

Dear RPS Families,

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.

<b>Drop off and pick up</b>	<p>Parents and carers of students in K-6 must not enter the school building or come onto school grounds to drop off and collect children. In the morning children are to enter the school via the front gate near the kindergarten classroom. The gates will open at 8.45am. At the end of the day the front gate and the back gate in the middle of our playground will be unlocked for students to exit the school grounds. The back gates near the basketball court will remain locked at all times.</p> <p>At 9.00am Preschool families will walk children through the gate at the front of the preschool. A hand sanitizing station will be set up at this entrance point. Parents will socially distance in the preschool playground while the teachers and support staff invite the children inside. Parents are not to enter the preschool classrooms. Once your child has been collected by staff you are to exit via the back gate connected to the primary school playground, where another hand sanitizing station will be set up. You will then exit to the carpark through the kindergarten side gate. This route will be clearly marked with signs and arrows directing you where to go.</p> <p>If you need to pick up your child early from school, please ring the front office and a staff member will collect your child and deliver them to the front door. Please note that the glass sliding door at the front of the school will remain locked at all times.</p>
<b>Hygiene routines</b>	<p>Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and teachers will ensure its timely and effective use throughout the day. In addition to this, students will wash their hands before and after eating.</p>
<b>Teaching and learning</b>	<p>In order to work within the ACT Health Guidelines to provide safe on campus learning, we are not only required to minimise contact between student cohorts but reduce the number of people teachers come into contact with daily. As a result of this, an additional teacher has been employed to assist Mr Fraser deliver our release program. This staff member will teach our P-2 classes while Mr Fraser will work with our 3-6 classes and the LSU. Unfortunately, many of our school's programs will need to be suspended. These include swimming, assemblies, RPP, Science Fair and Learning Journeys. Band will continue but will be delivered outdoors. Our scheduled Preschool and Kindergarten information evenings will now be prerecorded and uploaded to our school's website.</p>
<b>Break times</b>	<p>Our recess and lunch times breaks will remain the same; however, the playground will be divided into junior and senior to separate cohorts. The children will also have access to the oval on a roster system.</p>
<b>Before and After School Care</b>	<p>Parents are no longer permitted into the building to pick up and drop off students to Before and After School Care. On arrival, please phone Nick and he will come to the front door to sign the children in and out.</p>
<b>School canteens</b>	<p>Our arrangement with Flexischools for our Friday lunch orders will remain unchanged.</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.

Kind regards,

Anna Wilson

Principal