

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.

<b>Commencing 25 October (Week 4)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early childhood centres (ECEC)</li> <li>• Preschool and kindergarten</li> <li>• Years 1 and 2</li> <li>• Year 6</li> <li>• Years 9 and 10</li> <li>• Out of school hours care (OSHC)</li> </ul>
<b>Commencing 1 November (Week 5)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Years 3, 4 and 5</li> <li>• Years 7 and 8</li> </ul>
<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.

<b>Use of Check in CBR app</b>	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.
<b>Student illness</b>	Staff and students who are unwell are not able to attend school. Students who present unwell will be required to go home.
<b>Hygiene</b>	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.

<b>Masks</b>	<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>
<b>Physical Distancing</b>	<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>
<b>Environmental cleaning</b>	<p>Our school cleaning program includes regular cleaning of high touch services, frequently used objects, and play equipment.</p>
<b>Ventilation</b>	<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>
<b>Managing suspected cases</b>	<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>
<b>Will schools have routine testing for COVID-19?</b>	<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>
<b>Wellbeing supports</b>	<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.

<b>Drop off and pick up</b>	<p>In accordance with ACT Health directives parents must not enter school grounds - come through a gate or enter the building at any door- except in the case of an emergency or to provide supports for a child (if unwell).</p> <p>The front of school door is the only door you may use to enter the building. You must not enter until you have rung the front office (61422750) and your request to enter has been cleared by a member of the executive team.</p> <p>Therefore, drop off and pick up of children will need to look different.</p> <p><b>The front of school car park will be closed</b> unless you have a disabled parking permit, or you have a prearranged appointment.</p> <p>Children must be dropped off and collected from designated school gates – <b>see attached map</b> – and follow the 'morning and afternoon routines' flowchart – <b>see attached</b>. A reminder that adults must remain socially distanced (1.5 metres apart) outside the school gates as they drop off and pick up children.</p> <p><b><u>Kindergarten:</u></b> Drop off and pick will take place at the gate located on Grainger Circuit near the staff car park.</p> <p><b><u>Year 1/2:</u></b> Drop off and pick up will take place at the double gates located on the basketball court (families are asked to remain socially distanced at all times when on the basketball court).</p> <p><b><u>Year 3/4:</u></b> Drop off and pick up will take place at the gate on North Playground on Alfred Hill Drive closest the turn around drop off zone.</p> <p><b><u>Year 5/6:</u></b> Drop off and pick up will take place at the gate located at the front of the school adjacent to the bus zone. We ask that families do not drop children in the front car park as this will be closed for COVID safety requirements.</p> <p>For families with more than 1 student in the school the youngest sibling gate must be used.</p> <p><b><u>Preschool Arrangements:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Melba:</u></b> <b>Marlins</b> Drop off and pick up will take place at the gate located near the Bush Tucker Garden near the basketball court. Educators will be at the gate to support children to transition in and out of Preschool.</p> <p><b><u>Dolphins</u></b> Drop off and pick up will take place at the preschool gate on Grainger Circuit. Educators will be at the gate to support children to transition in and out of Preschool.</p>
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	<p><b>Flying Fish</b> Drop off and pick up will take place at the preschool gate on Grainger Circuit. Educators will be at the gate to support children to transition in and out of Preschool.</p> <p><b>Flynn:</b> Drop off and pick up will take place at the two gates – the one at the top carpark, the other at the side carpark. Educators will be at both gates to support children to transition in and out of Preschool.</p> <p><b>Spence:</b> Drop off and pick up will take place at the ‘top gate’ for Baringa students only and the side gate off the path leading to Baringa for all other families. Educators will be at both gates to support children to transition in and out of Preschool.</p>
<p><b>Hygiene routines</b></p>	<p>All classrooms are equipped with hand sanitiser and each classroom teacher has routines in place for hand washing/sanitising. Hand sanitiser is also available in other areas in the school i.e., the front office, near toilets and near doors in and out to designated year level playground spaces.</p> <p>No touch mask bins are provided throughout the school. There is one per cohort. Should students need to dispose of a mask, teachers will direct students.</p> <p>In accordance with ACT Health directives staff, students and visitors must not attend school campuses if they are unwell and will be sent home if they have symptoms of COVID-19.</p> <p>Should a child present at school with COVID-19 symptoms, they will be supported to attend the Front Office area, where they will be required to remain socially distanced from other students and staff. A member of the Executive Team will call and request immediate collection.</p>
<p><b>Teaching and learning</b></p>	<p>In accordance with ACT Health advice as students return to school, they will be required to stay in their year level cohorts for both learning and play whenever possible and reasonable.</p> <p>Teaching and learning will continue in classrooms and outdoor spaces when appropriate. If you borrowed a Chromebook from school, it does not need to be officially returned yet. It will need to be brought to school each day, fully charged, to support on-site learning. Chromebooks will need to go home securely at the end of each day until further notice.</p> <p>Our specialist teachers have been assigned specific cohorts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kindergarten – Angela Kouparitsas (T-F)</li> <li>• Year 1/2 - Erin Cooper, Vanessa Stephens &amp; Angela Kouparitsas (M)</li> <li>• Year 3/4 - Deb Lees &amp; Mike McGuinness</li> <li>• Year 5/6 - Vicky Magee, Jose Arranz &amp; Brendan Carswell</li> </ul> <p>We are aware that this means that some students may miss some specialist programs, however this is in response to ACT Health Directives.</p>

	<p>Cohort book collections from the library will be placed into classroom libraries. This will support all children to continue to have access to quality literature every day.</p> <p>Our student support staff have also been assigned a year level cohort and where possible will continue to support their regular teaching team and students.</p> <p>Regarding the year 5 and 6 bands, we are working closely with the IMP to reinstate band lessons and further information will follow.</p>
<p><b>Break times</b></p>	<p>At Mount Rogers Primary School, we are fortunate to have large playground spaces. Each year level cohort will have their own playground area and will not mix with other year level cohorts during break times.</p> <p>Therefore, our Break 1 and Break 2 times have not changed and breaks will not need to be staggered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 5/6 will play on North Playground only</li> <li>• Year 3/4 will play on the Spider equipment and basketball court only</li> <li>• Year 1/2 will play on half the Junior Playground only, including the large sandpit and Loose Part Play shed.</li> <li>• Kindy will play on half the Junior playground only – including the junior equipment and small sand pit.</li> <li>• Preschool will continue to play in their playground spaces as normal</li> </ul> <p>(Huge thank you Daryl for creating a fence to divide the junior playground in half and for mowing!)</p>
<p><b>Before and After School Care</b></p>	<p>Below is information provided by the manager of Out of Hours School Care - Communities @ Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>As they do now, educators will continue to follow the Organisation's COVID Response Plan, as well as adhere to ACT Health requirements. Masks are mandatory for adults, both inside and outside, children may choose to wear a mask and will be supported to do so. Educators will sign in using the school's check-in code each time they work, use appropriate hand &amp; respiratory health practices, as well as maintain social distancing from adults.</i></li> <li>• <i>Currently, in accordance with CECA's request, families have been discouraged from entering services. Therefore, families drop off and collect their child from OSHC at the sign in/out tables, which are located outside the halls. This will continue until we have directions from CECA that these restrictions can be lifted.</i></li> <li>• <i>In terms of dropping off and collecting the children from their classrooms, educators will continue with that routine, but won't enter classrooms.</i></li> </ul> <p>The front of school carpark will be open between 7:30-8:30am and then from 3:30-6:00pm to support the drop off and pick up of children from Before and After School care only.</p>

<b>School canteens</b>	<p>At this stage the Healthy Hut Canteen will not re-open until week 10 pending availability of canteen staff. Please keep an eye out for further information regarding this later this term.</p> <p>Please ensure you pack a full lunch box for your child each day, including fruit break and water.</p>
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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.

I can't wait to see you back at school. Stay safe!



Felicity Levett

Mount Rogers Primary School