

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 as unwell will be required to go home and must provide evidence of a covid negative test result before they can return to school. For staff and students with covid-like symptoms (like hayfever) we will recommend providing a letter from their GP to confirm an ongoing medical condition presents in a similar manner to covid.
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.

<p>Masks</p>	<p>Staff, essential visitors and students* in years 7-10 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>All staff and 7-10 students who have a medical exemption from wearing face masks will be offered a bright blue 'I'm mask exempt' wristband. People with a medical exemption do not have to wear the band, it is offered as a simple way to alert other people that the wearer does not need to be reminded to wear a mask.</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>
<p>Physical Distancing</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Environmental cleaning</p>	<p>Our school cleaning program includes regular cleaning of high touch services, frequently used objects, and play equipment.</p>
<p>Ventilation</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Managing suspected cases</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Will schools have routine testing for COVID-19?</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Wellbeing supports</p>	<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>

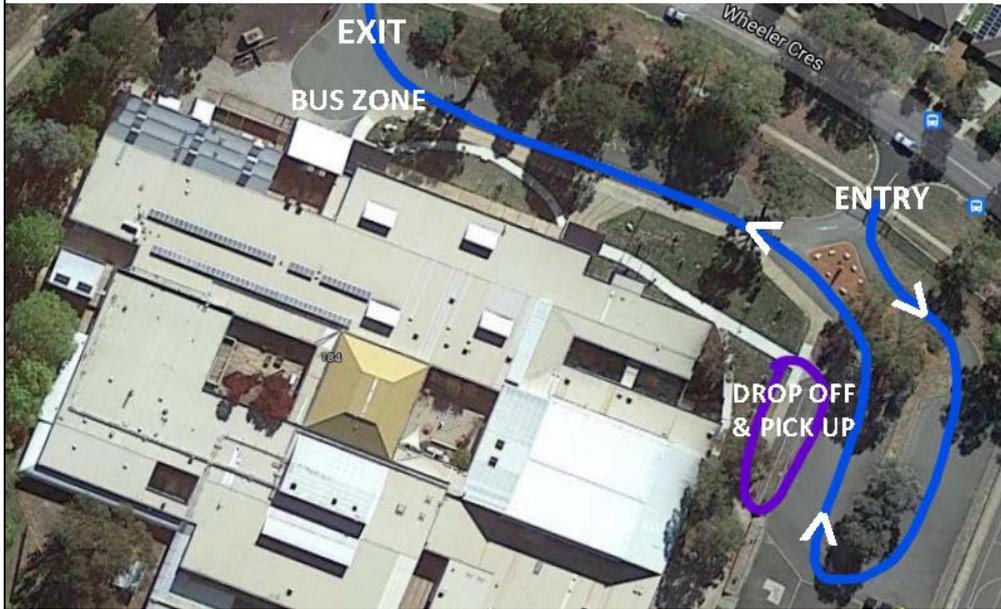
To further support the ACT Health Guidelines our school is making the following adjustments.

To support students know and understand the changes we have made to be covid-safe, the first lesson when they return to school, will have a Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL) Return to Campus focus so we can welcome them back and explain, in an age appropriate way; where they can play at break times, how to wear a mask correctly (Yr3-10), hand washing and sanitising, and most importantly that all the adults at school are here to help. The presentation for each age group (K-2, 3-6, 7-10) will be shared with parents late next week.

Drop off and pick up	<p>Where possible students should come to school as close as possible to 9am. This will minimise risk prior to the start of the school day.</p> <p>Preschool families will meet staff at the gate each morning/afternoon. Staff will welcome you and your child, sign your child into/out of school for the day and then help enter/exit the playground. Please rest assured that while you cannot enter the preschool we will take great care to settle them in for the day and help them gather their belongings in the afternoons.</p> <p>K-6 students will continue to use the curbside dropoff zone in the car park each morning. Please do not come onto the playground or into the buildings.</p> <p>Before school, students will be supervised in their designated K-2 and 3-6 playground area, or they can choose to sit outside their classrooms. There is an additional teacher on duty in the mornings to manage two play spaces.</p> <p>In the afternoons, teachers will walk their students to the designated area below and wait for parents/carers to arrive at the curbside pick-up zone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Red Unit - Directly outside doors of Red unit at the front of the building• Blue Unit - At end of coloured mural, external wall at end of Kindergarten• Orange Unit - Rock garden at the front of the school• Yellow Unit - At the side of the bike racks• Purple Unit - Silver seats at front entrance to the school <p>Students who walk or cycle home will be reminded to start their journey home promptly.</p> <p>7-10 students will have new pickup and drop-off spaces for both buses and parents that will be in the PBL Return to Campus lesson. Buses will collect students from the front of the school near the driveway exit gate. Cars will follow the loop through the staff car park to pull-up alongside the curb at the side of the building (see map below). The pickup zone will be clearly marked and staff on duty will assist with traffic flow while everyone is learning the new process.</p> <p>Before school, students can choose to stay in their designated 7/8 or 9/10 playground, or wait outside their first class' external door. Students will not be allowed to congregate inside the building before 9am unless it is raining.</p> <p>After school, all students will move to their pickup/exit spaces using the closest external door which, in many cases, is directly from their classroom onto the</p>
-----------------------------	--

playground. Students who walk, ride or use public transport will be encouraged to start their journey home as soon as the school day finishes.

New Car Route Map



Hygiene routines

Hand sanitiser and signage will be placed in all classrooms as well as key locations across the school so that all students have easy access. Classrooms also have a supply of disinfectant wipes for staff and Yr 5-10 students to access independently. Students will be encouraged to use the sanitiser upon entry to class as they arrive in the morning, and after each break time. Students will be given age appropriate inductions on how to maintain appropriate hygiene routines.

Preschool students are regularly reminded to wash their hands throughout the day. Before eating, all students are supervised to sanitise their hands.

There are designated bathrooms for K-2 students and for 3-6 students that can be accessed from the classroom and playground. All K-6 students are regularly reminded to wash their hands particularly after using the bathroom, eating and craft activities.

7-10 students have access to two sets of bathrooms and are encouraged to use the one closest to their classroom to minimise queues and contact with students from other cohorts.

Teaching and learning

Movement of both students and teachers between year groups will be minimised to reduce the risk of transmission across the school.

For K-6 students this will result in some changes to programs previously delivered by specialist teachers across all years; Japanese, STEM, Library and Arts/Music. Reporting and assessment will be adjusted to reflect these changes.

K-2 students will continue their Japanese and Arts/Music programs

3-6 students will continue STEM and Information Literacy (Library).

	<p>A selection of Library books will be delivered to K-2 students several times a week in their regular classrooms learning spaces.</p> <p>Year 7-10 classes are able to resume with COVID safe practices in place that minimise interactions between our 7/8 and 9/10 student groups.</p> <p>The IMP program for Year 5-10 will be suspended until further notice as students are unable to travel between campuses, wind instruments are not permitted to be played inside and the band instructor is unable to attend multiple schools in a single day.</p>
Break times	<p>On both campuses, students have designated spaces for each year group. The appropriate maps will be included in the PBL Return to Campus lesson presentations K-2, 3-6 and 7-10</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">K-2 - Area A (play equipment and grass directly behind classrooms) - Lunchtime clubs in Blue and Green units, and the Hall</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">3-6 - Area B and blacktop (play area) - Lunchtime clubs in Yellow and Orange units - Library each day at second lunch</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">7/8 - Shaded area under the trees directly behind the gym - Library Mon, Wed and Fri - Canteen open area (indoor breakout space) Tues and Thurs</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">9/10 - Shaded structures and trees next to the oval - Library Tues and Thurs - Canteen open area (indoor breakout space) Mon, Wed & Fri</p>
Before & After School Care	<p>Junior Campus students who access Before and After School Care will continue to follow the sign in/out procedures of Woden Community Services (meet staff at the external door to the hall to sign student in and out of the program).</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. If you have further questions or concerns, I encourage you to contact me.

Please be on the lookout for the email next week that will have the PBL Return to Campus lesson presentations K-2, 3-6 and 7-10 that will help students know and understand the changes we have made to school routines to be covid-safe.

We look forward to seeing all our students back at school soon.

Regards

Kate

Kate Marshall
Principal
Wanniassa School