



# Kentlyn Public School

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Friday 1 October 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

## *Department Of Education Update for Parents – Return to school roadmap.*

I hope you had a welcome change of pace over the holiday break and some time together without having to balance learning from home with other demands.

### **Term 4 returns with learning from home**

**As our school is in an LGA that is still under stay-at-home rules we will continue to learn from home for the start of Term 4. It is important that you continue to keep your children home if you are able to work from home.** While we are planning for our return to face-to-face learning and our teachers are completing their COVID-19 vaccinations there will only be minimal supervision for students on site and all students will be provided with the same work as they would be completing at home.

I know we are all excited about the coming freedoms available to those who are fully vaccinated in NSW but I ask every family to hold on just a few weeks more to give us the time we need to complete our planning for your child's safe return.

### **Return to school roadmap for Term 4**

In Term 4, where stay-at-home rules are still in place but high community vaccination and low transmission conditions are met, **students will return to school in a staggered approach for prioritised cohorts, with no mingling or on-site activities.**

In the majority of schools students will return to face-to-face learning with NSW Health-approved COVID-safe [Level 3 plus](#) settings on school sites in the following order as announced by the Premier on 30 September:

- From 18 October 2021: Preschool, Kindergarten and Year 1
- From 25 October 2021: Years 2, 6 and 11
- From 1 November 2021: Years 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

The return to school roadmap is subject to change depending on new information expected through the Public Health Order and additional advice from NSW Health. **Our school will be operating at Level 4 restrictions for the beginning of Term 4.**

You can stay up to date with the most recent advice on our Advice for Families website: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families/level-4-schools>

**For those families who have siblings across year groups I know it will be difficult to keep some at home while others are back on site. But to re-iterate the message above – we need this time to prepare our school and operations for having all our students back so it's essential that you only send your children to school in line with our set plan.**

### **Vaccinations for students aged 12 years and over**

Young people aged 12 years and over are now also eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. You can [book in your children for Pfizer now](#), or Moderna where indicated there is availability. <https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/eligibility?lang=en>

Vaccination appointments are available at more than 3,000 locations across NSW, including GPs and pharmacies. More appointments will become available as supply increases, so keep checking for new appointments in coming weeks.

### **Learning from Home**

For families who are continuing to learn from home, [the learning from home page](#) has a wide range of curriculum-based activities to further support your child's learning, if needed.

Thank you again for your understanding and support during what is going to be both an exciting, but also an anxious time over the coming Term.

Please take some time to check out our [wellbeing resources for students and families](#). You'll find useful tools for mental health and Term 4 preparation. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can do anything to help you and your children to prepare for the return to face-to-face learning or if you have any concerns about the return to school.

We are spending the first week back at school finalising our COVID-safe plans for a return to face-to-face learning and I hope to share these plans with you in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your continued support

*Androula Kavallaris*

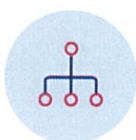
Androula Kavallaris  
Principal





# What you need to know about our return to school in Term 4

We're **very** excited about our return to face-to-face learning and welcoming students and staff back onsite where we know the best learning happens. This is a short summary of what our parents and students can expect.



## Key dates for our staged return

While we know there is excitement about the return to school it's important that we stick to the staged return to give us time to be ready to welcome back students onsite. Students will return to face-to-face learning in the following order

- from 18 October – Kindergarten, Year 1
- from 25 October – all remaining year groups.

(We respectfully ask that the Year 2 students from 1/2E start on 25 October, as per the Department's guidelines. If there any extenuating circumstances, please feel free to call me).



## Our school's COVID-safe operations

Our COVID-safe return to school plan is NSW Health approved and includes numerous effective practices to support the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. These practices include vaccinations, mask wearing, reduced mingling of student groups and staff, ventilation in classrooms and continued good hygiene and cleaning.



## Keeping student groups together

As we return to school students will be kept in their cohorts to minimise opportunities for transmission of COVID-19 and to enable effective contact tracing and containment. This means minimising interaction between students on school grounds and keeping cohorts together where possible.

This will include staggered lunch and recess breaks as well as a staggered home time. More information about this will be sent out soon. To minimise interactions with students I am kindly asking that students be dropped to school as close to 9am as possible. This way they can then move straight to their classroom.

Physical distancing between children in the same class is not required under the latest health guidelines. Mixing between class groups unless it's their cohort, will be minimised and students will be supported to follow strict hygiene practices like:

- regularly washing hands
- not sharing drinks or food
- coughing or sneezing into their elbow, or else using a tissue which should be put in the bin straight away
- filling water bottles from bubblers rather than using the bubbler directly.

We also ask that all students have their own water bottle, clearly labelled please.



## Mask wearing for students and staff

Masks are required to be worn on school site by staff indoors and outdoors and strongly recommended for students indoors and outdoors unless exercising or eating. If you wish your child to wear a mask at school, we are happy to support this. Please provide your child with a mask each day, and if at all possible, ensure that it is labelled with their full name. Please also ensure your child knows how to wear the mask correctly.



## Vaccinations

All staff required on site supporting the return to school will need to be fully vaccinated from 18 October. Then from 8 November all staff, contractors, volunteers and students on student placement on a school site will need to be fully vaccinated, including Outside of School Hours Care staff.



## Ventilation

Having open or well-ventilated spaces reduces the risk of transmission of COVID-19 because infectious particles are more quickly diffused in the open air. The department will continue to work with NSW Health to provide us with advice and guidance on maintaining good ventilation in our school and we will make use of our outdoor spaces wherever practical.

Each learning space will be required to have open windows to allow fresh air to circulate.





## School activities

During Term 4 many school-based activities will remain on hold until NSW Health advise otherwise. This includes large celebrations like assemblies, presentation days and graduations, arts and sports events. We are currently organising how we can run the above events in COVID safe friendly.



## Covid Communication

Parents and students will be notified if a decision is made to close the school due to a confirmed case of COVID-19. During this time we will continue to provide learning from home activities and we will let you know when we can return to face-to-face learning.

Please ensure that your contact details with the school are up to date. All communication will be sent via our Seesaw and Skoolbag App.



## Orientation and transition to school

Onsite orientations and transition programs are not currently allowed in person on school sites until we are advised differently by NSW Health.

We are currently in the process of organising our 2022 Kindergarten transition and what this will look like. The school will be in contact with you if you have enrolled your child in Kindergarten in 2022.

In order to support our Year 6 student moving on to high school in 2022 we are currently looking at options available. More information will be sent home about this later in the term.