



# 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

Due to the structure and size of our school, we will implement the following staged return for students:

- from 18 October – Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2
- from 25 October – all remaining year groups (Years 3-6)



## 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.

A new QR code linked to vaccination status is set to commence on 18 October. The official code will be on the office door only (however, we have been given permission to have an additional code on the entry gate to our Green Zone). All staff and visitors (parent/carers, volunteers, SRE, contractors etc) must use the new code until current Health Orders are lifted.



## 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.

Students will be kept in two cohorts:

**Cohort 1** - Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2

**Cohort 2** – Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6

Students will remain in their normal classes during learning activities. During break times, cohorts will not be allowed to mix. Cohorts will use separate toilets, playgrounds and will not be allowed to access the canteen at the same time.

We will also be staggering the afternoon bell times for the end of school day bell only. Bell times for Term 4 will be as follows:

- **2.45pm** - Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2
- **3.00pm** – Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6

We have also been granted permission to operate the Green Zone as we have done throughout 2020 and 2021. When entering from Week 3 onwards, you will be required to wear a mask at all times, ensure appropriate social distancing and sign-in using the QR Code. We also ask that parents enter via the main gates and exit using the gates near the car parks. Entry and exit signs will be clearly marked for you and there will be staff in the playground to support parents/carers if required. Most parents/carers will be used to these procedures as they are similar to those implemented last year.

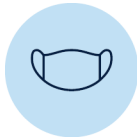
Parents are asked to enter and exit the school promptly. We have included some specific guidelines for before and after school below.

### **Before School:**

- Parents/Carers are not to enter the school grounds.
- Parents/Carers are encouraged to use the Kiss and Drop Zone and allow students to enter the school by themselves.
- If parents/carers are walking students to school, please say goodbye to students at the gate and allow them to enter the school by themselves.
- Buses should be running for those families wishing to use this service in the morning.

### **After School:**

- We are going to reinstate the Green Zone for parents/carers picking students up from school at the end of the day. This means that parents/carers may enter the school and wait (socially distanced) behind the silver seats. This area will be clearly sign-posted.
- Parents/Carers will be asked to enter the school through the gate near Kiss and Drop prior to 2.45 pm (K-Year 2) or 3.00 pm (Years 3-6) or collect students from Kiss and Drop.
- Parents/Carers and students will be asked to exit the school at the gate near the bus bay or pedestrian crossing by no later than 2.55 pm (K-Year 2) or 3.10 pm (Years 3-6).
- Parents/Carers will need to wear a mask whilst on school grounds and sign-in using the QR Codes provided.
- We will have Entry and Exit signs displayed to support safe entry and exit from school.



## Mask wearing for students and staff

Masks are required to be worn on school site by staff indoors and outdoors and are strongly recommended for students indoors and outdoors, unless exercising or eating.

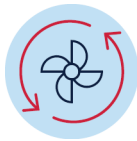
Our school has been provided with enough masks for students and staff. If you wish for your child to bring their own, this is allowed.



## 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.

The canteen will operate from Week 3 until the end of the term. All canteen staff and volunteers will be vaccinated and required to provide evidence to the principal before duties. We are encouraging our school community to take up a vaccine as soon as possible to ensure the safety of all within our school community.



## 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.

We are currently working on contingency plans to ensure the function of these events will continue in 2021. This may include the use of virtual events through video conferencing, based on the health advice at the time.



## 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.

We will continue to use ClassDojo, email, Facebook and SMS to communicate important information. It is important that you keep the school informed of your current contact details. If you are unsure about the contact details the school has, please contact the office at your earliest convenience.



## 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.

### Important

If students are unwell, they will be sent up to the office and parents will be called. Families will need a Medical Certificate or a negative COVID test for students to safely return to school.

Thank you for your cooperation. We understand that these procedures may be inconvenient, however, we need to ensure that the school is operating in line with Department of Education and NSW Health guidelines. Please contact the school to discuss any of the above information.

Regards,

Matt Carter

Principal

Grose View Public School