

## What You Need to Know About Our Return to School in Term 4

Dear Parents and Carers,

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.

Specific information on adjusted times and procedures has been sent to the families of Kindergarten and Year 1 students who will return next week. Early next week specific information relating to Year 2-6 students returning the following Monday (October 25) will be shared with families.



### 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 and Year 1
- from 25 October – Year 2, 3, 4, 5 and 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, natural 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.



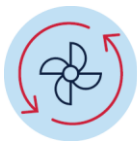
## Mask wearing for students and staff

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



## Vaccinations

All staff required on site supporting the return to school will 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, and canteen 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.

Activities such as Kindergarten Orientation information sessions will be conducted online and other events normally planned for Term 4 will be considered as advice from NSW Health and the Department of Education comes to hand.

The school canteen will recommence operation for online lunch orders only from Monday 25 October. There will be no over the counter sales until further notice.

Students will not be able to use the drinking fountains (bubblers) on site but there is a bottle refilling station that can be used in each playground



## 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 continue to use School Enews as its main online information platform.



## Preschool and out of school hours care

Out of school hours care and vacation care settings operating on school sites will follow the same COVID-safe guidelines as public schools including the requirement to be fully vaccinated from 8 November.

The Sans Souci OOSH service is currently operating and can be contacted at [info@sanssoucioosh.com.au](mailto:info@sanssoucioosh.com.au)



## 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.

Kind Regards

Rob Jennings