



Dear Weetangera families,

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.

<b>Commencing</b> <b>Monday, 25 October</b> <b>(Week 4)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preschool and kindergarten</li> <li>• Years 1 and 2</li> <li>• Year 6</li> <li>• Out of school hours care (OSHC)</li> </ul>
<b>Commencing</b> <b>Monday, 1 November</b> <b>(Week 5)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Years 3, 4 and 5</li> </ul>
<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.

<b>Use of Check in CBR app</b>	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.
<b>Student illness</b>	Staff and students who are unwell are not able to attend school. Students who present unwell will be required to go home.
<b>Hygiene</b>	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.
<b>Masks</b>	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 who do not to wear masks.
<b>Physical Distancing</b>	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 will be adjusting some learning programs, breaktimes, aspects of the timetable as well as arrangements for pick up and drop off. Specific information about what this means for each year level will be advised next week in the Learning Hub for remote learning.



<b>Environmental cleaning</b>	Our school cleaning program includes regular cleaning of high touch areas indoors, commonly used areas, toilets, frequently used objects, and play equipment.
<b>Ventilation</b>	WPS has been assessed as to how we can increase fresh air circulation, and this involves ensuring windows are opened, ventilation systems are in working order and maximising the use of outdoor learning spaces throughout the day.
<b>Managing suspected cases</b>	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.
<b>Will schools have routine testing for COVID-19?</b>	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.
<b>Wellbeing supports</b>	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.  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.

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

<b>Drop off and pick up areas for before and after school.</b>	<b>Parents are encouraged to drop off their child/ren as close to 9am as possible and collect them at 3pm.</b> The gathering points for students arriving and departing school will be included in the year level information on the Learning Hub. <b>Please note:</b> Students will not be allowed to play on the outdoor equipment prior to the beginning of the school day.
<b>Hygiene routines</b>	Hand sanitiser will be available for all students upon entering the units from the playground throughout the day. Teachers will be reminding all students to wash and sanitise hands before and after eating, bathroom breaks and after recess and lunch.
<b>Teaching and learning</b>	Students will remain in their year level cohorts for all of their learning time at school. Extracurricular activities will not be occurring at this time to comply with the latest ACT government guidelines.
<b>Break times</b>	Weetangera Primary School will be staggering break times for recess and lunch and adjusting access to playground areas for each cohort.
<b>Before and After School Care</b>	The YMCA OSHC will be providing updated information regarding how to access the school each morning and afternoon.
<b>School Canteens</b>	The Weetangera Primary School Canteen will operate on the basis of online pre-orders only. All orders must be made through Flexischools (including recess) as no over the counter cash payments can be accepted.

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 all our students back at school.

Regards



Julie Cooper  
Principal  
Weetangera Primary School

Friday, 15 October 2021