



## Strathfield South Public School Return to Face-to-Face Learning

# What you need to know about our return to school in Term 4



I hope you are all back into the swing of learning from home for the beginning of Term 4. This term will see a lot of changes as we gradually transition back to face-to-face learning as the Premier announced in the adjusted return to school plan last week.

We are now moving from our Level 4 status to Level 3 plus. This means we will now be returning to school in a staged way. 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.

Below are the key dates and details to help prepare you and your family for the return, including some changes in the staged return to school.

### Return to school roadmap



#### 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, Year 1
- from 25 October – Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

The return to school roadmap is subject to change depending on advice from NSW Health. You can stay up to date with the most recent information on our [Advice for families page](#).

For those families who have siblings across year groups, I know it will be difficult to keep some at home while others are back at school. But to re-iterate the message above – we need this time to prepare our school and staff for having all our students back, so it's essential that you only send your children to school in line with our set plan.



## 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.

Stage groups will be kept to separate areas during recess and lunch periods. Students will be scheduled to use the bathrooms at certain times, with cleaning to take place between cohort times. Canteen visits will also be staggered to ensure cohorts do not intermingle.

### Students arrive at school from 8:30am onwards.

### Students will depart the school at staggered times from 2:30pm.

From **18 October Kindergarten and Year 1** will return to face-to-face learning. When students arrive at school they will be directed to go straight to their classroom where their teacher will be waiting from 8:30am. At the end of the day, students will begin to practice their Covid Safe exit plan.

### Kindergarten will exit via High Street at 2:40pm. Year 1 will exit via High Street at 2:50pm.

We ask parents to practice social distancing, wear a mask, QR check-in upon entering the school and follow instructions from staff to ensure our Covid Safe exit plans run smoothly.

At the High Street exit, we will be continuing to practice the exit strategy that was put in place before the end of Term 2. This means, parents/carers may enter the property and wait in the designated areas (grassed spaces) until they collect their child and then exit down the pathway.

We ask that you follow the map that will be sent home shortly and respect the staff's authority to direct you on and off the property. All plans are put in place to ensure the safety of students, staff and parents.

### From 25 October Years 2-6 will return to face-to-face learning.

Students may arrive at school and enter through any gate.

When students arrive at school, teachers will direct them to walk straight to their classroom.

Teachers will have prepared some activities for children to engage in before the school bell rings at 8:55am.

This 'wet weather' style plan is to minimize intermingling between cohorts and ensure Covid Safe entry to school.

For parents dropping Kindergarten and Year 1 students at High Street entrance next week, they may enter the property after **QR check-in** and walk their child up the path but no further than the end of the grassed area.

This will be cordoned off and no parents are permitted to enter the school grounds beyond this perimeter. We have enabled this walk up the path to soften the 'goodbye' time for our returning students.

## End of school day departure plans

**Kindergarten and Stage 3 departure time will be 2:40pm.**

**Stage 3** continue to depart via the top Telopea Avenue gate.

**Kindergarten** will depart via the High Street exit.

While waiting outside or inside the school, please adhere to social distancing practices and always wear a mask. If you enter the school grounds you must check-in using the QR code.

**Year 1, Year 2 and Stage 2 (years 3 and 4) departure time will be 3pm.**

**Year 1** students will depart via the High Street exit.

**Year 2** students will depart via the bottom Telopea Avenue exit.

**Stage 2 (years 3 & 4)** will depart via the middle Telopea Avenue double gates.

Gates will be closed and locked at 3:10pm. All students who have not been collected will be waiting at the office. Parents must pick up from Telopea Ave top gate after 3:10pm.

## Sibling Cohort

We will be trialling **sibling cohorts** to meet in a designated area and then leave together to avoid delays in pick-ups and confusion at gates when parents may be waiting at the wrong gate.

Please communicate to your children (siblings) from which gate you prefer they exit. The sibling exit time will be at 2:40pm. Students will exit through the preferred gate:- top Telopea Ave, middle Telopea Ave, bottom Telopea Ave, High Street.



## Mask wearing for students and staff

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

Please send your child with a mask and a spare in their bag. We'll have some on site too.

We have a graphic from NSW Health on how to fit a mask properly – please have this conversation with your child.

While masks are not required in the Public Health Order for our primary students they are strongly recommended by NSW Health and the department has taken the decision that they are required as an important layer of protection for our staff – particularly while younger students are not yet vaccinated.

There are some exemptions around mask wearing – eating and exercising being the key times. Please have

a look at the NSW Government website for the full list of exemptions. <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/changes/face-mask-rules>

# Tips on wearing a mask



Children can wear small cloth or surgical masks when leaving home, including going to school



You can remove your mask when eating or exercising



Try not to touch your face while wearing your mask



Wash and dry reusable masks after use and store in a clean, dry place



Use a clean mask every day. Do not reuse single-use masks

Wash or sanitise your hands before putting on or taking off your mask

## How to wear a mask



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**1** Ensure the mask covers your nose and mouth and fits snugly under your chin, over the bridge of your nose and against the sides of your face

## How to wear a mask



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**2** Make sure the ear loops are firmly in place

## How to wear a mask



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**3** Fold the metal strip in the mask around your nose so it stays in place

## How to wear a mask



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**4** Try not to touch your face while wearing your mask



## 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.

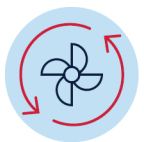
This includes school canteen staff and external providers such as the speech and occupational therapists.

## Students aged 12 years and over eligible for the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines

NSW Health are urging all students 12 and over to get vaccinated with the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible before returning to school.

There is currently sufficient supply of the Moderna vaccine to community pharmacies and the Pfizer vaccine to General Practitioners. Bookings can be made via the [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#). Depending on location, bookings are available within the next few days.

COVID-19 vaccination is the best protection against severe illness and also reduces the risk of spreading COVID-19 to others. Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 now will help to protect both you, your family and 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.

The department's audit of our school's readiness to return and ensure classrooms are well-ventilation has provided a clear plan for preparing our spaces for learning in a safe and managed way.

At all opportunities, classes will use outdoor learning where appropriate and all classrooms will exercise cross-ventilation practices.

The COVID safe school operations audit and the guided use of spaces report, details the number of people who can be accommodated safely in each of the identified spaces.

Signs will be placed to refer to this requirement in each learning space.



## 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.

Sport at school will continue in classes and year cohorts and equipment will be sanitized after use.

We continue to plan for end of year celebrations and excursions in a cautious way, preparing a variety of optional alternatives.

There will be more about this to come later in the term.



## 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.



## 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.

Currently our kindergarten orientation and high school transition programs will be virtual and Zoom will be the platform we will be using for most of these events. We'll share more information in the coming weeks about our school's virtual orientation and transition program.

## Wellbeing resources for students and families

Please take some time to check out our [wellbeing resources for students and families](#). You'll find useful tools for mental health and wellbeing. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can do anything to help you and your children to prepare for the return to face-to-face learning or if you have any concerns about the return to school.

Thank you again for your continued support during what has already been a fast-moving school term.

Mrs Karen Mortimer  
Principal

Mrs Belinda Hamilton  
Deputy Principal



# Community Conversation The Back to School Chat

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**Thursday 14 October @ 7pm**

Please join us to have an informal chat about our  
return to school plan and catch-up with each other!

Click [here](#) to register!  
Click [here](#) for the zoom link

