



YARRALUMLA PRIMARY SCHOOL
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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.

Drop off and pick up	<p>Transitions at the beginning and end of each day</p> <p>The ACT Health Guidelines state that parents or carers must not enter school sites or come onto school grounds to drop off or collect children except in the case of an emergency or to provide necessary supports for a child or young person with additional needs which should be negotiated with the Principal in advance.</p> <p>We are asking adults to remain in their cars for pick up and drop off where possible. We know some children will struggle with transitioning back to school, our friendly staff will support you if needed.</p> <p>We are asking all families using the pickup zone to write their child's name on a piece of paper and stick it to the passenger side window. This will assist us to locate your child and direct them to the car efficiently. Please be patient, this process will take us some time.</p> <p>Riding and Walking to School</p> <p>Where this is safely possible, we encourage you to walk or ride to school to ease the congestion on the car parks.</p> <p>Drop off / Pick up for students in years K - 6</p> <p>We ask that K-6 parents drop children off as close to 9am as possible and pick up as close to 3pm as possible and use the same entry / exit point each day if practical. Parents of K-6 students are reminded to stay in their cars.</p> <p>At drop off, students exit their vehicles with their bags and go to the assigned waiting area where there will be a teacher to support them. When the bell goes, students will be escorted inside by the assigned teachers and taken to their classrooms.</p> <p>In the afternoon classroom teachers will take their students to their designated pick-up zone.</p> <p>Drop off / Pick up for students in Preschool</p> <p>For preschool students we ask you drop off and pick up as close to 8:45am and 2:45pm as possible. Parents can escort their children to the relevant gates as marked where they will be met by a member of staff. We kindly request you do not enter the EC outdoor learning environment.</p> <p>Drop off / Pick up for students in Montessori</p> <p>For Montessori students we ask you drop off and pick up as close to their regular start and finish times as possible. Parents can escort their children to the relevant gates as marked where they will be met by a member of staff. We kindly request you do not enter the EC outdoor learning environment.</p> <p>To support drop and pick up we will have separate entry / exit points as marked on the map below. A staff member will be on duty at each entry / exit point as well as supervising lining up areas. Designated lining up areas for each year level will be</p>
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spread out and clearly marked. Entry and exit doors have been allocated for each year level.

Designated Drop off and Pick up areas	
Preschool	Gate off Loftus Street (Orange mapped area)
Montessori	Gate off back carpark (Purple mapped area)
Kindergarten / Year 1 / Year 2	Dropped off in circular driveway (Blue mapped area) to be supervised under COLA Year 2 students will be supervised at Softfall outside the library
Year 3/4	Dropped off / Picked up in dirt carpark to be supervised on the Basketball court (Red mapped area)
Year 5/6	Dropped off / Picked up at the dirt carpark to be supervised on the Basketball Courts (Red mapped area)
LSUA Perla	Dropped off / Picked up Circular Driveway. An LSA will be waiting for you.
Pick up of Siblings	If you have a child K-2 that has a sibling in 3-6 families are to collect from the circular driveway



Students arriving late to school

If your child is late arriving to the school, they should go directly to their classrooms and will be signed in by teaching staff. If you will be late to pick up your child/ren please email your classroom teachers.

Hygiene routines

Staff and students will undertake hand hygiene regularly, particularly on arrival and before and after eating. Hand sanitiser located in every classroom and at entry

points to the school. Hand washing posters are located at each wash basin and hand washing will happen in a very organised way with students taken to the bathrooms after each break if there is not a wash basin in their classrooms.

Children will be asked to wash hands or sanitise at the following times:

- On entry to classroom - 9am and after breaks;
- before and after eating;
- before and after going to the bathroom; and
- exiting classroom at any time including for breaks and at 3pm.

Children will use designated bathrooms as follows:

- Preschool – preschool toilets.
- Montessori – Montessori toilets
- K-1 Gambarri toilets
- Year 2 – Library airlock toilets
- Year 3 /4 - Main building toilets
- Year 5/6 - Hall corridor toilets

Practice this routine with your child before they return:



Teaching and learning

Our teachers and learning support staff are assigned to our 5 cohort bubbles: Preschool / Montessori, Kindergarten / Year 1, Years 2, Year 3-4 and 5/6 / LSUA Perla. We have a timetable in place to ensure staff and students do not physically cross over.

In the first week back, our teachers will prioritise re-establishing routines and expectations, building relationships and collaboration.

What adjustments to our specialist teaching programs will occur?

Our specialist teachers will work across their assigned cohort bubble. Some cohorts

may miss music for this reason. Our classroom teachers will continue to integrate the curriculum where possible. Specialist subjects will be taught in classrooms or in outdoor learning spaces. For the remainder of term four specialist subjects will be taught as follows:

Specialist Program Teachers	
Preschool	Claire
Montessori	Claire
Kindergarten	maestra Jan
Year 1	Signora Sayers
Year 2	maestra Kirsty
Year 3/4	maestra Kirsty and maestra Stacey
Year 5/6	maestro Ajay
LSUA Perla	maestra Kirsty

We will utilise our outdoor learning spaces throughout the day so please ensure students are sent with their sun safe hats. Our Year 5 and 6 bands will continue; however, these will take place outdoors.

Our Yarralumla Assemblies will be recorded and uploaded to your child's Google classroom. Merit certificates will be handed out during class time.

We unfortunately advise that all planned excursions and camps have been cancelled.

Break times

All students will need to bring a labelled drink bottle as bubblers are not in use.

Our school break times will remain the same however children will have designated play spaces to enable them to remain in their cohort bubble. This will be explained to children and reminders given. Play equipment will be cleaned before each outdoor break time. These areas will be supervised by their cohort bubble teachers.

Designated zones in the playground	
Preschool / Montessori	EC fenced outdoor environment (Orange mapped area)
Kindergarten / Year 1	COLA and Junior play equipment (Blue mapped area)
Year 2	Internal netball court and front fenced area (Red mapped area)
Year 3 / 4	Basketball court and bottom play equipment (Green fenced area)
Year 5 / 6	Oval and Senior play equipment (Purple mapped area)
LSUA Perla outdoor space is open for students who require this space	
K/1 and Year 2 will rotate play areas for recess and lunch	
3/4 and 5/6 will rotate play areas for recess and lunch	

	
<p>Before and After School Care</p>	<p>Our onsite Before and After school care providers will continue to follow the Organisation's COVID Response Plan as well as adhere to ACT Health requirements. All adults on site are required to use the school's check in code each time.</p> <p>Aeonacademy</p> <p>Before School Care: Students are to be dropped off at the front gated area on Loftus Street. Parents are asked to call the Aeonacademy mobile number, and a staff member will come out to pick up the student.</p> <p>After school Care: Preschool and Montessori students will be collected from the classroom by an Aeonacademy staff member. Our Kindergarten students will be collected by another Aeonacademy staff member who will walk students to the hall. All other students will walk to the hall and be checked in by Aeonacademy staff. At pickup, parents are asked to call the Aeonacademy mobile number, and a staff member will come out and drop off the student.</p> <p>YWCA</p> <p>Afterschool Care: Students K-6 walk from the classroom to the YWCA building. On Pickup, Parents are asked to call the YWCA mobile number and a staff member will come out and drop off the student.</p>
<p>School canteens</p>	<p>Yarralumla Primary School does not operate a school canteen. The flexi schools Friday lunch ordering will not operate in term 4.</p>

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.

Yours sincerely,

Rohan Evans

Yarralumla Primary School

15 October 2021