



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.



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 – Kindergarten, Year 1
- from 25 October – Year's 2-6



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.

At EWPS we will have 4 student group or cohorts. The cohorts will be: Kindergarten, stage one, stage two and stage three. Students will complete their learning in their cohort group and have their recess and lunch breaks with their cohort. It's important that you prepare your child for these changes and remind them of the reasons why some things may be different when they return back to school.

EWPS School Procedures for Term 4

Morning Drop Off

Morning supervision will begin at 8.30am.

Kinder and Stage One Drop Off – students to enter school through the **Kissing Point Road entrance**

- Kinder morning supervision - COLA
- Stage One supervision - Stage Two outdoor area

Only **Kindergarten parents will be allowed on site to drop off students**. Parents will need to wear a mask and maintain physical distancing of 1.5m. We ask that parents not congregate at school after dropping off their child.

Stage Two and Three Drop Off - students to enter school through the **Vignes Street entrance**

- Stage Two supervision - Yarning Circle
- Stage Three supervision - School Hall

Afternoon Pick Up

Kinder and Stage One

- Alternate pick-up time - **2.40pm at Kissing Point Road exit**. Please inform your child's class teacher if you can pick up your child at 2.40pm daily. Supervision will be provided for the earlier pick up time.
- Other K-2 students will finish school at 3.00pm.

Stage Two and Three

- Students will finish school at 3.00pm. Stage two students will exit the school through the Kissing Point Road gate. Stage three students will exit through the Vignes Street gate.
- If students have siblings in Kindergarten and Stage One they can be picked up at 2.40pm with their younger siblings. Please inform your child's class teacher of this arrangement.

We ask that all parents/carers maintain physical distancing and not congregate outside the school gates during drop off and pick up. Parents can remain in their car during drop off and pick up.



Mask wearing for students and staff

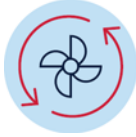
Masks are required to be worn on school site by staff indoors and outdoors and **strongly recommended for students indoors and outdoors unless exercising or eating**.

Students will need to wear their own mask and if possible, carry a spare mask in their bag. The school will have a limited number of student masks available. We will attach information for students about how to wear a mask correctly.



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.

We will have a **whole school Zoom assembly in week 4 and 8** where students will receive merit awards. Further information about Presentation Day and the Year 6 Farewell will be shared later in the term. We want to make sure that we can celebrate these events in a fun and safe way.

There will be **no school canteen until further notice**. Children will need to bring crunch and sip, recess and lunch from home each day.



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.

It is very important that we have parents/carers correct email address and mobile number so that we can contact you immediately in case of an incident at school.



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.



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 Kindergarten orientation and transition programs. We have been planning alternate activities to provide students and families with a strong orientation. We thank you for your patience and will keep you informed of any changes to the current restrictions.

Thank you to all of our families for your valuable partnership and support over this challenging period. We hope that you are excited about having your child/children return to school. Teachers and all staff have been working hard planning for students to return. We can assure you that we will support their learning and wellbeing as they transition back to school. Please speak to your child's class teacher, a school executive or our administration staff if you have any questions or queries about the return to school procedures. We are happy to support you and your child/ren.

Keep well everyone.

Karen Mack

Principal