



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

We're 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. We thank you for supporting your children in Learning from Home and look forward to the continued partnership as students return to the classroom.



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



Our school's COVID-safe operations

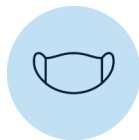
Our COVID-safe return to school plan is NSW Health approved and includes numerous effective practices to support the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. These practices include vaccinations, mask wearing, reduced mingling of student groups and staff, ventilation in classrooms and continued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

Students will be dropped off at the crossing supervisor and filtered across the road to the SLSO who will direct them to their designated cohort in the playground. Students will eat and play in stage cohorts during the day. At Wallerawang we have the space to be able to spread the cohorts across the school so we will not require a staggered approach to recess and lunch. **The canteen will reopen on the 1st of November. As students are required to remain in cohorts, we will operate a recess ordering system the same as lunch.** At the end of the school day students will line up in cohorts in 5 designated areas – buses (3), walkers and riders. The students will then walk with their cohort to exit the school. Parents are advised to remain in their cars until the students are across the road.



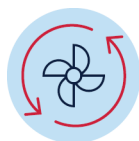
Mask wearing for students and staff

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 in primary settings.



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.



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.



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.



Preschool and out of school hours care

Out of school hours care, vacation care settings and preschools operating on school sites will follow the same COVID-safe guidelines as public schools including the requirement to be fully vaccinated from 8 November.

Big Childcare is operating an OOSCH service at Wallerawang PS and is open for business from 7-9am and 3 – 6pm. Please contact them on: 0497 936 482 for information about enrolment.



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'll share more information in the coming weeks about our school's virtual orientation and transition program.

Jenny Lamborn

Principal