

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 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><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.

<p>Drop off and pick up</p>	<p><u>In the morning:</u> Where possible students should be dropped off at the “Kiss and Go” zone on Astrolabe Street.</p> <p>We ask that parents and carers do not enter the school grounds. We also ask that students arrive at school no earlier than 8.50am. This is so we can minimise students mingling on the playground and teachers can prepare for classes. Before school care is available for families who require support before 8.50am.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preschool students will be dropped off by parents at the preschool Breezeway entrance (Red Hill Campus) or the main gate (Griffith Campus). • Kindergarten students will enter the school via the front office and go straight to the kindergarten corridor. • Students in years one to two will enter through the Breezeway as usual where an executive teacher will be present to direct them to their year level areas. • Students in year three will enter the black gates at the bike rack area and proceed upstairs to the year three area. • Year four students will enter the blue gates on Astrolabe Street and proceed directly into the junior hall. • Senior students (5 and 6) will enter the school through the lower black gates and go directly to their year level areas. • Students will be supervised in the year level shared spaces before school. <p><u>In the afternoon:</u> Where possible students should be collected without parents and carers leaving their car.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kindergarten students can be collected from the usual pick-up point (the concrete area outside the front office) at 3.00pm. Kindergarten parents may pull up in their car at the car park crossing to collect their children. We request that other parents not use the school car park between 3pm and 3.15pm to ensure children’s safety and to facilitate this process. • Year 1 students can be collected from the ‘Kiss and Go’ area on Astrolabe Street between 3.00pm and 3.10pm. • Year 2 students can be collected from the ‘Kiss and Go’ area on Astrolabe Street between 3.10pm and 3.20pm. • All other students should exit the school through their designated entry/exit points. They can be collected from the “Kiss and Go’ area from 3.20pm onwards. Siblings can be collected together at the latest pick-up time. For example, if you have students in grade one and grade four please collect them at the “Kiss and Go’ area after 3.20pm A teacher will also be on duty at the front of the school as usual to supervise bus pick-ups and late collections (3.00pm to 3.40pm). • We also encourage students to use the school bus services. • Please refer to the attached maps.
<p>Hygiene routines</p>	<p>Hand sanitiser is located in every classroom and shared space across the school.</p> <p>Students and staff will be required to wash their hands whenever they enter their classroom or transition to a different space e.g. when going to the playground (or use</p>

	<p>hand sanitiser where handwashing is not practical e.g. to avoid overcrowding in bathrooms).</p> <p>Toilet areas will be allocated to designated year levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kindergarten and year one: Lower junior block • Years 2 and 3: Upper junior block • Year 4: Senior Hall • Years 5 and 6: Senior block
<p>Teaching and learning</p>	<p>In order to minimise the mixing of year levels in the school and limit the risk of Covid infection the following changes have been made to our timetable and programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each year level will have a dedicated specialist teacher allocated to provide classroom teachers with planning release and continue to give students a balanced curriculum. (Unfortunately, this may mean that students will not have access to all specialist subjects for the rest of this term.) • Where practical specialist lessons will take place in the students' usual classrooms rather than specialist spaces. • School band and choir lessons will take place outdoors. • Special events such as Band and Wassa Wassa performances will be 'live streamed'. • Multi-age programs such as Assemblies and the RHIPP program will not operate this term. • The school library will be closed for browsing. However, students can continue to borrow library books using the current system. Library books will be delivered in a contactless manner to the students' classrooms. <p>More details related to this information will be posted on SeeSaw next Tuesday 19th October.</p>
<p>Break times</p>	<p>Recess and lunch breaks will be staggered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students in the junior school (kindergarten to year three) will play at separate times to students in the senior school (years four to six). • Each year level will have a daily designated play area e.g., year six students on the oval, year five students on the handball courts and year four students on the oval play equipment. Teachers will be on duty to ensure students remain in each of these areas and do not mingle with students in other year levels. • Each year level will have a designated entry/exit to the school buildings. <p>More details will be posted on SeeSaw next Tuesday 19th October.</p>
<p>Before and After School Care</p>	<p>Woden Community Services staff will escort kindergarten students to their classrooms at 9am each morning. All other students will make their own way to their classrooms at 9am, using the designated entry/exit points.</p> <p>WCS staff will also collect kindergarten students from their classrooms at 3pm. All other students should make their way to the Junior or Senior Hall at 3.15pm using the designated entry/exit points.</p>
<p>School canteens</p>	<p>Healthy Kids Association will be opening the school canteen for lunches only.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch orders can be placed by 8am each day as usual on Flexischools and will be delivered to students' classrooms using a contactless method.

School Uniform Shop	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Over the counter service won't be available for the rest of this term. <p>School uniform can be ordered on Flexischools as usual.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Orders will be collated and sent home with students when ready.• On site purchases won't be available this term.
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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.

My regards,

Louise Owens (Principal)

Red Hill School