



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 – Early Intervention, Kindergarten, K/1, Year 1 from 1/2 W, Year 1 from K/6T
- from 25 October – All K-6



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.

We plan to have three cohorts: K-2, 3/4 and 5/6. Each cohort has approximately 70 children. Special Education teacher will contact parents regarding arrangements for their children. To the best of our ability, we will endeavour to keep cohorts separate. To achieve this, each cohort will have their own play area, eating area and toilet block. Teachers will remain with their cohort each day. Playground rosters and RFF timetables have been modified to enable this.



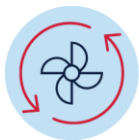
Mask wearing for students and staff

Masks are required to be worn on school site by staff indoors and outdoors and is 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.



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. We love our opportunities for community engagement, If NSW Health advice does not change, please be assured that we will do our best to share our celebrations with you.



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.

Class Dojo will continue to be our preferred method to communicate with families. We will also rely on email to send letters and notifications. We have recently updated our email data base, if you have changed your email address, please let us know as soon as possible.



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.

I hope this information supports your understanding of how TPS will operate during Term 4. Our COVID experience is unlike anything that we have known in our lifetimes. It is in our best interests to rely on the advice of Health Professionals and to implement their recommendations. For most of us, COVID 19 is uncomfortable, but we will get through it. Our intention is to keep the safety and wellbeing of our TPS children at the centre of our decision making and to create a positive, joyful Term 4.

Kind regards

Kim Witt

Principal

Toronto Public School