



Dear Kindergarten parents and carers,

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.

We are all very excited about the return to face-to-face learning and I ask every family to hold on just another week to give us the time we need to complete our planning for your child's safe return. For those families who have siblings across year groups, I know it will be difficult to keep some children at home while others are back onsite. However, we need this time to transition smoothly back to onsite learning and prepare the staff and the school for having all our students back.

Please find below detailed information about the return of students to Mawson Primary School.

Firstly, a reminder about the dates for our phased return:

<b>Week 4</b> <b>Monday 25 October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preschool and kindergarten</li><li>• Years 1 and 2</li><li>• Year 6</li><li>• Out of school hours care (OOSH)</li></ul>
<b>Week 5</b> <b>Monday 1 November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Years 3, 4 and 5</li></ul>
<i>Onsite supervision and care will still be available for vulnerable children and young people whose parents are essential workers in week 4.</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.

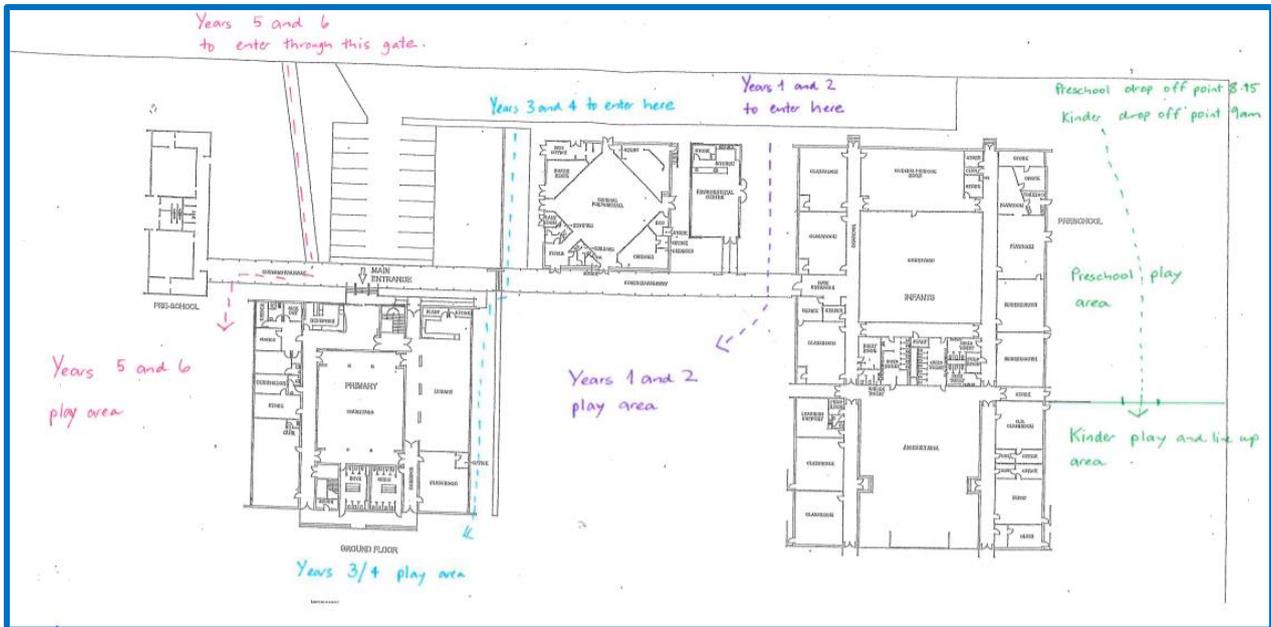
Below is an outline of [ACT Health Guidelines](#) that schools are required to implement to ensure effective COVID-19 measures are in place.

<b>Use of Check in CBR app</b>	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.	
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<b>Student illness</b>	Staff and students who are unwell are not able to attend school. Students who present unwell will be required to go home.
<b>Hygiene</b>	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.
<b>Masks</b>	<p>Staff must wear a face mask.</p> <p>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>
<b>Physical Distancing</b>	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, our timetable as well as pick up and drop off arrangements. Information specific to Mawson Primary School is detailed below.
<b>Environmental cleaning</b>	Our school cleaning program includes regular cleaning of high touch points, frequently used objects and play equipment.
<b>Ventilation</b>	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.
<b>Managing suspected cases</b>	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.
<b>Will schools have routine testing for COVID-19?</b>	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.
<b>Wellbeing supports</b>	<p>Wellbeing and learning supports, such as face to face appointments with the school psychologist and 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>

To further support the ACT Health Guidelines our school is making the following adjustments in relation to Kindergarten.

### Kindergarten drop off and pick up



In order to keep students in their cohorts and limit contact across year groups, we ask that you drop all kindergarten students off at the preschool gate at 8.55am. Our Kindergarten teachers will walk the children through the preschool to the grassy area behind the junior building. This will be where the children play for the foreseeable future.

Please check in using the 'Check in CBR' app at drop off.



Parents should not enter the school grounds. You should wait at the gate.

At 3pm please wait outside the preschool gate and a teacher will accompany your child to you.

Remember when waiting outside the preschool building to socially distance from each other. We encourage you to use the hand sanitiser station when opening and closing gates at pickup and drop off.

We ask that only one person bring your child to school to minimise the number of adults on the school site. Please say your goodbyes quickly. We know some children will struggle with transitioning back to school, our friendly staff will support you if needed.

### Where will hand sanitiser be located?

Hand sanitiser will be available in all classrooms to supplement regular handwashing with warm water and soap.

## What will hand washing routines look like?

Staff and students will undertake hand hygiene regularly, particularly on arrival and before and after eating.

You can continue to practice this routine with your child before they return



## Teaching and Learning

Our teachers, executive, LSAs and relief staff are attached to bubbles. This means that contact with staff will be reduced. These people will not physically cross over.

In the first week back at school our teachers will prioritise re-establishing routines and expectations, building relationships and collaboration. Literacy (English and Mandarin), mathematics and inquiry learning will recommence.

## What adjustments to specialist teaching programs will occur?

Children will not go to the library, the Environment Centre or the Digital Technology rooms. The lessons will all be delivered in the kindergarten classrooms to limit movement.

## How will learning be communicated?

The fortnight ahead overview of learning via Class Dojo will recommence in week 4.

## Break times

Our cohorts will be designated zones in the playground. Cohort staff will do break time supervision with their students.

## Before and After School Care

Educators have been working for the duration of the lockdown. They will continue to follow their organisation's COVID Response Plan, as well as adhere to ACT Health requirements. Masks are mandatory for OOSCH staff, both inside and outside. They will sign in using the school's check-in code each time they work, use appropriate hand & respiratory health practices, as well as maintain social distancing from adults.

We will continue to review and adjust these measures based on the most up to date advice from ACT Health.

We understand that there has been considerable change and uncertainty for our students during the pandemic, and as we transition back to school. I 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.

For more information about the return to schools, I'd recommend visiting [the Education Directorate's website](#).

I look forward to seeing all the children in week 4.

Regards,

Elizabeth Courtois  
PRINCIPAL

