

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 as their children return from 18 October.



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 – Years 2 - 6.

Once students return in their designated week will discontinue Learning from Home.



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.

Our school will operate two separate cohort bubbles – K – 2 and 3 – 6. Students and staff will not leave their designated site for any school activities. Staff working over both sites have been assigned one site to work from for the remainder of the year.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP:

We ask that parents, wherever possible, drop their children to school as close to 9.00am as possible.

Pick up will be earlier for some grades to minimise student and parent numbers at gates waiting to collect their children. Please remember to follow all physical distancing guidelines as set out by the Public Health Orders. Arrangements are as follows:

Support Unit classes: Students will be finishing at 2.30pm. Parents will be able to collect their children from the internal Unit gates. Students from the unit who attend PEAK or go home via bus or taxi will do so at the normal finishing time.

Kindergarten: Students will be picked up at 2.45pm from the lower gate in Plunkett Street. Teachers will deliver students to the gate for parents to collect.

Years 1 and 2: these students will finish at the regular time and students being picked up will be collected from the Osborne St gate only. Teachers will have students lined up in class groups and will hand students over to parents at the gate.

Years 3 – 6: Students walking will leave via the Berry St gate promptly at 3.00pm and be accompanied to the lights (As per current safety procedures).

Students being picked up will only be able to be collected from the Berry St gate. Students will be lined up in year groupings and teachers will bring them to the gate when parents arrive. We ask that parents stay in their cars wherever possible.

Bus: for all students on both sites catching buses they will line up in their relevant line to wait for their bus. Current procedures for putting students on buses will apply.

BREAK TIMES:

Students will have staggered breaks across both sites to adhere to the cohort groups we have developed. Break times are as follows:

BREAK 1		
11.00 – 11.35am	Kinder	Years 3 and 4 (in different playgrounds)
11.25am – 12.00pm	Years 1 and 2 (in different playgrounds)	Years 5 and 6 (in different playgrounds)
	Unit classes will align with other grades and use their playground	
BREAK 2		
1.00 – 1.35pm	Kinder	Years 3 and 4 (in different playgrounds)
1.25 – 2.00pm	Years 1 and 2 (in different playgrounds)	Years 5 and 6 (in different playgrounds)
	Unit classes will align with other grades and use their playground	

Canteen: *The school canteen will return to normal operations from Tuesday 26 October. A reduced menu will operate. Students in Years 3 – 6 will still be able to purchase during breaks but will do so in Year groupings and need to physically distance as they line up.*

Library: the library is closed for all students as we return to school. It will only be reopened when all students are allowed to use it.

Uniform Shop: The uniform shop will only be able to operate online. Orders will be delivered to students each week.



Mask wearing for students and staff

Masks are required to be worn on school site by staff indoors and strongly recommended for students indoors as well.

We have a small number of masks available for students to wear. It is expected that students bring and wear their own masks to school, if you choose for your child to wear one.

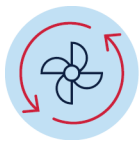
We continue to have and use hand sanitiser and disinfectant wipes in all classrooms and areas of the school.



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.

All canteen staff and P&C Uniform Shop volunteers are also required to be fully vaccinated from 18 October. NSW Health recommends that children aged 12 and over be vaccinated as well. There are numerous clinics and medical centres offering vaccines.



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.

Windows in all areas of the classroom have been checked to ensure that they open safely. Any that aren't open are being repaired to ensure we can provide adequate ventilation in every classroom.



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.

Our annual Presentation Day assembly will be conducted virtually, unless restrictions ease. The Year 6 farewell and graduation will also be held virtually.



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.

If we do need to cease operations due to a positive case at school we will communicate this to parents through our FaceBook page and Seesaw and Skoolbag apps. Please ensure you have access to these platforms to stay informed.



Preschool and out of school hours care

PEAK will continue to operate during Term 4. Staff are required to follow the same COVID safe plan as the school and all staff need to be fully vaccinated by 8 November. Drop off and pick up of students continue to be on the southern side of the hall via the ramp. Please follow their requirements for checking in to the school using their QR code.



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.

We will be holding a virtual parent information session and conducting interviews with parents and new students via video conferencing. More information will be provided to parents in the coming weeks.