



11 OCTOBER 2021

TERM 4 WEEK 2

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to the final school term for 2021. As *Learning from Home* continues for the first few weeks of Term 4, I want to again express my appreciation for your support and persistence.

As you are aware, the timeline for the return to school this term has been brought forward again. The staff and I are excited at the prospect of having all our students back on site soon and hearing their excited chatter, engaging in learning again at BPS.

Once students have returned, the provision of online materials for *Learning from Home* will cease. It is not possible for teachers to manage a cohort of students in their classroom whilst also maintaining a second delivery of learning to students remotely. The expectation is that all students will attend school from their designated day.

I know a lot of students and families are excited about the return to face-to-face learning, while others have some hesitation. I have outlined what the return will look like at BPS in this newsletter for further clarity.

We will be ensuring rigorous safety and risk minimisation measures here for our students inside our school gates, in order to reduce the risk as much as possible.

COVID Symptoms and Absences

In accordance with advice from NSW Health, parents and carers are reminded NOT to send children to school if they are unwell, even if they have the mildest cold or flu-like symptoms. Schools will make arrangements for any students showing any symptoms to be collected. NSW Health have requested that schools encourage anyone who has even the mildest cold or flu-like symptoms to arrange to be tested through their local medical practitioner or one of the many COVID-19 clinics.

Symptoms include:

- Sore or scratchy throat
- Shortness of breath
- Cough
- Fever
- Loss of smell/taste

Students with cold or flu-like symptoms will need to provide a copy of a negative test result before being permitted to return to school. We ask you to please forward results to the school office at brooklyn-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au.

Parents are reminded, that even with a negative COVID result, students should not return to school until they are symptom free for three days.

Important COVID Information for Return to School

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.

We are taking a layered approach to ensuring our school is safe for our staff and students.

Guidance was developed with NSW Health and is evidence-based to give us multiple layers of protection.

CALENDAR

Week 2

Thurs 14 Oct	Parent Information Session for 2022 Kindergarten students via Zoom
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Week 3

Mon 18 Oct	1/KW students return to school for face-to-face learning
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Week 4

Mon 25 Oct	4/3/2L and 6/5M students return to school for face-to-face learning
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Key dates for our staged return

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 (Years 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6).



Vaccinations

COVID-19 vaccination is the best protection against severe illness and also reduces the risk of spreading it to others.

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.

Keeping student groups together

As we return to school students will be kept in their class 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 class cohorts together where possible.

- ◇ Staggered toilet breaks
- ◇ No Year 6/buddy activities
- ◇ No whole school assemblies/activities
- ◇ Lunch orders delivered to classrooms etc.

Mask wearing for students and staff at Brooklyn PS

Masks are required to be worn on the school site by Brooklyn PS staff both indoors and outdoors. Masks will be strongly recommended for students to be worn both indoors and outdoors unless exercising or eating. Our wonderful Brooklyn PS teachers will be there to assist students with mask wearing and remind them about safe mask wearing practices.



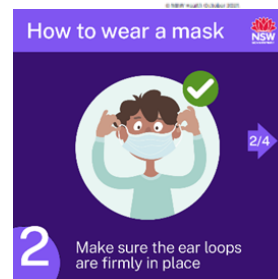
Fitting a mask on a younger child

Please send your child with a mask and a spare in their bag. We'll have some on site too.

We have a graphic from NSW Health on how to fit a mask properly – please have this conversation with your child.

While masks are not required in the Public Health Order for primary students, they are strongly recommended by NSW Health and the Department of Education has taken the decision that they are required as an important layer of protection for our staff – particularly while younger students are not yet vaccinated.

There are some exemptions around mask wearing – eating and exercising being the key times. Please have a look at the NSW Government website for the full list of exemptions. <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/changes/face-mask-rules>.



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. Brooklyn PS classrooms will maintain a flow of fresh air through our classrooms by keeping windows and doors open for cross breeze. We have beautiful outdoor spaces that we can utilise regularly and will take the learning outside as much as possible.

Hygiene Measures

Enhanced cleaning arrangements remain in place, which are:

- an additional 25% of cleaning provided to schools for the daily clean
- day cleaners wipe down high-touch surfaces (toilets, doors, door handles, railings, desks, chairs, playground equipment etc)
- schools have supplies of hygiene products
- ensuring bathrooms are well stocked with hand soap and paper towels or hand dryers
- providing hand sanitiser where appropriate.

Students will continue to be taught enhanced hygiene behaviours including regular hand washing with soap, coughing into elbows, wiping shared equipment with sanitiser between users, sanitising hands before and after eating and before and after play, etc.

Drop off and Pick Up

Students must be dropped off at the school gates in the morning and met after school outside the school gates. Staff will support this process to happen safely. **Parents and other adults should not enter the school site and adhere to physical distancing and mask wearing requirements while waiting to collect their child/ren.**

Any essential visitors to the school site must have a pre-arranged meeting and are required to sign in using the school's Service NSW QR code. All visitors are required to wear masks in accordance with the Public Health Order.

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.

If NSW Health advice changes, then we will let you know about changes as soon as possible.

We have booked the **Year 6 Farewell** in anticipation that it **may** be able to go ahead.

If restrictions are lifted, this will take place at Asquith Golf Club on Tuesday 7th December.

Presentation Day at this stage will be recorded and made available to parents. Presentation Day will be Tuesday 14th December.

Again, I just want to reiterate, that this is all subject to change and the Health Orders at the time.

Orientation and transition to school

Onsite orientation and transition programs are not currently allowed in person on school sites until we are advised differently by NSW Health.

Brooklyn PS will be holding virtual orientation and transition programs in Term 4. More information regarding Year 6 transition will come in the following weeks.

Kindergarten 2022 Orientation



- Online parent information session Thursday 14th October
- Three virtual Kindergarten orientation sessions
 - Wednesday 20th October
 - Wednesday 27th October
 - Wednesday 3 November.

Lunch Orders

As part of our COVID safe procedures, for the remainder of the year we are adjusting our lunch order operations. Homer's Kitchen will resume the lunch order service from 25th October, once all children have returned to face-to-face learning on site. Orders will need to be placed in a brown paper bag and put in the lunch order basket before school as is the usual practice. Orders when they arrive at lunch time, will now be distributed to each class in their room before the bell for the lunch break.

After-school activities and community Use

Unfortunately, under the current COVID-19 safe return to school guidelines we are unable to welcome back our usual music tutor lessons. Scripture (SRE) is also not permitted in person until our safety guidelines are relaxed.

Further information and questions

All of our students are expected to be back at school for their staggered return dates. After this date we will only be supporting learning from home where this is required by NSW Health to do so.

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. In the event that Brooklyn PS is closed due to a confirmed case, we will communicate this immediately through the Skool Loop app and via email.

You can find updated information on the department's Advice for families page to support students who are anxious about the return to school – or get in touch with us directly.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families>.

Device Loans

As students return to learning on site over the next few weeks, please remember to return all loaned devices and charging cords, to ensure we have enough devices for students to use once back at school. All borrowed items must be brought back via the school office by students to ensure they are checked and signed back in, by our friendly administrative staff.

Returning to School for Students—Wellbeing

As a staff, we will do everything in our power to ensure students are well cared for, and in the best place to learn, socialise and grow. Students will look to us when engaging, trusting and entering school life again. Some students may feel anxious about the return to school and that is okay as there has been a lot of change for our children. Please know that our staff will be monitoring students and embedding social and emotional learning into everything that we do. Some students, will relish the opportunity to be back at school with their friends and bounce back full of enthusiasm. Other students may need extra support and it may feel like they are taking one step forward, two steps back. Our teachers will support all students with learning and reintegration into the classroom. They will establish familiar routines and practices as we know that structure alleviates stress and anxiety. If your child is distressed, unable to cope or feels overwhelmed, plans will be implemented to support them. Please contact your class teacher to discuss or share any concerns.

Within our classrooms we want understanding, kindness, compassion and care. We want students back at school, feeling successful and engaging in learning. Supporting each other through the return to school will make the difference.

As some restrictions begin to ease from today, many of us will be excited about the possibility of moving back towards normality. Getting students back to school (Kindergarten-Year 1 on 18th October & Years 2-6 on 25th October) is without a doubt a wonderful step forward. We are working extremely hard to ensure the safest environment here at Brooklyn PS for our students, so please assist us by following our new guidelines, and don't hesitate to email to discuss any questions or concerns.

Reports

With students *Learning from Home* for a significant period of Semester 2, we have prepared a checklist to allow parents and carers a chance to contribute to the Semester 2 student reports. We encourage you to take this opportunity to sit down with your child/ren and reflect on their time learning from home. This will be sent home shortly. Please complete this checklist and return to your child's classroom teacher by the due date.

Year 6 Leadership Elections

Student leadership elections are fast approaching for 2022. Leadership opportunities at Brooklyn Public School allow our students to demonstrate their dedication and commitment to our school and students.

Attached to the newsletter is an outline of the election process and an expression of interest form which needs to be completed and returned to school by Year 5 students wishing to be considered for leadership positions in 2022. This form needs to be returned by the end of Week 3 to Miss Munnings.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN results were sent out to families at the end of last term. We were happy to see that our school had achieved above state levels in Reading and Numeracy for both Year 3 and Year 5 student cohorts. We had excellent results, with Year 3 numeracy, Year 5 numeracy and Year 5 reading results all well above state and well above the results of statistically similar schools.

Great results for our students. NAPLAN is just one of the many checks and measures schools use to track our collective progress and the effectiveness of our teaching and learning approaches. Thank you to the students and teachers for their hard work.

External Validation

NSW public schools are committed to the pursuit of excellence and the provision of high-quality educational opportunities for each and every child. Our vision is improved performance in every school, for every student, every teacher, every leader, every year.

Each year, a group of schools are nominated to participate in an external validation process. This provides an opportunity for schools to discuss their judgements about their practice – and the evidence that underpins them – with a panel of peers. Embedding effective self-assessment practices will mean that schools are well positioned to identify and annotate their most significant pieces of evidence for submission to the validation panel.

The School Excellence Framework supports all NSW public schools in their pursuit of excellence by providing a clear description of the key elements of high-quality practice across the three domains of learning, teaching and leading.

The Framework describes 14 elements across these three domains which define the core business of excellent schools in three stages. Schools are either identified as Working Towards Delivering, Delivering, Sustaining and Growing or Excelling across these elements.

On Wednesday 6th October, Brooklyn PS had their External Validation panel meeting. During the external validation process, an independent panel consisting of Principal School Leadership assessors and a peer principal considered our evidence and assessment of our school's progress against the School Excellence Framework. Our self-assessment and the external validation process will assist the school to refine our school plan, leading to further improvements in the delivery of education to our students.

The panel assessed us overall, as Sustaining and Growing across all three domains, with a number of our evidence sets showing elements of excelling, so we are very excited for the journey ahead for the school. This achievement is only possible when educators have their students at the core of all decision making. Our staff over the last 18 months have worked tirelessly to provide the best possible school environment for our students. Our strategic directions have a relentless focus on learning and wellbeing and I look forward to seeing what we can achieve over the next three years of our Strategic Improvement Plan.

Kelly Cartwright
Principal

Join us on facebook

@BrooklynPublicSchoolPandCAssociation

Stay up dated with all things you need to know about school happenings

Our **little** school by the river is extremely well supported by local businesses, the community and of course the parents and teachers. Because of this continued support, **Brooklyn Public School** is able to offer it's students the same opportunities (**and more**) that are offered at any larger school.

STAYING CONNECTED IS ALL WE CAN DO.

Email: bps.pandc.association@gmail.com

Be a P&C member for \$2.00

Join online @: <https://brooklyn-pc-association.square.site/>

Parents and Citizens Association
Supporting our school is supporting our kids.





* NUT MINIMISATION *

Please support our young students who live with life-threatening allergies to nuts by refraining from sending your child to school with nut-based food products like Nutella or Peanut Butter.

P & C Christmas Tea Towel & Tote Bag Fundraiser!

During art class in term 2 the lovely Miss Biviano worked with the children to produce a self-portrait artworks to be included on a whole school fundraising item for Christmas.

This year we are offering two choices for purchase: You can purchase either or both!

Option 1 - Tea Towel (portraits printed in navy blue on a white tea towel) Cost: \$15 each	Option 2 - Tote Bag (portraits printed in white on a navy tote bag) Cost: \$25
	
https://checkout.square.site/buy/O44DR52BF2RD7TCKJPUXZL6R	https://checkout.square.site/buy/BM244PGLGC5QUNSPX6UGDYMQ

Orders: Via P&C Shop website <https://brooklyn-pc-association.square.site/>

Due: All orders due by Thursday October 21st 2021
To purchase, click on the link to go to the P & C online shop.

Please remember to enter your child's name and enter how many tea towels you wish to purchase. This is a fundraiser so please remember to buy them up for gifts! You can buy both the tote bag and the tea towel option!

Please remember to order by Thursday October 21st so we can have tea towels and tote bags ready for collection prior to the end of the school year.

Please contact the P&C on bps.pandc.association@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Kind regards

Brooklyn P&C Association

Community News

DISCLAIMER

We sincerely thank our advertisers for their support of our school. While Brooklyn Public School is selective in the advertisements it runs, parents are advised to use their own discretion in supporting these services.



UPDATE #6 - 11 OCTOBER 2021

As we prepare to welcome students back to the classroom and onto our buses, we would like to take this opportunity to provide a quick update on how we will support this transition over the next few weeks.

From 18 October 2021, we will return to a full timetable, including the resumption of all school services. This will mean that our buses will be ready to support the staggered return to schools.

We can confirm the following safety measures are being followed:

- Our Drivers remain compliant with the Public Health Orders and are committed to supporting the community.
- Masks remain mandatory for all drivers and increased cleaning regimes will continue.
- Our exclusion zones remain in place on board to help maintain space between our drivers and customers.
- All of our public route services have now been increased to a total customer limit of 27 people. Available seating will continue to be identified by the familiar green dots that say 'sit here'.
- However we can confirm that this limit will not apply to school students and priority will be given to them where possible. We are still bound to ensure no child is left behind. Additional monitoring will be undertaken to address any issues that arise.

In line with Government instruction, we also encourage people to avoid peak hour travel, allow additional travel time or make alternative travel arrangements if possible. Similarly, we ask that parents also consider alternative transport options for their children to ensure they are not impacted by these changes.

Be assured, your students safety and wellbeing is paramount and we look forward to welcome our school communities back on board in the coming weeks.

If you have any concerns during this time, please do not hesitate to contact our School Engagement Team on tdns.schools@transdev.com.au or by phone (02) 8700 0555.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Macey
Managing Director

