

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 3 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	Attached to this email is specific information relating to drop off and pick up procedures. You will notice specific entry and exit points for education and care services, preschool and K-2 children. We ask that all families read this documentation carefully and follow all guidelines.
Hygiene routines	Hand sanitiser will be located at each entry point across the school. Each classroom will also have access to hand sanitiser as well as soap and water. All children will be asked to use hand sanitiser or wash hands with soap and water when entering the school grounds and before and after break times, eating and using the bathrooms. Our educators will supervisor hand washing procedures and explicitly teach all children the correct hand washing procedures.
Teaching and learning	<p>The first week of our return to school will focus on children’s wellbeing and re-establishing social connections, relationships with adults and school routines. We will also be ensuring that children are explicitly taught hygiene procedures including washing hands and using hand sanitiser. Our learning program will be heavily focused on essential skills in literacy and numeracy. Teachers will maximise opportunities for outdoor learning making use of our wonderful outdoor learning spaces including writing garden and adventure playground.</p> <p>In Week 4, our teachers will provide you with an overview of learning that will be delivered for the remainder of the term. This will be emailed and provided on SeeSaw. We will continue to focus on opportunities for play and inquiry learning across the school day.</p> <p>Our preschool, kindergarten and years 1/2 cohorts will be kept separate from 9.00am - 3.00pm and will learn and play from their respective buildings. Our specialist program will continue to be provided with years 1/2 accessing these programs on Tuesday and kindergarten on Thursday. Children in each cohort will be assigned one day a week to access the library. These shared spaces will be cleaned each day and only one cohort of children will be allowed access to these spaces on their given day. Our specialist staff will work with preschool children in the preschool rooms on Wednesdays. Library books can still be borrowed and will be cleaned on return to school.</p> <p>Whole school gatherings, our school choir and excursions will be paused for the remainder of the year. Some of our breaktime clubs will continue to be provided outdoors only.</p>
Break times	Our school break times for K-2 children will remain unchanged. However, kindergarten and years 1/2 children will access different areas of the playground each week. This information will be clearly articulated to children each day and staff on playground support will monitor and redirect children as required.

	Preschool children will continue with their regular preschool routine in the preschool grounds.
Before and After School Care	Our before and after school care program will run from Building 8 (please refer to map included in Pick Up and Drop Off Procedures document). We are currently working with the Directorate to review the ventilation system in the school hall.
School canteens	The Communities@Work kitchen located within the school hall will continue to operate for lunch orders only. Parents/carers will not be permitted to enter the school grounds for the purpose of ordering lunches. Children are asked to bring lunch orders to school in a brown paper bag clearly labelled with the children's name and class and lunch order. Where possible, please provide exact money. If required, change will be returned in a zip lock plastic bag.

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,



Simon Barker
Principal
Isabella Plains Early Childhood School