

20 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are excited about the staged return to on-campus learning for students and staff occurring on Monday 25 October (Kindergarten, years 1, 2, 6, 9 and 10) and Monday 1 November (years 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8). As we have communicated, we are implementing a number of measures to facilitate the safe return to school of students and staff. A number of these were outlined in our communication on Friday 15 October. This information can also be found on the school's English and French websites through the COVID Information links (French [Covid Information - Telopea Park School - French](#), English [COVID-19 safety at our school - Telopea Park School](#)).

Below is additional information to keep you informed and give you perspective on modifications to practice we are undertaking.

### Start Times

We appreciate that the staggered return of students will cause some difficulties for families who are supporting and managing the learning for children in different year levels. Unfortunately, we have not been able to stagger start times in the morning. We understand that during week 4 this may present confliction priorities. If you need to drop children at school late due to supporting online learning check-ins of their siblings at home, we understand. Any student arriving late will need to sign in at main the front office before going to class.

### Timetables

Week 4

- Primary
  - As Kindergarten, years 1, 2, and 6 are returning to face-to-face learning, they will follow the pre-remote online learning timetables for their class (with modifications to support cohorting).
  - For year 3, 4 and 5 classes, the remote learning timetables will remain in place.
- Secondary
  - All secondary students will revert to their pre-remote online learning timetables whether they return to face-to-face teaching or not.

From week 5, the whole school will follow their usual, pre-remote online learning timetables.

### Cohorting

Where possible, the school is identifying cohorts of students and teachers who will work together. This is in an effort to minimize mixing of different year levels and reduce the impact if there is an exposure at the school. This has meant making changes to things like the specialist learning programs within our primary school, identifying specific playground spaces for different year levels, adjusting playground duty rosters and adjusting staff room and front office staffing compositions. Within the secondary school, cohorting has been more difficult. Students will continue with their regular learning programs and one way travel

routes have been identified for movement around the school to minimise congregation in indoor locations. Other cohorting information was outlined in the communication sent 15 October and below is some specific information.

Students bring water bottles	All students bring their own drink bottle, drink bottles can be refilled at refill stations. Bubblers will be locked.	
Devices	All students bring back their device, charger and/or dongle if these items were borrowed	
Shared equipment E.g. desktop computers, workshop machinery, science equipment.	Sanitising wipes available from teachers where necessary Additional touch point cleaners have been employed	
Bike compounds	Students to place bikes in Primary bike compound following social distancing requirements	7 use rack in front of school. 8 use bike compound end of 3 storey building or bike racks at the front of school 9/10 use bike compound near entrance to Design area All students should bring their own locks to secure their bikes in the compound or front of school

### Ventilation and Air Quality

The ACT Education Directorate have been working with ACT Health and individual schools to implement strategies to improve ventilation when students return. We have implemented an ‘open door’ procedure and have ensured windows are able to be opened to increase fresh air movement through classrooms and corridors. We continue to work with the Education Directorate for solutions to potential future concerns with ventilation as the weather warms up while maintaining thermal comfort for students and staff. At this point in time, ACT Health have not recommended the installation and use of air purifiers with HEPA filters, so these will not be used at the school. If advice regarding this changes, we will adjust accordingly.

### Masks

As identified in earlier communication, masks are required to be worn by all adults and students in years 7-10 when onsite. Students in K-6 are not required to wear masks, however students in years 3-6 are welcome to wear masks. For disposable masks, we have set up mask refreshing stations around the school to enable students to replace masks within the 4 hour time window and safely dispose of their used masks. Sanitiser is available at these stations. We are encouraging students to wear cloth masks as an alternative to disposable masks.

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It is worth noting that some students and staff may have exemptions from wearing masks. These staff and students will be asked to wear a wrist band to identify them in an attempt to minimise being asked about not wearing a mask.

### **Mandatory Vaccinations**

As foreshadowed last week, there has been a public health direction mandating COVID-19 vaccinations for workers in:

- schools that cater for children under 12 (preschool to year 6 schools)
- specialist schools
- flexible learning programs, and
- early childhood education and care services (including out of school hours care).

This mandate applies to staff at Telopea Park School.

### **Potential Exposure**

While there are community and school restrictions and modifications being implemented to reduce the spread of COVID, if there is a COVID exposure at the school we will work with ACT Health and the Education Directorate to identify the extent of the risk and provide information to our community.

Regards,

Jason Holmes  
Principal

David Binan  
Proviseur