



Dear Parents and Carers

As you would be aware, our school will start the transition back to classroom learning from Monday 18 May. We're excited to welcome our students and staff back onsite over the next three weeks. I would like to thank everyone in our school community for their support and patience while we were delivering learning remotely.

When we return to classroom learning, there will be some changes to the way we operate to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

I'm writing to you today to let you know about some of the measures we will be putting in place.

Health and hygiene

There will be a strong focus on ensuring good health and hygiene practices – like hand washing – when we return. Our school has stocked up on soap, hand sanitiser and paper towels and all students and staff will be regularly reminded to wash their hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser. Parents should also encourage their children to wash their hands before they arrive at school.

There will also be a focus on other hygiene measures, including encouraging everyone to cough into elbows or a tissue, placing used tissues in bins, avoiding touching eyes, noses or mouths, no sharing food or drink, not using water fountains or bubblers directly, as well as hygiene measures in the preparation of food products.

Cleaning

Our cleaning services will be extended to deliver dedicated cleaning activities during each school day – particularly on high touch points such as door handles – and an updated cleaning plan will be in place prior to resumption of face to face learning.

If your child is sick

When students return to the classroom, it is important we are vigilant about health and hygiene. This means if your child has any kind of illness, even if it is just a runny nose, they must not come to school. If your child comes to school unwell, you will be asked to collect them. We will be stricter in implementing these rules than you are perhaps used to, but it is for the health and safety of everyone in our school community.

Our usual first aid/sick bay procedures apply, and you will be contacted to collect your child should they become unwell at school. Please ensure that your contact information is up to date and that you are available by phone in case the school needs to contact you.

Physical distancing

New physical distancing measures will be in place for adults in our schools. This will be a big change to the way we are used to interacting with our school community.

The ACT Chief Health Officer has advised that schools should limit the gathering of adults on school sites. At our school this will mean adults, including parents and staff, will need to maintain physical distancing between themselves and other adults.



Adults in ACT public schools will need to ensure they keep to the guidelines of maintaining 1.5 metres between themselves and no more than one adult per four square metres in an indoor space (for example in classrooms).

In limiting the number of adults on site, we encourage you to contact us via e-mail or telephone before visiting. If a face-to-face meeting is required, we ask you to book a time so that physical distancing can be planned.

School pick-up and drop off

Where possible, parents and carers will be encouraged to drop children off without entering the school grounds, although younger children may require some assistance, and this will be supported.

Drop off/pick procedures are as follows:

Preschool

Students will have staggered start and pick up times as they transition back to Preschool to enable social distancing of parents during drop off and pick up times. These times will be communicated to each family via Seesaw. Parents are asked to line up outside the Preschool gate (near the signposted cones) before entering the Preschool area. There will be markers on the ground to ensure parents are observing social distancing of 1.5 metres from other adults. If you need to enter the preschool area, please ensure you continue to practice social distancing. Please drop your child to the classroom and exit as soon as possible. Please be aware that we will be limiting the number of adults in the preschool area and we aim to transition preschool students in as quickly as possible. This will support a smooth transition and limit adult/parent contact with each other as much as practicable.

At pick up time, parents are asked to line up at the gate (observing social distancing) and staff will bring your child to meet you.

Junior School

Students are to be dropped to the turning circle by a family member - adults are encouraged to stay in their car. Staff will be on duty at the turning circle to walk students into school. Students arriving at school are to go directly to the courtyard and the new grassed area as per their usual routine. Upon entry into the site, students will be asked to sanitise their hands at the sanitising stations. This will be supported by a teacher. When the bell rings students will assemble in class lines outside their classroom with their teacher. With their classroom teachers, students will move into classrooms, hang up their bag and utilise hand sanitiser upon entry into the classroom. The class will begin the day with an education session regarding the health and hygiene measures that are in place at the school. Students will then recommence their classroom learning.

A station will be set up in the turning circle from 8:30am - 9:15am and 2:15pm-3:00pm each day during the week in the turning circle for the returning of any Chromebooks that have been loaned from the school. Please observe social distancing measures when lining up to return devices.

At pick up time, students will be walked to the turning circle by their teacher at 2:45pm to be collected by parents. Parents are again asked to stay in their car. Please support this process by writing your child/ren's surname and class/es on an A4 piece of paper placed in your passenger side window so that we can easily identify who you are collecting. Staff will be supporting students to get into the car safely.

A station will be set up in the turning circle from 8:30am - 9:15am and 2:15pm-3:00pm each day during the week in the turning circle for the returning of any Chromebooks that have been loaned from the school. Please observe social distancing measures when lining up to return devices.

Senior School

Students arriving at school are to wait on the concourse until the bell rings at 8.50am. Upon entering the main building, they are to sanitise their hands at the sanitising station and move to their Pastoral

Care class (only Monday). During Period 1 in Pastoral Care classes there will be an education session regarding safety measures in place at the school and the requirements surrounding personal health and hygiene practices for students as well as catch up and connection time. After Break 1 students will then move to timetabled classes as per Monday Week A of their timetable.

Tuesday's Community Connections timetabled class will be Line A subject time in lieu of Monday's long Pastoral Care class. The rest of the week we will be following the Week A timetable.

Pastoral Care check-in times will revert back to normal PC time for all year groups as per the Week A timetable from Monday 18 May.

Remote Learning

On Site Junior and Senior Students - students of parents who are essential workers and need to send their children to school should bring all learning equipment, as they will be supervised to complete their remote learning as provided by their teachers. Junior School students - please line up on the Basketball Court when the bell goes. Senior School students please line up outside the Canteen when the bell goes.

At home for Junior and Senior Students - if the decision has been made that your child is not transitioning back to school on the allocated transition date for their year group (and you have not already informed the school), please communicate this with your child's classroom/PC teacher with your intentions, to ensure that student attendance can be recorded accordingly and you will not receive the SMS message regarding non-attendance. For example, you might send your child's classroom/PC teacher an email on Sunday indicating your child's plans for the week.

Canteen

Regarding School Canteen services, currently there is no walk-up service and all food must be pre ordered. All information about pre ordering from the Canteen is available here <http://www.flexischools.com.au/>

Buses

All Transport Canberra school services will run as per the regular school timetable.

As previously communicated, it is important to remember that the COVID-19 pandemic is not over; rather, it is now entering a new phase of response. It is essential that all members of the Gold Creek School community are fully committed to practising the infection mitigation strategies that we have outlined, so that the return of students to school for face-to-face learning can be as safe as possible.

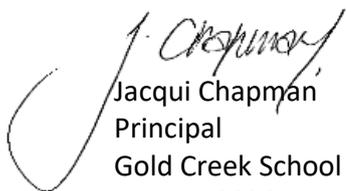
All students must work to normalise new ways of practising healthy and safe personal hygiene methods and ensure that at all times they follow our instructions and guidelines. This will be a crucial focus in the coming weeks, and I thank you in advance for reinforcing and supporting these efforts with your child/ren.

Contact us

If you need to discuss any of the above with us, please call us on 6141 21300 or email us on info@goldcreek.act.edu.au.

We again thank you for your ongoing support of our school. We look forward to seeing your children return to the classroom in the weeks ahead.

Kind regards


Jacqui Chapman
Principal
Gold Creek School
14 May 2020