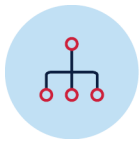




What you need to know about our return to school in Term 4

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. 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 – department preschool, Kindergarten, Year 1
- from 25 October – all remaining year groups.



Our school's COVID-safe operations

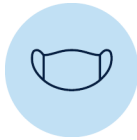
Our COVID-safe return to school plan is NSW Health approved and includes numerous effective practices to support the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. These practices include vaccinations, mask wearing, reduced mingling of student groups and staff, ventilation in classrooms and continued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

Wherever possible, students will remain with their stage group. This includes entering and exiting the school from specific gates as well as designated play areas for cohorts during recess and lunch. Information with specific details will be communicated separately.



Mask wearing for students and staff

Masks are required to be worn on school site by staff indoors and outdoors.

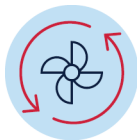
Masks are not mandatory for students.



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.

All members of the community working on site including canteen supervisor and volunteers will need to be fully vaccinated. We are encouraging our school community to take up a vaccine as soon as possible.



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.

As much as possible classrooms will be well ventilated with doors and windows open. Staff will avoid using recirculated air from air conditioners and increase the outside air intake.



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.

Information about end of year events including the Year 6 farewell and Presentation Day will be communicated at a later date. Department guidelines will be followed for all 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.

All relevant information will be communicated via the school Facebook and Instagram pages as well as via the SkoolBag and SeeSaw App. If you have not joined our social media pages we encourage you to do so. The School Safety App is also available to download. This app communicates important updates on school operations.



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.

Specific information will be communicated by OOSH around drop off and pick up procedures.



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.

All specific information around transition to school and orientation procedures for Kinder 2022 and Year 7 2022 will be communicated to parents via school Social Media pages, including Facebook, Instagram and Seesaw. Updates will also be communicated on the SkoolBag App. Specific information around Kindergarten transition will also be communicated with local preschools.