning.



Keeping student groups together

As we return to school students will be kept in their cohorts to minimise opportunities for transmission of COVID-19 and to enable effective contact tracing and containment. This means minimising interaction between students on school grounds and keeping cohorts together where possible.

Students will arrive at school and go to their stage's designated area. This will be the location where the cohort spends lunch and recess breaks as well.

Kindergarten – Kindy turf and Gulyangarri Ngura

Stage 1 – Stage 1 sails (between K and Yr 2 classrooms)

Stage 2 – COLA

Stage 3 – Field

To reduce the risk of transmission, we have put in place staggered finish times and pick-up points.

2:50 pm - Kindergarten students dismissed from the netball courts. Parents/carers to enter the school via pedestrian gate 3 (near school office) and proceed directly to the netball court, pick up child and exit the school via gate 4.

3:00 pm – Stage 1 students dismissed from grass area near the new building (1T/1C) on Medlow Drive. Parents/carers to enter the school via pedestrian gate 2, pick up child and exit the school via gate 1.

3:10 pm – Stage 2 students dismissed from the netball courts. Parents/carers to enter the school via pedestrian gate 3 (near school office) and proceed directly to the netball court, pick up child and exit the school via gate 4.

3:15 pm – Stage 3 students dismissed from their classrooms and meet parents/carers at a pre-arranged location off the school site.

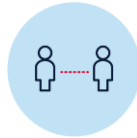
Parents are required to wait outside the school gates until their child's designated dismissal time. Please follow the physical distancing rules, avoid gathering outside gates, remain off school grounds until the dismissal time and wear a mask. Try to stay in the car where possible.

Wherever possible students should be transported to schools by private vehicle to minimise mixing en route to school. Please see <https://transportnsw.info/covid-19> for public transport advice.



Mask wearing for students and staff

Masks are required to be worn on school site by staff indoors and outdoors and strongly recommended for students indoors and outdoors unless exercising or eating.



Physical distancing

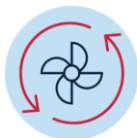
All adults must keep 1.5 metres distance from each other, including teachers and support staff, and parents and carers waiting to collect children. Physical distancing between children in the same class is not required under the latest health guidelines. Students will be supported to follow strict hygiene practices like:

- regularly washing hands
- not sharing drinks or food
- coughing or sneezing into their elbow, or else using a tissue which should be put in the bin straight away
- filling water bottles from bubblers rather than using the bubbler directly.



Vaccinations

All staff required on site supporting the return to school will need to be fully vaccinated from 18 October. Then from 8 November all staff, contractors, volunteers and students on student placement on a school site will need to be fully vaccinated, including Outside of School Hours Care staff.



Ventilation

Having open or well-ventilated spaces reduces the risk of transmission of COVID-19 because infectious particles are more quickly diffused in the open air. The department will continue to work with NSW Health to provide us with advice and guidance on maintaining good ventilation in our school and we will make use of our outdoor spaces wherever practical.



School activities

During Term 4 many school-based activities will remain on hold until NSW Health advise otherwise. This includes large celebrations like assemblies, presentation days and graduations, arts and sports events.



Covid Communication

Parents and students will be notified if a decision is made to close the school due to a confirmed case of COVID-19. During this time we will continue to provide learning from home activities and we will let you know when we can return to face-to-face learning.

Communication will be disseminated through our School Stream app and school Facebook page.



Preschool and out of school hours care

Out of school hours care, vacation care settings and preschools operating on school sites will follow the same COVID-safe guidelines as public schools including the requirement to be fully vaccinated from 8 November.



Orientation and transition to school

Onsite orientations and transition programs are not currently allowed in person on school sites until we are advised differently by NSW Health. We'll share more information in the coming weeks about our school's virtual orientation and transition program.



Reporting and assessment

You will receive your child's Semester 2 report in the last week of term. This will be a simplified version of the report you normally receive.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank our school community for your ongoing support and hard work, particularly during Term 3 and the learning from home phase.

We are looking forward to welcoming our staff and students back to school.

Bert Lo Campo
Principal

Shonah Gibson & Rosannagh Ryan
Deputy Principals