

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	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.
Environmental cleaning	Our school cleaning program includes regular cleaning of high touch services, frequently used objects, and play equipment.
Ventilation	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.
Managing suspected cases	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.
Will schools have routine testing for COVID-19?	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.
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.

Drop off and pick up	<p>Students will enter and exit the school grounds using a gate based on their learning group location.</p> <p>Drop off: students will arrive at school at 9.00am, entering through their learning group gate. They will go directly to their classroom building. They will wait in the designated outdoor area and when the bell rings, enter the building.</p> <p>Pick up: students exit the school grounds through the same gate where they entered. Students should not mix with other learning groups as they leave the school grounds and make their way directly from their classroom building to the exit gate. Maps with information on learning group gates will be sent via email to families next week in preparation for our first phase of return beginning on 25 October.</p> <p>Parents are encouraged to arrange a meeting place for siblings outside the school grounds.</p>
Hygiene routines	<p>Students will sanitise at gate stations on arrival. They will also be supervised by staff as they sanitise their hands each time they enter their building. Each learning group will be provided with adequate sanitiser for this to occur. Staff will provide reminders and scheduled hand washing opportunities through the school day.</p>
Teaching and learning	<p>Our students will be divided into learning groups based on their year level, small group program and classroom location. As we limit the movement of children and staff between learning groups, our staff will be allocated specific groups. This will have implications for our support staff and specialist programs for the remainder of the school year.</p> <p>More specific information will be provided to families based on the learning group where their child is situated. This information will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the building where your child will be based - the entry/exit point - the toilets they will be accessing - the educators working with their learning group - the executive staff supporting wellbeing in their area - the allocated first aid officers and sick bay space for their learning group <p>This information will be sent via email to specific year groups next week in preparation for our first phase of return beginning on 25 October.</p>
Break times	<p>There will be adjusted break times where learning groups do not mix together. Learning groups will also have designated playground locations. Our daily timetable will also include scheduled cleaning of playground equipment.</p>
Before and After School Care	<p>Communities @ Work will run their out of hours care arrangement in a way that supports the learning groups that have been organised at school. More specific information for families accessing this service will be provided from Communities @ Work.</p>
School canteens	<p>At this point in time our P&C are in discussions with us for how this could look. If our canteen is able to reopen, families will be informed on how this will work in conjunction with our learning groups.</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,

Andrew Buesnel

Maribyrnong Primary School