



Gilmore Primary School

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Dear families,

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	Staff and visitors must wear a face mask on campus unless evidence of an exemption is provided. Students in years 3-6 are encouraged to wear a mask, brought from home, if they are comfortable doing so. Students in Preschool to year 2 are not required to wear a mask.
Physical Distancing	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, timetables, and/or pick up and drop off arrangements. More specific information about what this means for your child is included below.

Environmental cleaning	Our school cleaning program includes regular cleaning of high touch services, frequently used objects, and play equipment.
Ventilation	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. Gilmore Primary School classrooms typically have external ventilation and split system AC units so the fresh air source can be readily controlled. Windows and doors to be open where possible. Teachers to maximise use of outdoor learning environments.
Managing suspected cases	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.
Will schools have routine testing for COVID-19?	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.
Wellbeing supports	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. 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.

To further support the ACT Health Guidelines our school is making the following adjustments.

Drop off and pick up	<p>The gate adjacent to Revill Place will be open from 8:30-9:00am and 2:45-3:15pm each day. Children are required to use the hand sanitiser provided upon entering school grounds. Families who wish to enter the school must do so through the front entrance.</p> <p>Entrance gates along Heagney Crescent will be open. The school's 'Check in CBR' QR code will be displayed at these entrances.</p> <p><u>Preschool</u></p> <p>Families should wait outside the preschool entrance gate with their children upon arrival; an educator will greet them 9:00am. Children will be required to use hand sanitiser as they enter the preschool.</p> <p>Parents/carers should wait outside the preschool entrance gate; an educator will bring each child to them at 3:00pm.</p> <p>All adults are asked to check in using the 'Check in CBR' app upon arrival, maintain physical distancing, and follow mask wearing requirements whilst waiting.</p>
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<p>Drop off and pick up</p>	<p><u>Kindergarten – Year 6</u></p> <p>Drop children off as close to 9:00am as possible. We are asking adults to remain in their cars for drop off. Staff will be available to support children who find the transition back to school challenging. We encourage you to walk or ride to school to ease the congestion in the car park; adults are asked to meet children at one of the entrance gates. Consider a part way point for older students to meet you outside school grounds.</p> <p>Collect children promptly at 3:00pm. To meet physical distancing requirements, parents/carers of children in Kindergarten - Year 6 are requested to remain in their car and use the drive through processes to collect children. Drivers should move on (do a loop of the carpark and re-enter the queue) when requested by staff to maintain a safe and orderly environment for all members of our community. Adults are asked to meet children at one of the entrance gates.</p>
<p>Breakfast Club</p>	<p>Breakfast Club will not operate until further notice.</p>
<p>Hygiene routines</p>	<p>We will continue existing practices requiring children to use the hand sanitiser provided at the table next to the CKR Mural at the front of the Mem Fox building (Library) upon arrival at school each day.</p> <p>Hand sanitiser is provided in each indoor learning environment and at entry doors. Children will be reminded to use this upon entry and exit from each space.</p> <p>Families wishing to provide alternate hand sanitiser for their child must ensure the correct forms have been completed via the front office.</p>
<p>Teaching and learning</p>	<p>Children will continue to learn in the same classrooms and buildings, although some routines will be changed to incorporate health directions.</p> <p>The specialist teaching program has been modified to minimise adults moving across the school. One teacher will be supporting learning in the Alison Lester and Jeannie Baker buildings and one teacher will be supporting learning in Robin Klein and Pamela Allen buildings. More information about these arrangements will be provided in our next newsletter.</p> <p>The weekly STEAM program will be modified, operating within class groups during school weeks 5-10.</p> <p>The Buddies Program will not operate for the remainder of the school year to limit intermingling across the school. Teachers may utilise technology to facilitate children’s ‘remote’ interaction with their buddies.</p> <p>Library borrowing procedures may change to ensure resources and high touch points are cleaned in between different classes using the space.</p> <p>Where possible shared equipment, such as sports equipment to support the PE/gross motor curriculum, will only be shared within cohorts and will be cleaned between uses.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the Gilmore Good Citizens Club will not be able to meet until further notice. The Apprentice Principal program will also be postponed.</p>
<p>Sharing of equipment</p>	<p>Individual allocations of frequently used equipment such as pencils/pens/glue/scissors will be provided, and increased hand hygiene procedures will be introduced for use of learning resources.</p> <p>Where possible shared equipment, such as Chromebooks and iPads, will only be shared within cohorts and will be cleaned between uses.</p>

Eating	Children will be required to wash their hands before and after eating. Students should remain seated to eat.
Drinking water	Bubblers will be closed. Students will need to bring a water bottle each day. Families will be contacted to provide a drink bottle if a child presents without one.
Break times	Additional supervised play spaces will be made available to limit unnecessary physical interaction between students on school grounds. Children will be encouraged to play in the playground spaces closest to their classroom buildings. Siblings and family groups will not be included in any cohort separation. Lunchtime Clubs will not operate; staff will be re-deployed to supervise children's play.
School canteens	Information about P&C Canteen operations will be shared with the community once finalised. Student and parent volunteers will not be permitted.
After School Care	The YWCA staff will be following ACT Health guidelines. Information about amended procedures will be communicated with families.

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 02 5124 7700 daily between 7:00am-7:00pm. 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 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 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.

Kind regards,



Vicki Lucas

Principal

15 October 2021