



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 – Kindergarten, Year 1 will return and for the context of our school K-6 W support class will return as a class cohort. Students will be taught by their classroom teacher.
- from 25 October – all remaining year groups.

Mrs King (1/2K) will be teaching 1K from 18 October. Other classroom teachers will be providing online feedback for the 2K students for this week.



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.



Different Play Areas Based on Class and Stages

From 18 October, students will stay with their class cohort during playtime and will be allocated different play areas before school, lunch and recess. At the beginning of each break, teachers will help students move to their play area. At the end of each break, teachers will walk students back in their class groups.

From the 25 October, when all students return, students will be allocated different playground areas based on their stage. Kindergarten and Stage 1 will alternate between the top oval and the infants play areas. Stage 2 and Stage 3 will alternate between the bottom oval and the primary play areas. At the beginning of each break, teachers will help students move to their designated play area. At the end of the break, teachers will walk students back in their stage groups.

Toilets

Toilet breaks will be organised before and after each break. This is to reduce different student groups using the toilet at the same time.

From 18 October, Kindergarten students will use the toilets located below the library while the Year 1 students will use the toilets located near the bottom oval and K-6P's classroom.

From the 25 October, K-2 students will use the toilets located below the library and 3-6 students will use the toilets near the bottom oval and K-6P's classroom.

Drop off

18 October Students will enter through the Lukin and Fletcher Street gates. There are no designated gates based on stage or grade.

There will be a member of the executive and a teacher at the Fletcher Street gate and Lukin Street Gate to direct students to go to their play areas on arrival.

25 October onwards Students will be able to enter Lukin, Fletcher and Postman's track gates. Students will be directed to their allocated play area by a member of the school executive.

Please remember that parents and carers are not allowed on school grounds. If your child is anxious and is having difficulty coming into school, please call the school and a member of staff will come to help you.

Pick Up

In the afternoon the following pick-up areas will take place:

18 October

KB, K/1A K-6W, KV and KS – Postman's Track Gate (Near KV/K-6W classroom)

1C, 1E, 1K and K-6P – Lukin Street Gate (Near Fun 4 U)

25 October onwards

KB, K/1A, K-6W, KV and KS – Postman's Track Gate (Near KV/K-6W classroom)

1C, 1E, 1/2K, 2C – Lukin Street Gate (Near Fun 4 U)

2/3P, 3/4F, 3/4G, K-6P, 3/4K and 4R – Bottom Oval Gate

5/6T, 5/6M, 5/6P, 5/6V – Top Oval Gate

However, to make it easier for families, older siblings will go to the gate of their youngest sibling.

When picking up your child it would be appreciated if you: wear a mask, keep your distance from other parents, not congregate in groups and once you have collected your child or children please leave. Thank you for your cooperation.

Canteen

The canteen will be open from Monday 25 October. The canteen will only take online orders for lunch and snacks. Initially, there will be no over the counter service for students to reduce different student cohorts mixing.



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. It would be appreciated if your child brings their own mask. However, the school does have a limited supply on offer if required. The Department has provided some tips on wearing a mask for you to discuss with your child. [209659 Back to school - Tips on wearing a mask A4 v1.pdf \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)



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.

Canteen volunteers who come on site will need be fully vaccinated as well.

In line with NSW Health and the Department of Education, the school encourages parents and eligible students 12 and over to be vaccinated.



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.

Teachers will ensure that all available windows and doors are opened in the classroom in aiding ventilation.



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.

The school executive are making plans for end of year events based on different levels of restrictions, this includes organising virtual events. Presentation Day assembly is scheduled for Thursday 2 December and if the current restrictions are still in place a pre-recorded assembly will occur like last year. Year 6 events such as the graduation ceremony, day camps and a reward day at Jamberoo are planned for the end of the year in the case restrictions ease. Plans for class and or stage-based rewards days are being organised as well. Contingencies are being made if current restrictions stay the same.



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.



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.

FUN4U staff will meet parents/carers at the Lukin Street gate in the mornings and afternoons to sign students in and out. Parents are requested to use the FUN4U QR code to check in and out when picking up and dropping off children.



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.

If the guidelines change and we can proceed, these are the dates we have planned for Kinder Transition.

Friday 26 November, Friday 3 December and Friday 10 December from 9:30-10:30. It will most likely be children only and parents will be advised of specific details. We will also share more information about the school via email.

Next Monday I will communicate how the school will support student learning and wellbeing as part of our return to school plan. Ewen Neild