

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 unwell will be required to go home.
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.

Masks	<p>Staff, visitors and students* in years 7-12 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 advised to wear masks as they are likely to be worn incorrectly and may present a choking hazard. 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><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>
Physical Distancing	<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>
Environmental cleaning	<p>Our school cleaning program includes regular cleaning of high touch services, frequently used objects, and play equipment.</p>
Ventilation	<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>
Managing suspected cases	<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>
Will schools have routine testing for COVID-19?	<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>
Wellbeing supports	<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.

Drop off and pick up	<p>Children will be supported and supervised as they enter and exit the school grounds each day. Parents and carers of Kindergarten to Year 6 children will not be able to come on site.</p> <p>Children will enter and exit the school via assigned gates. Maps which explain the entry/exit points are attached. Staff will be at each gate to receive the children in the morning and farewell them in the afternoon.</p> <p><u>KINDERGARTEN to YEAR 6</u> Drop-off: as close to 9am as possible Pick-up: 3pm</p> <p><u>In the morning,</u> the gates will be open from 8.30am – 9.10am. Children are asked to arrive as close to 9am as possible. The children will enter via their designated gate (see attached map) and go straight to their rooms. Yunggaballi will not be held on The River. Older siblings may enter via their younger sibling’s gate and then move directly to their own learning room. Children who arrive after 9.10am will need to enter via the ‘Late Gate’ (red gates at the front of the school).</p> <p>As children enter and leave the school grounds, they will be asked to use hand sanitiser.</p> <p><u>In the afternoon,</u> at 3pm, children will exit via their designated gate (see attached map). For ease of pickup, all older siblings will exit via the gate of the youngest child in the family. Children who attend the After and Before School Care programmes will be escorted to and from the programmes, by staff.</p> <p><u>Bike/scooter racks</u> Children (Year 1-6) who ride bikes/scooters will enter/exit via the Mabo Blvd gate near the traffic lights. The bike rack (Year 1-Year 6) will be organised into Cohort areas. Staff will assist children to park their bike/scooter in the correct Cohort area. The Cohort areas will be indicated by signs. Staff will assist Kindergarten children to store their bikes in a separate area closer to Dyinyuk building.</p> <p><u>Bus</u> Children who catch the afternoon bus, will have a designated waiting area (see attached map) and will be escorted to the bus.</p>
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	<p><u>PRESCHOOL</u> Drop -off: 9-9.30am Pick-up: 2.30-3pm Preschool parents/carers will enter via the red gates at the front of the school, following the pathway marked by coloured flags, and take their children to the preschool room. The staff will greet you at the door and take your child into the learning space. Preschool parents/carers are asked to check-in using the QR code. The same process will be used for pick-up.</p> <p>PARKING and TRAFFIC All parents/carers are asked to abide by the road signage that indicates where parking is permitted. This is particularly significant on Burnum Burnum Cl at the rear of the school. Please note that parking officers and police do frequent this area. Our key priority is the safety of the children. Children will not be released to cars that are double parked. Parents/Carers are asked to park safely and legally, and then walk to the school to collect children.</p> <p>SOCIAL DISTANCING Whilst waiting at drop off and pick-up areas, parents/carers are asked to maintain social distancing at all times.</p> <p>Please call Reception on ph 61421201 if require assistance at any time.</p>
Hygiene routines	<p>Our school has strict protocols about handwashing and hygiene. Teachers have timetabled routine handwashing throughout the day, for example, before and after eating and play. Handwashing is supervised, and ample soap and paper towel is available for the children. Additionally, children are expected, and reminded, to maintain handwashing as part of normal hygiene practices, for example, after using the toilet.</p> <p>Additionally, each Learning Group has its own containers of hand sanitiser available for the children to access. Your child is also welcome to bring a personal small bottle of hand sanitiser – please ensure it is clearly labelled with child’s name. If you do not want you child to use the school supplied hand sanitiser (eg allergy), please let your child’s teacher know.</p>
Teaching and learning	<p>When the children return, our school will operate as seven geographically separate cohorts. We are organising in this way, to keep mixing of children and staff to a minimum. The Cohorts are as follows: (See Cohort attachment for greater detail)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gungun (preschool children and staff) Dyinyuk (children and staff who are normally in this building) Mundang (children and staff who are normally in this building) Dyurra (Year 2 and Year 5 children and staff who are normally in this building) Birimbigang (Year 6 children and staff) Yuyu/Binit Binit (Year 1 and Year 2 children and staff who are normally in these buildings) Karrugang/Gurubun (Year 3 and 4 children and staff)

	<p>The regular specialist learning programmes (eg music, PE, library) will not operate in the way they did prior to 'lock down', as staff now need to remain within a Cohort. Our wonderful specialist staff will be assigned to Cohorts and the Cohort will have access to the specialty of that teacher. More details about this will be provided closer to the children's return.</p> <p>Further advice about our Year 5 and 6 Band programmes will be provided shortly.</p>
Break times	<p>Preschool children will maintain the eating and break routines that they were accustomed to prior to 'lock down'. Staff will roster outdoor play to ensure Learning Groups have separate play spaces.</p> <p>Kindergarten to Year 6 children will have two outdoor breaks per day. The Cohorts will have separate play areas and will not mix. Cohorts will be rostered for play breaks. Further information about play break times for each Cohort will be provided shortly.</p> <p>All children, as is usual practice at Neville Bonner Primary, will be supervised during their eating times and will remain seated whilst eating. Children will be supervised as they wash hands before and after eating and play.</p>
Before and After School Care	<p>Preschool children will be delivered to preschool and collected from preschool by Communities@Work staff.</p> <p>School staff will collect Kindergarten to Year 6 children, in Cohort groups, from 'Befores' and escort them to their learning areas in the morning and back to 'Afters' in the afternoon.</p> <p>Arrangements for children in the Learning Support Programme will be managed on a case by case basis.</p>
School canteens	<p>Families will be able to pre-order children's lunches from the Canteen via Flexischools as usual. Lunch orders will be delivered to each Cohort in a contactless manner.</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.

We look forward to seeing the children back at school.

Regards

Fran

Fran Dawning
Principal
15 October 2021