

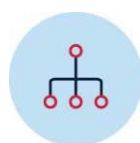


What you need to know about our return to school in Term 4

We are excited about our return to face-to-face learning and welcoming students and staff back onsite where we know the best learning happens.

Thank you sincerely for your faithful support of Bondi Beach Public School throughout the lockdown. At Bondi Beach we have been working hard to plan and implement strategies that will minimise risk so that our students and staff are able to learn and work in a safer environment. These strategies are developed from advice provided by the Department of Education in conjunction with NSW Health. The full roadmap for return to school can be viewed on the Department's website.

This is a brief 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 teaching in the following order

From 18 October – Kindergarten and 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.

Unfortunately, parents and visitors are not permitted on school grounds. This will change as we transition through a return to normal operation. Only fully vaccinated essential Department of Education personnel will be permitted on site.

Additional cleaning in line with advice from NSW Health, will continue throughout Term 4. This includes the wipe down of high touch areas throughout the day. We also have extra supplies of soap, hand sanitiser, toilet paper, paper towels, disinfectant wipes and personal protective equipment for both student and staff use. Children will be regularly encouraged to wash their hands or use hand sanitiser.



Mask wearing for students and staff

Masks are mandatory for all staff when indoors. Masks are not mandatory for students; they are a recommendation.



Keeping student groups together

As we return to school, students will be kept in their class groups or class bubble to minimise opportunities for transmission of COVID-19. At Bondi Beach, this means that children will remain with their own class for the duration of the day. Children will remain in their bubble for all classes, including PE (Physical Education) and library etc and during break times they will be in their year group. It also means some temporary changes to our school routines;

Morning Drop Off

Children can be dropped off at the two Warners Ave gates – Kindergarten at the ramp gate and Year 1 through the bike gate. Gates will open between 8.45am and 9am. No earlier. There will be no play of a morning and children will move straight off to their class for the duration of the day. To ensure a smooth entry and exit from the school each day we request that all scooters, bikes, skateboards, and equipment be left at home. Once you have dropped your child, please move off quickly, to reduce any congestion around the gates of the school.

Afternoon Pick Up

Students will exit from the Warners Ave gates at 2.45pm each day – Kindergarten from the car gate and Year 1 from the ramp gate. Once again. Please no mingling at the gates. Collect and leave. We will all appreciate your support with this.

Breaks

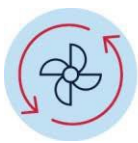
Recess and lunch breaks will be staggered throughout the day. Students will eat with their class bubble. During play times, each year group will be allocated their own play spaces within the various playground areas.



Vaccinations

The school manages the return of all workers onto the site and must record proof of vaccination as per the Public Health Order (PHO). All workers/teachers in schools MUST be fully vaccinated by 8 November or before returning to face-to-face work this Monday 18 October.

According to the PHO, relevant work includes ANY work undertaken at a government school or non-government school (this includes all teachers, support staff, Admin staff, Canteen staff, canteen volunteers, OOSH (Outside of School Hours) Educators, corporate employees, contractors, and students on student placement). We cannot comment on individuals, as health records remain confidential.



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.

To further support ventilation, windows and doors across the school will be opened. The school is working with the P&C to procure air purifiers for use in classrooms. Air purifiers of the required size for classrooms are extremely limited at this time throughout Australia. We will keep you posted with any further updates as they come to hand.



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. There are no canteen facilities until further notice. Students should bring both lunch and recess. Unfortunately, this means no birthday cakes or class parties.

Our uniform shop also remains closed until further notice. However, uniform orders can still be placed online and will be distributed via students or outside the school gate on a pre-arranged time. Our Uniform shop managers are already onto this.



out of school hours care

Given parents are not permitted on site, The Hive will meet all parents for drop off and pick up at the Warners Ave ramp gate. The Hive adhere to strict COVID guidelines.



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 will share more information in the coming weeks about our school's virtual transition program. Thank you to all those parent's who participated in the Tuesday evening virtual information zoom. It was good to meet you all.

We know that the return to school will, no doubt, come with some teething issues. I can count on it. A lot of planning with all staff has gone into a safe return to school. We ask you to bear with us as we tweak and modify our plan as needed to ensure the safest possible environment for staff and students. Specific Information for Year 2-6 for the following week will follow soon.

Thanks in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Gai O'Neill

Principal
15 October 2021