



Fadden Primary School

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ACT
Government
Education

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Dear parent and carers,

I am writing with additional information about the return of students to our school campus. First, a reminder about the return dates for students.

Commencing 31 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preschool (Emus) and Kindergarten • Years 7 and 11 • New student orientations
Commencing 1 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years 1 - 6 • Years 8 – 10 • Year 12 • OSHC programs
Commencing 3 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preschool (Echidnas)

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.

Student illness	Anyone who is unwell, symptomatic or who are household close contacts must not be at school or preschool. This applies to staff and students. If they attend when unwell, they will be sent home.
Masks	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. <i>* Masks will be available at school for those who require them. Disposable masks need to be changed every four hours.</i>
Physical Distancing and cohorting of staff and students	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 support cohorting of staff and students, we may adjust learning programs, stagger starts, breaktimes, and timetables as well as pick up and drop off arrangements. More specific information about what this means for your child is included below.
Hand hygiene and COVID smart behaviours	Schools will maintain and promote hand 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.

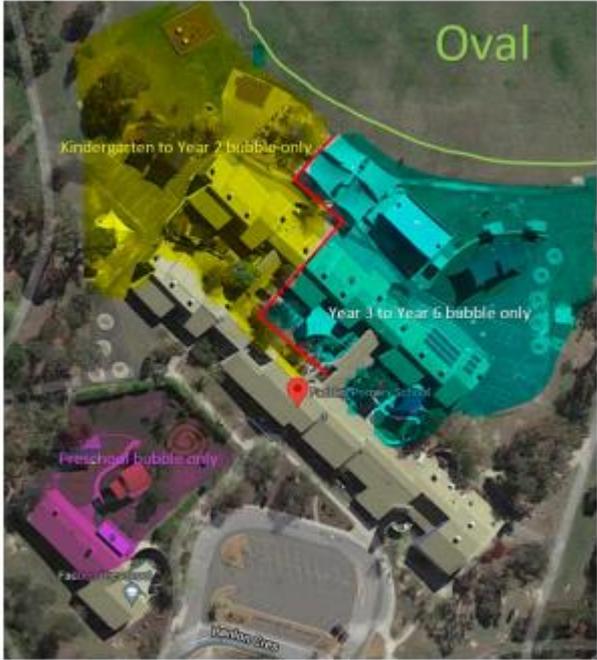
Environmental cleaning	Our school cleaning program includes regular cleaning of high touch point services, frequently used objects, common areas, toilets and play equipment.
Ventilation	All schools are following an Indoor Air Quality Plan. Improved ventilation and increased outdoor learning will be implemented where appropriate. Ventilation systems have been adjusted to increase fresh air circulation and plans will be updated to reflect improvements made since 2021
Vaccination	The ACT has one of the highest vaccination rates of any city in the world and this is reflected in our teaching workforce. COVID-19 vaccinations are also mandated for staff working across early childhood education and care services, preschools, primary schools, Out of School Hours Care, specialist school settings and P-10 schools, or schools that share campus space with students in year 6 or below. These requirements are in place until the conclusion of the public health emergency.
Visitors and use of Check in CBR app	All students aged 16 and above, staff and visitors must check in using the 'Check in CBR' app. Parents and carers are allowed on school grounds for scheduled appointments only. Special arrangements will be made for children starting at a new school or early childhood service in 2022, or children with special needs who require transition visits prior to the commencement of the new school year.
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. They can be accessed through the schools established referral process. If the school psychology position is temporarily vacant, you can book an appointment for your child with our Central Telehealth team by filling a booking request form or emailing Telehealth@ed.act.edu.au. Central Telehealth Service is available between 9:30 – 4:30 pm during weekdays.</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>
Managing COVID-19 in schools	<p>We are prepared to respond to a positive COVID-19 case on campus. 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. Symptomatic staff and visitors will be advised to travel directly home.</p> <p>If a staff member, child, young person or visitor is diagnosed with COVID-19 and has attended a school site during their infectious period, they are required to advise their school.</p> <p>Where a COVID-19 case in a school leads to students and staff being assessed as at risk of exposure, those impacted will be informed by the school about what they are required to do in line with ACT Health requirements. If the exposure is considered low risk, students and staff will continue to be able to attend school while closely monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms.</p> <p>Risk assessments are based off the ACT Health Guidelines for Schools.</p>
COVID-19 screening	Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms should get a PCR or Rapid Antigen Test immediately.

	<p>Free Rapid Antigen Tests will be provided to all staff and students in ACT schools for the first four weeks of term 1. Rapid Antigen Testing will be voluntary for staff and students. Students and staff will do the tests at home and are required to report any positive test results to their school and to ACT Health.</p> <p>Rapid Antigen Testing kits will be available to collect from school during the first week of term. More information on the collection arrangements for our school will be provided in the coming days.</p>
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To further support the ACT Health Guidelines our school is making the following adjustments.

<p>Student Drop off and pick up</p>	<p>Please note comprehensive plans, including maps are attached to this email in a document named 'Return to School Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures for Parents January 2022'.</p> <p>Below are the main points only.</p> <p>Preschool:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the first day only, two parents will be able to come in to drop off their preschool student. After the first day we ask that only one parent/adult attends to drop off and pick up • Parents are asked to walk preschool students into preschool, however there will be a clear process shared with parents on where to line up at a cone and how staff will collect students from their parents. Parents will not be able to assist students to unpack bags or enter the veranda or preschool buildings. This process of lining up at a cone will be repeated for pick up in the afternoon. <p><i>Please read the attached document closely for the process.</i></p> <p>Kindergarten:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the first day only, two parents will be able to come in to drop off their preschool student. After the first day we ask that only one parent/adult attends to drop off and pick up • Parents will wait with their child on the netball courts until the bell rings, when students will be asked to line up at their class cone. Teachers will collect students from the cones to enter classrooms. • Parents will not be able to enter the courtyard or classrooms for any reason. <p><i>Please read the attached document closely for the process.</i></p> <p>Year 1 to Year 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If travelling to or from school by car, parents are asked to use pick up and set down only, no parking or getting out of your vehicle in the school carpark. • If travelling to or from school by bike, walking or parking in the vicinity of the school - parents are asked not to enter classrooms or congregate around buildings. Students will need to line up at their classroom and not to use playgrounds or mix with other students • Students will line up at their outer class door, except for 1/2TS, who will line up at a cone in the playground (near Year 1/2 toilets) and be collected by Ms Stone each break time.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classes will be released to the same areas each day and can be collected at those points by parents (car park or classroom). • Parents will not be able to enter the courtyard or classrooms for any reason. <p><i>Please read the attached document closely for the process.</i></p>
Hygiene routines	<p>All classrooms will have a supply of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hand sanitiser • disposable disinfectant wipes • access to a biohazard bin • access to a wet area with two sinks, hand soap and paper towels <p>Process which will be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and students will wash their hands on entering learning spaces (beginning of day, after recess and after lunch). • Staff and students will wash or sanitize hands after blowing their nose or coughing into their hands, touching their nose/ mouth etc. Disinfect their desks or resources if they have been sneezed on, as soon as possible when required. • Any used tissues, masks or biohazard materials to be disposed of in 'biohazard bin' found in each classroom. • Staff will spray any shared equipment e.g. pencil pots etc with Glen 20 or equivalent at the end of each school day. • Student playgrounds will be disinfected daily <p><i>As we will not be able to use bubblers, we ask that all students bring to school a refillable water bottle labelled with their name. Our water stations do have taps to refill water bottles, it will just be the bubbler part that will be unavailable.</i></p>
Teaching and learning	<p>To assist with physical distancing as much as possible, we have organised our staff and the environment into three 'bubbles'.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preschool bubble 2. Kindergarten to Year 2 bubble 3. Year 3 to Year 6 bubble <p>However, our specialist teachers who teach all year levels will continue to teach all classes, but in specific 'bubbles' on specific days. For example: Monday and Tuesday K-2 bubble, Wednesday and Thursday Year 3-6 bubble.</p> <p>Band and P&C Music Program will continue to operate this term, however with COVID safe procedures in place.</p>
Break times	<p>Due to the size of our school and our outstanding and generous grounds, we do not need to adjust breaktimes, as we are defining clear play areas for our bubbles and have removed any shared play spaces.</p> <p>Below is a map showing the play areas of all our bubbles.</p>

		<p>The oval will be alternatively offered between our K-2 bubble and 3-6 bubble e.g. one at recess and the other at lunch.</p> <p>The library will not be available to students during breaks times.</p> <p>The red line on the map shows the placement of flag bunting which will be erected to show students where their play area stops.</p>
<p>Before and After School Care</p>	<p>NB: Although it has nothing to do with COVID, we have adjusted our break times and what we call our breaks this year, to optimise learning time. First break will be the largest and is therefore renamed to Lunch 11.10 – 11.50am and second break is the smallest and therefore renamed to Recess 1.30 – 1.50pm. We will do the work with students on these changes during the first week of school.</p> <p>Families accessing OSHC will drop off and collect their child from OSHC at the sign in/out table, which is located outside the hall. They also have a QR code that families can use with their own device, reducing the need to touch the iPad etc.</p> <p>OSHC staff will continue to drop off and collect Preschool and Kindergarten students from their classrooms, however, OSHC staff will not enter classrooms.</p>	
<p>School canteens</p>	<p>Orders will be available through Flexischools on Thursdays ONLY as usual. Lunches will then be delivered directly to classrooms via Fadden staff. Lunch ordering will not begin until Week 2 (Thursday 10th February 2022).</p>	
<p>Events and Excursions</p>	<p>Unfortunately, to provide a safe learning environment, several regular and special events need to be postponed and/or cancelled. These include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assemblies (to resume in Term 2) • Sporting Carnivals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Swimming Carnivals are cancelled (arrangements are being made for competitive swimmers to register for an ACT event in Term 2) ○ Athletics and Cross-Country carnivals are delayed ○ 5/6 Camp postponed to Term 3 	

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

During this time we may experience impacts on our workforce due to the requirements of staff to isolate under ACT Health directions. We will work closely with the Education Directorate to make appropriate adjustments to ensure student and staff safety. This may include using casual relief staff, combining of classes, limiting or cancelling non-essential activities, switching to the provision of supervision only or possibly temporary transition to remote learning.

Remember, all adults and children aged 5 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](#).

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. We look forward to seeing all our students back at school.

My regards,

Jo Jefferson
Principal