



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 – 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.

At Kahibah PS, parents and carers will need to drop children at the gates in the morning and the children will walk down to the gates to meet parents in the afternoons. Parents and carers are reminded to social distance outside the school gates and wear a mask. If you need to come to the front office for any reason, please call ahead. Anyone entering the site is required to sign in using the Service NSW QR code and sign in again at the front office.



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.



START OF THE DAY:

Students already arrive in a staggered manner in the mornings between 8:35am and 9am however, after putting their bag at their classroom they will go to an assigned area.

Kindergarten under the COLA; Stage 1 in the Outdoor Learning Space; Stage 2 on the handball courts; Stage 3 on the oval. Teachers will be on duty to supervise from 8:35am as per usual.

STAGGERED FINISH:

To reduce congestion at the school gate in the afternoons, from 25th October, a staggered afternoon dismissal will occur;

2:45pm – Stage 3 incl. Year 5s from 4/5B;

2:50pm – Stage 2 incl. Years 4s from 4/5B & Year 3s from 2/3F;

2:55pm – Stage 1;

3pm – Kindergarten

Older siblings are encouraged to wait at the bus shelter near the gate for younger siblings to be dismissed, if they usually walk home together.

*****Note: from 18th October, Stage 1 will begin an early dismissal at 2:55pm.**

Please contact the school if these staggered finishing times raise any concerns for your family.

EATING & PLAY TIME:

Kindergarten & Stage 1 eat under COLA separately and then take a turn to play in their Stage groups under the COLA or behind Kindergarten rooms for 20 mins each at lunch and then alternate days for recess.

Stage 2 and Stage 3 eat on handball courts separately and then take a turn to play in their Stage groups on the handball courts / oval and nature play for 20 mins each at lunch and then alternate days for recess.

SCHOOL FACILITIES & SHARED SPACES:

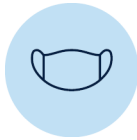
The school canteen will be open from Monday 18th October operating 5 days p/week in a Covid-safe manner. A reduced menu will be offered. Orders only. No window service.

Library and STEM lessons will run as per the normal timetable with a class at a time accessing each shared space.

To reduce mingling of cohorts, the library will not be open during lunch breaks.

Friday Stage Sport lessons in the hall will run as per the normal timetable as only one Stage at a time accesses the school hall.

Kindergarten and Stage 1 will access the main toilets; while Stage 2 & Stage 3 will access the hall toilets.



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 unless exercising or eating.

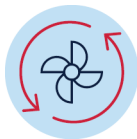
Kahibah PS students are encouraged to bring a mask to school each day to wear inside classrooms. A limited supply of child sized masks are available at the school should a student request one.



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.

At Kahibah PS, from 8 November all canteen volunteers will need to be fully vaccinated and moving forward when other types of volunteers are permitted on site, they too will need 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.

All Kahibah PS windows and fans are in working order to support ventilation and all air conditioning filters have been recently cleaned.

Students also have access to hand sanitiser in their classrooms and at other stations around the school.



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.



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.



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 virtual orientation and transition program.

Again, you're ongoing patience and support is appreciated.

Regards,

Mrs Honi Faasisila

Principal