



Dear Hawker 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 (Week 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preschool and Kindergarten • Years 1 and 2 • Year 6 • Out of school hours care (OSHC)
Commencing 1 November (Week 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years 3, 4 and 5
<i>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.</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.

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. The front doors to the school will be locked and visitors must call to make an appointment in advance of attendance. All visitors must report to the front office. Please phone 61422660.
Student illness	Staff and students who are unwell must not attend school. If students are unwell at school, parents/caregivers will be contacted to collect their child in a timely manner. Please let the Front Office know if your contact details have recently changed.
Hygiene	We will continue to reinforce and promote appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene practices. Disinfectant wipes will also be utilised. Staff and students will be asked to wash hands and use hand sanitiser throughout the day. There will continue to be no sharing of food and drink. This includes pre-packaged items often shared to celebrate birthdays.
Masks	Staff and visitors 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. However, if a child in K-2 requires a mask for medical reasons, this will be supported. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Lisa Fairlamb (Lisa.Fairlamb@ed.act.edu.au). 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.
Physical Distancing	Physical distancing between children and young people is not always possible in a school environment. It is however important for limiting the transmission of COVID-19. To promote physical distancing, we are adjusting learning spaces, 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.
Environmental Cleaning	Our school cleaning program includes regular cleaning throughout the day by specialised ACT Education Directorate cleaning staff of high touch surfaces, frequently used objects and bathrooms. Play equipment will be wiped down after break times by

	our BSO, Eric. Please note the spider web will be closed. The height of the spider web makes regular cleaning prohibitive.
Ventilation	Hawker School has completed a ventilation audit. The objective is to increase the turnover of fresh air within the building. All possible windows and doors will remain open. Other changes may include changes to ventilation, modification of the HVAC system settings and maximising the use of outdoor learning spaces. Please click here to access Frequently Asked Questions from the ACT Education Directorate. Further information will be provided from the ACT Education Directorate about what changes need to be implemented. As soon as this is available, I will share these strategies with the Hawker School community.
Managing suspected cases	We are prepared to respond to a positive COVID-19 case, 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 whilst in sick bay waiting to be picked up.
Will schools have routine testing for COVID-19?	Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms should get tested immediately. ACT Health is currently not recommending rapid antigen testing of children, young people or staff.
Wellbeing supports	Wellbeing and learning supports, such as face-to-face appointments with the school psychologist (Hannah - Wednesdays and Thursdays) or access to a Learning Support Assistant, will recommence with the return to school. 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. Lisa Fairlamb, SLC Learning Support will be contacting families of children who have an ILP. If you would like to discuss a specific medical condition, please email Lisa (Lisa.Fairlamb@ed.act.edu.au)

To further support the ACT Health Guidelines our school is making the following adjustments.

<p>Drop off and pick up</p> <p>We encourage students and families to walk and ride to school to minimise congestion at the school site.</p> <p>Parents using the front car park as drop off, should remain in their car. Students will need to utilise the school crossing to cross the car park safely. Please note there will be additional staff on duty in this area from 8:40am.</p>	Preschool	Regular drop off and pick up arrangements, however parents/carers will be met at the front gate by a staff member between 9:00am and 9:30am and 2:45pm-3:00pm. Students are encouraged to say goodbye at the gate. Parents are asked to maintain physical distancing and other mandated health practices such as mask wearing.
	Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 2	8:50am start – 2:50pm finish Class teachers will walk students to the designated pick-up point where they can begin the journey home or be met by a parent or carer. Students making their own way home will wait with their teacher until 3:00pm.
	Year 3, Year 4	8:55am start – 2:55pm finish Class teachers will walk students to the designated pick-up point where they can begin the journey home or be met by a parent or carer. Students making their own way home will wait with their teacher until 3:00pm.
	Year 5, Year 6	9:00am start – 3:00pm finish Class teachers will walk students to the designated pick-up point where they can begin the journey home or be met by a parent or carer.
	<p>Please click here for the map for pick up points for each year level. Please discuss with your children your plan for collection each afternoon – for example, will older children exit the school grounds and meet you at your pickup point for the youngest child?</p>	

	<p>Children must say goodbye to their parents/carers at the border of the school grounds and walk immediately to their designated space outside their classroom door where they will remain seated until school begins. Please click here to see more information.</p> <p>We ask for parents' support to not have children arrive before 8:40am. Additional staff will be on duty in the morning to support this new routine. Please remember that parents and carers are not allowed on school grounds except in exceptional circumstances where this is prearranged with the Principal.</p>																		
Hygiene routines	Students will wash or sanitise their hands on arrival and regularly throughout the day. Hand sanitiser will be located in teaching spaces, staff offices and at the front office. This will be used in addition to regular handwashing.																		
Teaching and learning	<p>Students will be working in a space with only their year group. Please click here to see the table for more details. Teachers and support staff will be assigned to a particular year group. These adults will also be responsible for supervising break times for the year group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist subjects will not be delivered as per normal. This includes Music, French and Library. • Learning support, extension and enrichment will be delivered within the year group with additional staff allocated to each year group to support this. • Band students will receive separate communication regarding changes. • The Music Tutor program, chess and coding club will continue on-line. • At this stage, choir and drama will not operate. <p>These changes are to minimise the number of adults and students outside their year group who students have contact with.</p>																		
Break times	<p>Break times will be staggered with the junior school and senior school having separate times outside. Each year group will be given their own designated play area which will be supervised by an adult from the cohort staff. These play areas will change weekly allowing students to access different areas of the playground with their year level.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="550 1104 1331 1290"> <thead> <tr> <th>Recess</th> <th>Year groups</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10:00am – 10:25am Outside</td> <td>Years 3-6 4 areas, one for each year group</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10:35am – 11:00am Outside</td> <td>Kinder - Year 2 3 areas, one for each year group</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="550 1328 1331 1693"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Lunch – Years 3-6</th> <th colspan="2">Lunch – Kinder -Year 2</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>12:30-12:55</td> <td>Outside 4 areas one for each year group</td> <td>12:40-1:05</td> <td>Inside In designated cohort space</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12:55-1:20</td> <td>Inside In designated cohort space</td> <td>1:05-1:30</td> <td>Outside 3 areas one for each year group</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Recess	Year groups	10:00am – 10:25am Outside	Years 3-6 4 areas, one for each year group	10:35am – 11:00am Outside	Kinder - Year 2 3 areas, one for each year group	Lunch – Years 3-6		Lunch – Kinder -Year 2		12:30-12:55	Outside 4 areas one for each year group	12:40-1:05	Inside In designated cohort space	12:55-1:20	Inside In designated cohort space	1:05-1:30	Outside 3 areas one for each year group
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Before and After School Care	The YWCA will work adhere the ACT Health requirements. Staff will wear masks both inside and outside. Further information will be provided directly to the relevant families regarding pick up and drop off.																		
School canteens	The school canteen will be open Wednesday to Friday for online orders only. Recess and Lunch orders will be delivered to the classroom door.																		

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.

For more information about the return to schools, please visit [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. If you have further questions, the Executive team will host an optional online forum on Wednesday 20th October from 7:00pm. Please join with the link below:

<https://meet.google.com/uot-rreh-tdy>

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

Kind regards,
Kim McCormack
A/g Principal