



Dear Parents and Carers,

# 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 – Preschool, Kindergarten, Year 1s (and Year 2s only from 1/2H and 1/2M)
- from 25 October – all remaining year groups: Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6 and the remainder of Year 2's from 2FT, 2S and 2K.



## 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.





## Playground Areas

Before school: Playground is closed. Students to go straight to class upon arrival. Teachers will be in classrooms.

Lunch and Recess times: Classes will play in a designated play area. Areas will be cleaned after each use. Recess and Lunch times staggered to reduce mingling. Toilet access during eating time and will be cleaned after each cohort has used.

After School: Playground is closed. Students walked to gates by teacher at allocated times. Students to go straight home unless collecting sibling. Siblings can be picked up at the stage area. Class teachers to remain at the gates until all students have been picked up and keep cohorts separate.

Classes will have access to one play area during the day. This will change every day. Areas will include the fixed equipment, back oval, cola areas, sandpit/basketball court and Kelly's Corner.



## Start and finish times

CLASSES	START TIME	1 <sup>ST</sup> BREAK	EATING TIME	2 <sup>ND</sup> BREAK	FINISH TIME
PRESCHOOL & EARLY INTERVENTION	9.00 am	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.00 pm
KINDERGARTEN	8.55 am	11.00 am	10.40 am	1.00 pm	3.00 pm
YEAR 1 AND 2	9.10 am	11.30 am	11.10 am	1.30 pm	3.05 pm
YEAR 3 AND 4	8.50 am	10.30 am	12.10 pm	12.30 pm	2.55 pm
YEAR 5 AND 6	8.40 am	10.00 am	11.40 am	12.00 pm	2.50 pm

## Students will need to bring the following items to school



**Mask**



**Hat**



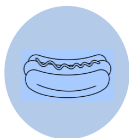
**Water bottle**



## Entry and Exit gates

Where possible students need to enter and exit the school through the gates allocated below. Family groups that have been assigned to both gates can choose the most convenient gate to use.

<b>GATE 1 (OFFICE)</b>	Pre-School Donzo, 1A, 1B, 2K, 2TF, 3/4R, 3/4A, 3/4F, 5/6F, 5/6Y
<b>GATE 2 (CROSSING)</b>	Pre-School Singh, KC, KB, 2S, 1/2M, 1/2H, 3/4P, 3/4I, 5/6J, 5/6B, 5/6S



## Canteen

The canteen will **not be** operational for the first week. The canteen **will be open on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> of October**. Online orders are preferable however students can give written orders and money to their class teacher in the morning. Please include snacks on your orders as students will not be able to purchase snacks during the day.



## Parent access to school grounds

Parents are unable to enter school grounds unless an appointment has been made prior with the school. Parents wishing to pick students up early need to wait outside the school gates and call the front office on (02) 96259036. Please make sure you are social distancing and wearing masks at all times while waiting.



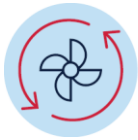
## Mask wearing for students and staff

Masks are required to be worn on school site by staff indoors and outdoors and recommended for students indoors and outdoors unless eating or exercising. Students will need to provide their own masks each day.



## 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. More information will be provided regarding end of year celebrations as it comes to hand. Dancing and sports can continue as part of class group lessons. Assemblies will continue online until further notice.



## 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.

The school will contact parents/carers via email, Facebook, Class Dojo App and text messages and the Departmental School Updates App should this be required.

If a student or teacher experiences any cold/flu/covid like symptoms, then a negative covid test will be required before returning to school. If a negative covid test cannot be provided, then a period of ten days will need to pass before returning. Alternatively, a letter from the doctor indicating that the symptoms are from an ongoing illness and are not covid related will also be accepted.



## 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.

Yours in quality education,

Dianne Uthmeyer

Rel Principal

12 October 2021