

14<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Dear Fabulous Fadden Families

Welcome back to school and Term 4. Many of you, who have had the opportunity to drop into school will have noticed that it is no longer mandatory for us to wear masks at school. This has been welcomed with open arms by staff and students. This also extends to visitors on site. For further information please see attached a letter from me, regarding changes from the ACT Education Directorate, in response to changes to the public health measures and schools.

Below I have created a table to assist parents in seeing what is different and what remains the same at our school.

COVID STRATEGY	Term 3	Term 4 – NEW GUIDELINES
<b>Masks</b>	Worn by all staff and adult visitors in indoor settings in schools.	No masks required, unless you are an adult that is a household contact or diagnosed with COVID within 7 days and attending school without symptoms.
<b>Water Bubblers / drink bottles</b>	Water bubblers not accessible, students could only refill personal water bottles.	Water bubblers will come back on in Week 3 (24 <sup>th</sup> October). Students are still encouraged to use personal water bottles; however, water bubblers will be available.
<b>RATS</b>	All students and staff are able to access 2 RATs per week per person, on request. All requests are through the front office.	Same as Term 3
<b>Reporting a positive COVID case</b>	Parents are to contact the school if their child is diagnosed with COVID and provide the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RAT or PCR</li> <li>- Date of positive test</li> <li>- Date of first symptom</li> <li>- Date of last time at school</li> </ul>	Same as Term 3
<b>Isolation if COVID positive</b>	Any person with positive COVID diagnosis needed to isolate for 7 days.	No mandatory isolation period if positive for COVID. As with other infectious diseases, students with COVID-19 symptoms (including runny nose, sore throat, cough, fever) should get tested and <b>must not attend school while they are unwell</b> . The ACT Education Directorate strongly recommends parents and carers keep their child home for at least 5 days if they have COVID-19.  School staff will <b>not</b> return to school for 5 calendar days from testing positive and will not return to school until they have no symptoms.
<b>COVID Exposure Letters</b>	Principal emails the school community that a positive case has been on school grounds.	No exposure letters will be issued from school. If there is an outbreak communication will be via text message to the class or cohort impacted.
<b>Birthday cakes</b>	Only commercially prepared and individually wrapped birthday treats allowed.	Providing classes with home baked treats for celebrations is allowed.

Our building work has continued over the holidays and our Kindergarten and Year 1/2 blocks are almost finished. The builders have erected screens for this work to begin in our Year 3/4 and 5/6 & LSU block shortly. I hope to share some photos of the improved spaces that this work is affording us, to maximise our teaching and learning environments, next week. We also had some trees removed and plumbing work done in our Kindergarten courtyard, due to tree root damage. Whilst the plumbers work is complete, we still have some work to do to fix the space the removal of the tree left in our pavers.

This week our Footsteps dance program kicked off with students in Kindergarten to Year 6. Each Monday they will participate in a dance lesson with Footsteps, working on a dance item to display at our end of year concert on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at approximately 4.30pm. I can't wait to see this extravaganza of dance, which all parents will be invited to attend.



On Tuesday this week, I had the pleasure of driving our ten Year 6 band students to Floriade to perform at Stage 88. This was a great experience for our students, and we are so grateful that this could go ahead this year.



Unfortunately we are experiencing a steep decline in the number of students who are taking up our brass band option and sticking with it for the two years. Therefore, we have made the difficult decision to not offer our 2022 Year 4 students, the opportunity to take up band in 2023. Our existing Year 5 band will continue next year as Year 6 band; however, we will not have a Year 5 band.

Please be reminded that there are two staff planning days (pupil free) scheduled for Term 4. The dates are Friday 28 October 2022 and Monday 28 November 2022. These planning days provide an important opportunity for our staff to undertake training, plan for the remainder of the term and the year ahead and finalise end of year student reporting which can't be done during class time.

Students who can't stay at home will be able to attend school and be supervised while undertaking general learning activities. Please confirm attendance with the front office on 6142 2460.



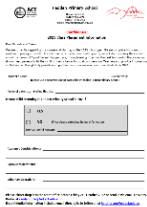


# Fadden Primary School

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On the 16th of September I sent home a **2023 Class Intentions – Letter to Parents**, asking that all families fill out one form per child, to let us know if their child/ren are returning to Fadden in 2023 and also provide us with any other information which will help us determine the best possible environment for your child to learn in, in 2023.



We need this form returned **by the close of business next Friday, 21st October**, so that the information provided by families can be taken into consideration when we are beginning to look at our 2023 classes in Week 3. Unfortunately, we will not have the capacity to adjust class placements or take on any requests from families after this date.



Currently we have received less than half of the forms expected. Please see attached to this email a copy of the form. You are welcome to print, fill out and drop in, or email the information directly to either Sandy or myself.

Hope you get to enjoy the weekend.

Jo Jefferson  
Principal