



Surveyors Creek Public School



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.

Welcome back everyone. I am sure we all thought this day would never come. As Principal of Surveyors Creek Public School, I would like to acknowledge everyone's effort, resilience, cooperation and patience in supporting all our students during this unprecedented time.

Over the next few weeks, as we navigate what our new normal will look like, we ask you to support our school with understanding and patience. The way that we will operate is underpinned by DoE policy and procedures and are implemented to ensure that our school environment is safe and that it minimises the risk of COVID-19 transmission among students and staff.

Mrs K A Browne

Principal



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 – department preschool, Kindergarten, Year 1
- from 25 October – all remaining year groups.



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.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Drop off and Pick up will be staggered. Please refer to our Drop Off and Pick Up information sheet which can be found on our website.

Morning, Recess and Lunch Breaks

On entering the schoolgrounds in the morning students will play in their designated area until the first bell goes. They will remain in that area and line up until their teacher collects them.

Students will eat in their classrooms and will have designated areas to play at recess and lunchtime. When the bell goes they will line up in the area and wait for their teacher.

*****There will be no Canteen Facilities in TERM 4. Students will need to bring their recess and lunch with them each day*******



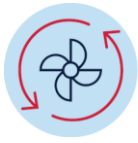
Mask wearing for students and staff

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



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.

Our school has ample ventilation. Classrooms will have windows open and fans on. Where they are able teachers may hold some lessons in an outdoor setting.



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.

As the term progresses we will make school-based decisions on the advice of the DoE and in accordance with NSW Health. We will communicate to you arrangements around End of Year Celebrations and what they may look like once we have more information around what we are able to do.



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.

If this is to occur at Surveyors Creek Public School we will communicate with you via SMS.



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.

At Surveyors Creek Public School OOSCH will inform parents of their drop off and pick up procedure. Once again parents and carers are not permitted on site. QR codes will apply.



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 virtual orientation and transition program.

Kindergarten Orientation packs will be posted out to families and in those packs there will be specific information around what our orientation to school will look like.