



24 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are looking forward to welcoming students back to school soon. A special welcome to children and their families who are joining our communities for the first time in 2022. Thank you for your support as we keep working together to respond to COVID-19.

Back to School safety

We will start the 2022 school year with strong COVID-smart measures developed by the NSW Government in partnership with NSW Health. With safety, wellbeing and learning our priorities, these include:

- Rapid antigen test (RAT) kits will be provided to all families to help you monitor your child's health and minimise transmission of COVID-19 in our schools
- Wearing of surgical masks indoors is **required** for all staff and students in Year 7 and above, and **strongly recommended** for all primary students (see fact sheet for more information)
- Only fully vaccinated visitors essential to delivering and supporting learning or wellbeing can come on to a school site for at least the first four weeks, though parents and carers are permitted onsite for Kindergarten and Year 7 transition to school
- Students will be kept in their year / cohort groups on school grounds as far as possible, with other measures that may include staggered drop-off and pick-up, break times, and playground and canteen access to minimise the spread of COVID-19
- Continued use of good hygiene, enhanced cleaning, good airflow and ventilation in learning spaces, and physical distancing practises.

A fact sheet is also attached to help your family stay up-to-date about these COVID-smart measures. This includes more details about masks, watching for symptoms, vaccinations, ventilation and what happens when a student or staff member tests positive to COVID-19.

Rapid Antigen Testing information

Your school will distribute packs of rapid antigen test (RAT) kits for all students and staff. RAT kits are a quick and easy screening tool to be used twice a week to help detect COVID-19 and their use is an important step to support the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. It is a simple process of placing a nose or throat swab in a chemical solution which is put onto a scanning device. Results can be ready within 15 minutes. Use of RAT kits is highly recommended but not mandatory. All positive results must be notified immediately to the school and NSW Health using the ServiceNSW app.

Your school will be in contact with more details about COVID-safe pick-up for packs of RAT kits shortly.

As always, our caring school staff are ready to assist if you have any additional questions about the arrangements for returning to school. Thanks again for your understanding and consideration as we keep working together to respond to COVID-19.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory B. Whitby'.

Gregory B. Whitby AM KSG FACE FACEL
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