



MACQUARIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Years P – 6

46 Bennelong Crescent MACQUARIE ACT 2614

Phone 6142 1550

Fax 6142 1571

www.macquarieps.act.edu.au

Email admin@macquarieps.act.edu.au

ABN: 66296 876 753



Dear parent and carers,

Please find information from the Education Directorate with additional information about the return of students to our 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.



ACT
Government
Education

MACQUARIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Years P – 6

46 Bennelong Crescent MACQUARIE ACT 2614

Phone 6142 1550

Fax 6142 1571

www.macquarieps.act.edu.au

Email admin@macquarieps.act.edu.au

ABN: 66296 876 753



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 have adjusted 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>



MACQUARIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Years P – 6

46 Bennelong Crescent MACQUARIE ACT 2614

Phone 6142 1550

Fax 6142 1571

www.macquarieps.act.edu.au

Email admin@macquarieps.act.edu.au

ABN: 66296 876 753



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

<p>Drop off and pick up</p>	<p>We are encouraging students from kindergarten to year 6 to enter the school grounds from the external gates independently. Junior students will line up on the Brindabella blacktop, and senior students on the Namadgi blacktop area to be collected by their class teachers.</p> <p>If your child is transported to school by car, they will move to their area as soon as they arrive.</p> <p>In the afternoons students will be escorted from their classrooms to their outdoor area and directed to use the nearest exit gate.</p> <p>Kindergarten students will be brought outside to meet their parents at 2:55pm to reduce congestion on the basketball court.</p> <p>Students who are collected by car will walk to the front of the school and wait for their families.</p> <p>Class specific information will be included in the term overviews, and on class dojo.</p>
<p>Hygiene routines</p>	<p>Hand sanitiser is located at the entrance of every learning space. Teachers will remind students about frequent hand washing and provide regular times during the day to participate in that according to the handwashing roster that has been developed.</p> <p>We have changed the daily timetable to reduce bathroom congestion to support high levels of hygiene.</p>
<p>Teaching and learning</p>	<p>We have adjusted the daily timetable to limit interactions with staff, which means the learning program will be changed.</p> <p>Each cohort will be connected with one of our specialist teachers who will provide all the other teaching for them. The details for each cohort will be included in the term overview.</p> <p>This may mean that some cohorts will not have French or one of our Arts programs for the remainder of the year.</p>
<p>Break times</p>	<p>We have adjusted the breaktimes and separated the cohorts:</p> <p>Kindergarten and Years 3/4 and Les Peches 10:10-10:50am and 12:00-12:40pm</p> <p>Years 1/2 and 5/6 11:20-12:00pm and 1:10-1:50pm</p> <p>The playground area will be divided into two sections to limit cohort cross over.</p>
<p>Before and After School Care</p>	<p>You will maintain the regular drop off and pick up procedures for before and after school care.</p>
<p>School canteens</p>	<p>Our Friday preordered lunches will resume on Friday 5 November. Due to the staggered breaks on Fridays lunch eating time will be at 12:50pm for everyone. Lunches will be placed in lunch order baskets and then classes will collect in a schedule to reduce cohort cross over from the verandah outside the hall area.</p>



ACT
Government
Education

MACQUARIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Years P – 6

46 Bennelong Crescent MACQUARIE ACT 2614

Phone 6142 1550

Fax 6142 1571

www.macquarieps.act.edu.au

Email admin@macquarieps.act.edu.au

ABN: 66296 876 753



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, you can 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, you can visit [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,

Danielle Porter

Principal

15 October 2021