



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 at Farmborough Road Public School.



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 – 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.

From week 3, students K-2 and 3-6 will use different areas for lunchbreaks and line up times throughout the

day to reduce mingling.

Three afternoon gates will again be opened to assist with physical distancing of adults and children at home time. Students will exit through a designated gate determined by the first letter of their surname. Classes will start to arrive at the gate at 2.45pm and will be dismissed as soon as a parent/carer is there to pick them up. Students who walk home will wait until 3.00pm. Please wait at the following gate locations:-

Gate 1 Office A-G

Gate 2 student gate H-N

Gate 3 SaCC O-Z.



Mask wearing for students and staff

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

Students can supply their own masks. The school will also be able to provide a mask for students who do not have their own.



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.

All of our staff are already fully vaccinated.

Once our canteen and uniform shop are allowed to re-open, volunteers will be required to be fully vaccinated.



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 teachers will ensure windows and doors are open to provide cross-ventilation, and will take advantage of some of our outdoor learning areas for some learning activities where possible.



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 inform you as to what these activities will look like.



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.

Information will be shared in the usual ways – through School Stream, on our school website, Facebook and ClassDojo.



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 this stage, Schools as a Community Centre (SaCC) activities are on hold.



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.

We will be holding two Kindergarten 2022 expos in coming weeks. These will provide a forum for finding out transition information and asking questions.

We have also set up a Kindergarten 2022 Facebook group located on the Farmborough Road Public School Facebook page. This is a closed group for families of Kindergarten students attending our school next year.

We would like to thank you for your outstanding efforts during this challenging Learning from Home time.

We look forward to welcoming your children back to normal face to face learning!