

Taylor Primary School

Dear Taylor 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 2021 (Week 4)

- 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 2021 (Week 5)

- Years 3, 4 and 5
- Years 7 and 8

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.

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.

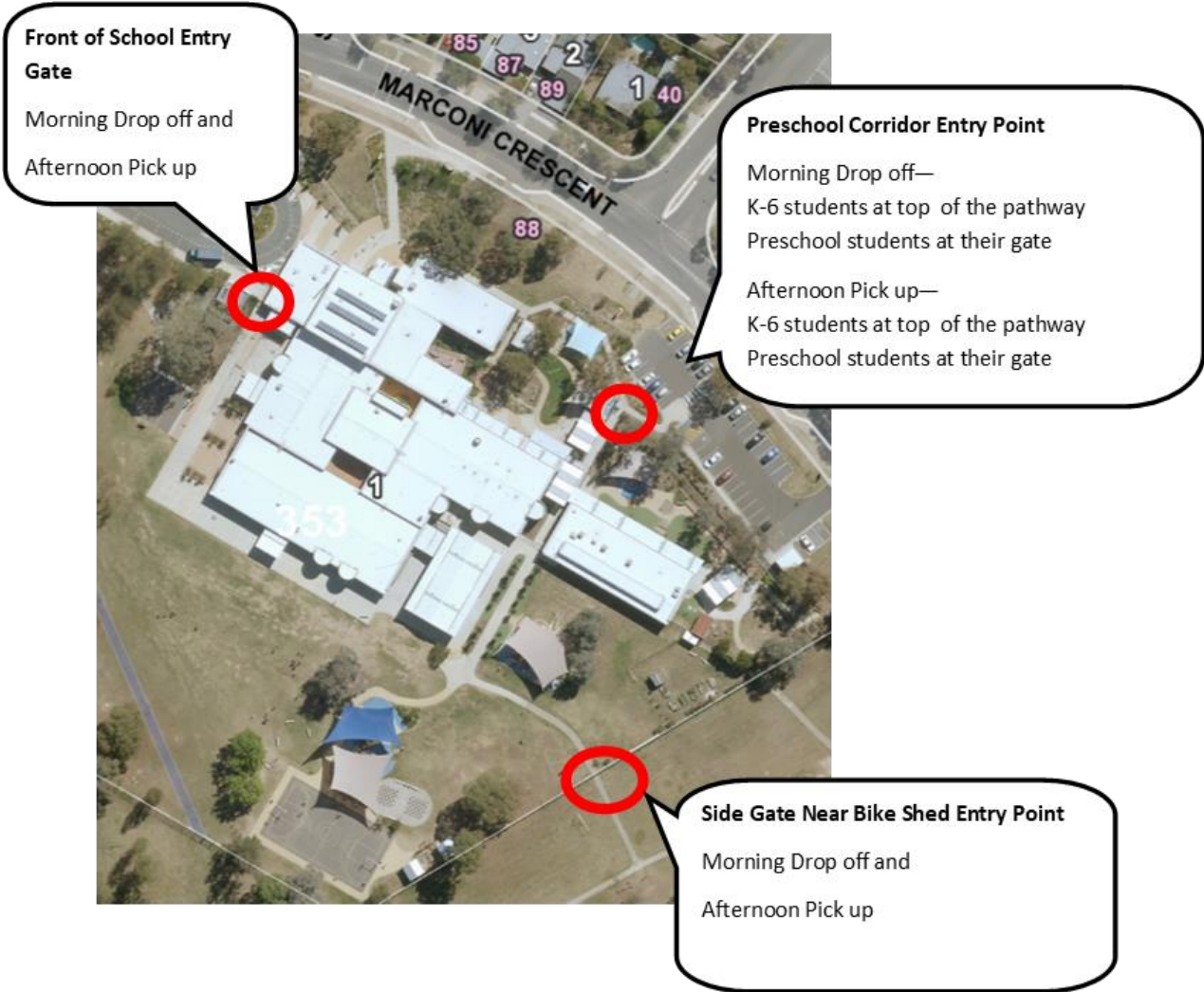
Below is an outline of [ACT Health Guidelines](#) that schools are required to implement to ensure effective COVID-19 measures are in place.

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.</p> <p>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.

Aerial view of school grounds indicating 3 main drops off points:



Drop off and pick up

Arriving at school in the morning

All parents and carers who drop their children at one of the entry points will be required to check in using the Check in CBR app.

Parents and carers are encouraged to remain in their cars as much as possible. There will be a staff member on duty from 8.45am under the COLA. Please drop children at an entry point as close to 8.55am as possible. Children will be directed to enter their classroom by the teacher on duty, through their classroom external door. Information will be posted to your child's class Seesaw towards the end of week 3, reminding students which door they should access.

We know some children will struggle with transitioning back to school, our friendly staff will support you if needed.

The school will be heavily reliant on our families maintaining social distancing at this time. Please observe any floor / ground markings that indicate appropriate social distancing measures.

Entry to the school grounds for students will be through three key points: (See photo above).

Kinder-Year 6

- Through the gate near the canteen
- Through the gate closest to the bike shed
- The gate at the top of the passageway between preschool and Communities@Work Childcare Centre.

Preschool

- Through the preschool gate.

Only parents and carers of preschool students will be able to walk down the preschool passageway. Preschool parents and carers will be asked to say goodbye at the preschool gate where a preschool educator will greet children and assist them to come through the gate and into the preschool room.

Parents P-6 will not be able to enter the school grounds. Entry to the front office area will be by appointment only by telephoning front office staff or emailing the school. (admin@taylorps.act.edu.au).

A member of our front office team will be available each morning at the door to the front office to collect items from students and parents such as medication / mobile phones etc) or to distribute school uniform items that have been pre purchased.

Leaving school in the afternoon

Please arrange with your child / children prior to their return to school an afternoon meeting point at one of the main gates listed above or the front carpark.

If waiting at the gates, parents and carers will be required to check in using the Check in CBR app.

Accessing the front Car Park

We request that adults remain in their cars for pick up and drop off where possible. The school will have several staff in the carpark each morning and afternoon to support families to drop their children off and pick up.

We will direct students to you when your car has stopped moving. If you do get out of your vehicle you will be required to check in using the Check in CBR app.

Hygiene routines

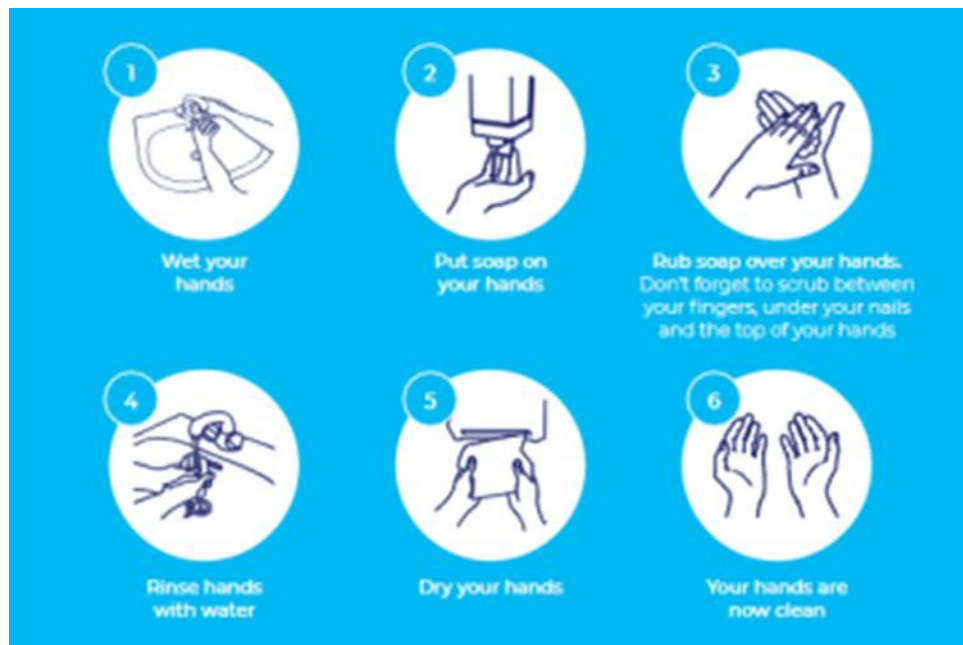
Where will hand sanitiser be located?

Hand sanitiser will be available in every room to supplement regular handwashing with water and soap. There are also mounted hand sanitiser stations throughout the school. Staff on entry to school will have sanitiser.

What will hand washing routines look like?

Staff and students should undertake hand hygiene regularly, particularly on arrival and before and after eating. Our toilet blocks have been identified for use by cohorts.

Practise this routine with your child before they return:



Teaching and learning

Minimisation of staff and student movement

Our executive teachers, classroom teachers, specialist teachers and LSAs have been attached to cohorts:

- **Preschool**
Team Leader: Annette Raats
Educators: Helen Thomson and Jacqui Foster
Deb Corcoran, Sienna Pitt
- **Kindergarten**
Team Leader: Annette Raats
Teachers: Catherine Fellows, Emily Mayberry and Jacqui Foster
- **Year 1**
Team Leader: Annette Raats
Teachers: Jenny Lambert, Helena Vrkic and Helen Thomson
- **Year 2**
Team Leader: Leanne Davis
Teachers: Karmen Hoy, Madison Samuels, Kate Lomas and Elizabeth Sheils
- **Years 3 /4**
Team Leader: Leanne Davis
Teachers: Lee-Anne Turvey, Toni Wallington, Nike Paterson, Eileen Anthony, Byron Moore, Kirsty Kobus, and Femke Matthews
- **Years 5/ to 6**
Team Leader: Helen Wilson
Teachers: Amy Clark, Rhys Langley, Heather White and Brooke Wood
- **LSUA**
Team Leader: Helen Wilson
Teacher: Buddie Henry

Staff, as much as possible will remain within this teaching team. Your child's classroom teacher will not have changed.

In the first few weeks back at school teachers will prioritise re-establishing routines and expectations, building relationships and collaboration as well as continuing the regular learning routines of the curriculum.

What adjustments to specialist teaching programs will occur?

Specialist teachers will become part of an allocated cohort. This will have an impact on the delivery of our regular specialist programs but is in keeping with best practice as per health guidelines.

Support staff

Our Learning Support Assistants have been allocated to cohorts to continue support programs.

How will learning be communicated?

Teachers will continue to use Seesaw and google classrooms as a means of sharing learning.

<p>Break times</p>	<p>Student lunch and recess Cohort staff will do break time supervision with their students. There will be two separate breaks for K-2 and 3-6. Preschool eating / snack time will remain as part of the regular preschool program. All students will need to bring a labelled drink bottle as bubblers are not in use.</p> <p>K-2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lunch 10.30am- 11.10am. Students will eat lunch at the end of play. ● Recess will be 1.20pm-1.50pm. <p>Years 3-6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lunch 11.15am-11.55am. Students will eat lunch at the end of play. ● Recess will be 1.55pm- 2.25pm. <p>Eating time within cohorts will be supervised. Students are also encouraged to bring a piece of fruit or vegetable for fruit break as they always have. Our cohorts will be designated zones in the playground. Use of the playground equipment will be alternated on a regular basis.</p>
<p>Library Services</p>	<p>Library Services Our library space will be closed to students. Nike Paterson, our librarian, will provide a library service where students will be able to borrow books from the Oliver library catalogue. This will operate very much like a 'Click and Collect' service. Nike will also support the resourcing of units with books. Books will be disinfected as they are returned before being shared again.</p>
<p>Before and After School Care</p>	<p>Educators have been working for the duration of the lockdown. They will continue to follow the Organisation's COVID Response Plan, as well as adhere to ACT Health requirements. Masks are mandatory, both inside and outside, they will sign in using the school's check-in code each time they work, use appropriate hand and respiratory health practices, as well as maintain social distancing from adults.</p>

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,

Alison Williams

A/g Principal

Taylor Primary School