

Dear parent and carers,

I am writing with additional information about the return of students to onsite learning at Bonython Primary School. 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	<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.

<p>Drop off and pick up</p>	<p>MORNING DROP OFF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are encouraged to arrive at school as close to 9am as possible. Bonython staff will be available to support student arrivals at each of our gates from 845am. If you are interested in learning more about our Before School Care program, please contact Communities at Work. • Upon arrival, our staff members will be available to direct students to their class meeting areas outside of units. Students will be required to use hand sanitizer upon entering the school grounds. • If driving and dropping through the front carpark, please do not get out of the car. • If a child arrives late to school or needs to be picked up early, please sign in/out through the front office. • Consider your distance from other families while arriving and picking up. • Preschool families can walk their child into the preschool grounds where educators will meet them and direct them inside. To maximise physical distancing and traffic flow, preschool families will leave immediately through the side gate. Please view the drop off and pick up demonstration video on SeeSaw. • Yerrabi families may support their children to the front entrance of Yerrabi. <p>AFTERNOON PICK UP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our gates will open shortly before home time. • All students need to depart school grounds as soon as class finishes. No afternoon play. • Students from Brindabella to Namadgi (Years 1-6) will self-manage their departure. Families will need to arrange a pick up meeting spot outside of the gates. • Murrumbidgee (kindergarten) - Teachers will support kindergarten students to meet their families at the 'Bus Stop' side gate. If you are collecting a kindergarten child, please wait for them outside of this gate. If you are picking up your kindergarten child by car, a teacher will wait with them in the front carpark loop. • Staff members will be available at our gates to support students to find their families and supervise pick up time. • Preschool – families can enter and wait within the preschool grounds at 245pm. Please follow health/hygiene and distancing requirements, and use the Check in CBR app. Families will need to
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	<p>leave the grounds immediately once handover has occurred.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yerrabi- families can wait outside the Yerrabi entrance at 245pm to meet their child. Please follow health/hygiene and distancing requirements, and use the Check in CBR app. <p>From week 3, teachers will share videos, photos and social stories with class specific drop off and pick up information.</p>
<p>Hygiene routines</p>	<p>We will maintain and promote appropriate hand hygiene practices. Every class will have access to hand sanitizer and foam sanitizer dispensers in the units.</p> <p>Staff and students will need to wash hands and use hand sanitisers throughout the day. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • upon arrival at school • upon entering the unit/classroom • after using resources shared within the unit cohort • at key transition points through the day, such as following break time and before eating <p>Sharing of food or drink is prohibited. Water bubblers will remain closed. Please send a drink bottle to school with your child.</p> <p>Specific bathrooms are allocated to unit cohorts for use through the day. These are labelled with capacity signs.</p>
<p>Teaching and learning</p>	<p>Where possible, we will keep student unit cohorts together to limit the unnecessary physical interaction between students whilst at school. The cohorts at our school are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Burra Preschool • Murrumbidgee – Kindergarten • Brindabella – Year 1 and 2 • Tidbinbilla – Year 3 and 4 • Namadgi – Year 5 and 6 • Yerrabi - small group program <p>There have been changes to the specialist subjects our students will attend. Specialist teachers will be assigned to a unit to support teacher planning time:</p> <p>Namadgi - Mrs Fletcher Tidbinbilla – Ms Dwyer Brindabella – Mrs Wilson Murrumbidgee –Ms Martin and Miss Wootten Preschool – Ms Dwyer Yerrabi – Mrs Stimpson and Mrs Hawkins</p> <p>Adjustments to Year 5 and 6 band will be communicated with relevant students and families.</p> <p>Classes will continue to communicate about learning through our regular communication channels – SeeSaw, Facebook, Google Classrooms and email. From week 3, we will be sharing adjustments to unit specific learning programs and daily routines through class communication channels.</p>

Break times	Bonython has had staggered break times since 2020. We will continue with our familiar junior and senior staggered recess and lunch. We have created a timetable featuring two play zones for students to access with their cohort. Teachers will continue to supervise hand washing and eating of recess and lunch before time to play.
Before and After School Care	Communities@Work OSHC follow their Organisation's COVID Response Plan, as well as adhere to ACT Health requirements. Bonython families drop off and collect their child from OSHC at the sign in/out table, which is located outside the hall door. The foyer is closed off.
School Canteen	The school canteen will not be operational for the remainder of the school year.

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.

Kind regards,

Greg Terrell

Bonython School Principal