

Friday 6 May 2022

Dear parents and carers,

It has been wonderful to welcome our students and families back for a new school term. Students have immersed themselves in learning and are continuing to follow our COVID Smart practices.

I am pleased to let you know that from Monday 9 May 2022, ACT public schools will further relax COVID-19 restrictions. All public schools will adopt recent changes to ACT public health directions and follow a [COVID-19 Management Plan](#), based on Australian Health Protection Principal Committee principles.

Visitors on-site and cohorting

- Families will be allowed back on campus to participate in a greater range of activities, including after-hours performances, fund raisers and events. You can also come onto school grounds for drop-offs and pick-up. Checking-in with the *Check In CBR* app is no longer required.
- Parents and carers can only enter school classrooms or indoor settings with an appointment. Parents and carers can make these arrangements by contacting their child's teacher or the front office.
- Strict student cohorting is no longer required, however we will continue to manage school activities in COVID-smart ways.

School entry and exit points remain the same for all students, except Year 7-10; please see the attached map. We are continuing these arrangements as carpark congestion has reduced since these measures have been in place, increasing safety for our students and community.

There have been some changes to morning and afternoon meeting locations.

- **Morning:**
 - Preschool - no change to current arrangements
 - Kindergarten to Year 4 - meet in the Central Courtyard next to the library. Each class is allocated a number, and this will be communicated by your child's teacher.
 - Year 5/6 - meet in the Middle School Square.
 - Year 7 to 10 - meet in the PATS courtyard, green hill, or square grassed area opposite the bike rack.
- **Afternoon:**
 - Preschool - no change to the current arrangements
 - Kindergarten and 1/2 - meet at designated areas outside classrooms. This will be communicated by your child's teacher.
 - Years 3 to 6 - no change to the current arrangements
 - Years 7 to 10 students may exit from any of the designated high school exits.

Sibling pick-up has changed

- Younger siblings (not including preschool) can be collected from the designated areas outside their classrooms. Please email your younger child/ren's teacher to advise of collection arrangements if you are consenting to an older sibling collecting them. Please remind your older child of the change in pick-up arrangements.

Masks

- Students are no longer required to wear a face mask at school but can continue to do so if they choose to.
- School staff and teachers will continue to wear masks when moving around indoors on school sites, and when physical distancing of 1.5 metres cannot be maintained. Masks can be removed when teaching, when physical distancing can be maintained, when outdoors, or when eating and drinking.

Household contacts

- People who live with someone who has tested positive to COVID-19 can attend school for work or study, if they have met ACT Health's [risk mitigation requirements for household contacts](#).
- Anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms must not come to school.

COVID-19 vaccination

- With high vaccination rates across the Canberra community, COVID-19 vaccination will no longer be mandated for any staff working in ACT public schools, after 13 May 2022.
- Vaccination against COVID-19 and the seasonal flu is strongly encouraged for all staff and eligible students.

Rapid antigen tests

- Rapid antigen tests (RATs) will continue to be available at our school and will be provided to staff and students on an as-needed basis, or in response to increased cases reported to a school.
- If your child requires a RAT, please fill in this [online form](#).

Air quality and ventilation

- Good ventilation will continue to be one part of our suite of measures to minimise COVID-19 transmission in schools. Our indoor air quality plan is being reviewed and we will balance thermal comfort and ventilation during the colder months. Outdoor learning and natural ventilation will be used where appropriate depending on weather.

The ACT Government is supporting all ACT public schools to hold two staff planning days during term 2. Where possible, we ask that students **do not** attend school on these days.

- These days will provide public school teachers with the time to complete student reporting and other planning.
- Our school will hold staff planning days on:
 - **Friday 3 June 2022 (week 6), and**
 - **Friday 24 June 2022 (week 9)**
- Where possible, we ask that students do not attend school on these days. Students who can't stay at home will be able to attend school and be supervised while undertaking general learning activities.
- Please confirm via this [online form](#) if your child will be attending school on these days to help us plan alternate arrangements under the supervision of relief staff.

Semester 1 student reports

- With the middle of the school year fast approaching our teachers will soon be preparing student reports for semester 1. On the advice of the Education Directorate, this semester we will be providing students with an overall A-E grade, and an assessment of achievement standard statements on a 5-point scale.

- While semester 1 reports won't include detailed teacher comments, parents are encouraged to speak directly with their child's teacher(s) if they have any questions or concerns about their progress at interviews that will be scheduled for Week 10 of Term 2. Our teachers will also continue to communicate directly with you when there are any concerns about student learning or other classroom updates.

Staying COVID Smart

- While these changes will bring back many of the school activities that students and families love, this does not mean the pandemic is over. Our school will continue with COVID Smart measures to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission onsite, including good hygiene practise, cleaning, and staying home when unwell.
- Some restrictions may be reintroduced in the winter months if there is a significant increase in COVID-19 cases across the Canberra community.
- We expect COVID-19 will also continue to impact our school staff and limit the availability of teachers at times. Where appropriate, our school may use temporary remote learning periods as a way to manage a local staff shortage.
- More information about how COVID-19 is being managed in ACT public schools can be found on the [ACT Education website](#).

Kind Regards,
Andy Mison
Executive Principal