

15 October 2021

Hurstville Public School Return to School Plan

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Please find an overview of the Hurstville Public School 'Return to School' plan for the upcoming weeks. While there is a lot of information to share regarding the return of our students, we will try to do this so it is not overwhelming for families.

Below is the key information that we hope will address a number of the questions we believe the families in our school community will have about students returning to school.

We understand that the situation for each family in our community is different and the information outlined below will suit some situations more than others. With this in mind, we have developed a plan that will provide the opportunity for all students to return to face to face learning.

We know that there is a lot of information outlined below and we ask that you take the time to read through it carefully. If you have any additional questions after reading this information, please contact the school via email Hurstville-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au so your question can be directed to the most appropriate member of staff. This will also allow for a more considered response than if you call the school.

A reminder that the dates for students returning are:

- **Monday 18 October - Kindergarten and Year 1 return**
- **Monday 25 October - Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 return.**

Hurstville Public School remains open for families who are unable to support their children to 'learn from home'. We also understand that families are very keen for all students to return to school together. However, we ask that wherever possible families only send the students whose grade has returned to school.

Classroom teachers will continue to support 'learning from home' until their classes are back on site, so sending your child to school will not mean they will have their regular classroom teacher, until the date of the scheduled return.

Student Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures

A full overview of the updated **student drop off and pick up procedures**, including allocated exit gates for all 2021 classes, is attached to this email. A translated version in Chinese has also been included.

With the return to school for students in **Kindergarten and Year 1 on Monday 18 October**, we are asking all parents to drop off students at the school entry gates of a morning from 8:30am. We appreciate the effort community members have made to date in adhering to this safety measure. Below is an overview of where students are to go to once they have entered the school grounds where they will be supervised by a Hurstville Public School staff member.

- **Kindergarten and Year 1 students-** go directly to classrooms
- **Students in Support Unit-** go directly to Quiet Area playground

Students in Years 2 to 6 are to continue to Learn from Home via Seesaw and/or Teams the week beginning 18 October. Frameworks will continue to be uploaded to the school website and paper copies will be available for parents to collect from the Forest Road gate from 8:30am. Parents and carers must keep children at home unless they need to be at school. We will have minimal supervision for students in Years 2 to 6. If you need to send your child in Year 2 to 6 to school, they will need to meet a teacher in Area 5 for directions to a classroom.

Students in Years 2 to 6 will return to school the week beginning 25 October.

At this time, we will continue to ask for the support of our community to drop all students off at the school entry gates. From this date, all students K-6 **will go directly to their classroom from 8:30am to be supervised by a Hurstville Public School staff member.**

All students will be dismissed by their 2021 class teacher at the gate outlined on the attached document. Any child not collected at the allocated dismissal time will be supervised by class teachers and dismissed at 3pm. At 3pm students may leave the school grounds from any gate.

To assist with a smooth school dismissal, if you would like your child to go home with a younger sibling or family friend, please fill out the return slip included on the full overview document (attached) and return to your child's class teacher on the **first day** they attend school in Term 4.

Recess & Lunch

Student cohorts will have staggered recess and lunch times throughout the school day and will use different areas of the school playground to ensure we maintain a separation between cohort groups

Students will eat lunch with their class group. Please remember to send a drink bottle to school with your children each day.

The afternoon pick up procedure has also been staggered to ensure there is minimal interaction between our student cohorts, where possible. Some siblings will depart school together in the afternoon and this is an important safety consideration for families.

Canteen – Our canteen will reopen from Monday 25 October for lunch orders only. We will review this in the weeks following.

Learning time

Students will be working in their regular classroom with their teacher. Students will still attend Community Language classes with their regular group of students from their grade level only. Students will still attend the library with their class for their regular lessons, but the library will not be open for students during lunch time. Students in classes who traditionally work together in a double room as their learning space will continue to do so.

Visitors

Non-essential visitors are not permitted on school sites. Parents should remain outside of school grounds and adhere to mask-wearing requirements and physical distancing, especially at drop off or pick-up times.

All essential visitors are required to sign in using the school's Service NSW QR code. For more information, refer to QR code sign in process.

All visitors are required to wear a face mask or covering in accordance with the Public Health Order.

Parents who need to come on to school grounds to collect a sick child, or attend a pre-arranged interview with a member of staff will need to sign in using the school's QR Check In code.

Ventilation

The NSW Department of Education has completed an audit of our school to ensure we are able to achieve appropriate natural ventilation for our students. Please refer to the attached Ventilation Report for more specific information. Staff will be following these guidelines including ensuring windows and doors are open where required to achieve this. Classes will also make use of outdoor learning areas within the school to conduct lessons where appropriate.

Mask Wearing

Masks are recommended indoors and outdoors for primary school students (unless exercising or eating). We encourage students to provide their own masks, but have a supply of masks at school if a child forgets theirs and wishes to wear one. Masks will continue to be worn by all staff members unless they are working alone in a room.

General hygiene

Staff will encourage students to observe social distancing where possible, wash their hands with soap after going to the toilet and utilising hand sanitizer which is available throughout the school. This information will be communicated to students by their teachers and through daily reminders to the whole school.

COVID symptoms or sick/ unwell students

Students must not attend school if unwell, even with mild symptoms of COVID-19.

Any person with any COVID-19 symptoms will be sent home and not return to school unless:

- they have a negative COVID-19 test result and are symptom free or
- they have isolated for 10 days, when no medical certificate is available.

In circumstances where students or staff have other medical reasons for recurrent symptoms, a letter from their GP is sufficient to negate the requirement for a negative test. Where a person has previously tested positive for COVID-19, NSW Health will provide them with a medical clearance that allows them to return to school or work.

FAQs

Can my child continue to 'learning from home'?

The NSW Department of Education has indicated that the best learning environment for students is the classroom. They have worked closely with NSW Health to develop a COVID-safe and cautious plan to stagger the return to face-to-face schooling from 18 October 2021.

Only students with a specific medical need supported by documentation will be supported to continue learning from home and this will be discussed with families on an individual basis.

Please contact the school if this relates to your child. If parents or carers believe that their child has a condition that means it's not safe for them to return to school, they will need to provide a medical certificate.

In this instance, we encourage families to speak with their doctor or health care provider to develop a COVID 19 Action Plan to support decision-making about their activities, including attendance at school.

We understand that some families were hoping that there would be a continued option to learn from home. However, as outlined above this is not being provided by NSW Department of Education schools. We will communicate any changes to this information should it arise.

Are the staff vaccinated?

Although we obviously would not discuss, or disclose the vaccination status of any staff members, we can confirm that all staff onsite have complied with the NSW Public Health Orders that relate to the NSW Department of Education.

Can my child still catch the bus to school?

The latest information about Public Transport and COVID can be found here: [Transport for NSW advice](#)

NSW Department of Education - Further Information

As information for families from the NSW Department of Education is updated, it can be found here: [Advice for families](#)

Other Useful Links

NSW Government's [COVID-19 guidance on ventilation](#)

[Department of Education: Wellbeing](#)

[headspace: 7 ways to support a young person's healthy headspace](#)

[ParentLine: Parenting a Child with a Disability](#)

[Guides and information for use at home](#) (Supporting students with wellbeing)

Kind regards,

Mark Steed
Principal