

Return to school Level 3 plus

Information current as at 7 October 2021

Developed in partnership with NSW Health



Acknowledgement of Country



I acknowledge that I am hosting this virtual assembly from the lands of the Dharug People. I also acknowledge the Ongoing Custodians of the various lands on which you are all calling in from today and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people participating in this assembly and throughout our school community.

What This Will Cover

Term 4 return to school



- Key dates
- COVID-safe practices at our school
- Vaccinations
- Where to find out more
- What you can do to assist your child returning 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 thank our community for all of their support over the last 3 months as we know it hasn't been easy for any of us.

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

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

Please read through the next slides carefully as there is plenty of useful information and some specific information about Barnier's return to school plan.

COVID-safe operations for schools

Department preschools, Kindergarten & Year 1	All other years	
18 October	25 October	
		
		

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).

Please note that under the current restrictions, parents will not be allowed on site. If you do need something, please call the school office from the front gate (Barnier Drive) on 98371600 and a staff member will come out to you.



Drop Off

Students can be dropped at any one of our 3 gates. A member of the executive team and the school leaders will be there to greet and help where needed.

Once students have entered the school grounds they will need to go to the following play areas until the 8:45 bell goes:

Kindergarten – Kindy Passive area (outside the Kindy rooms)

Year 1 and 2 – Barnier Park (the basketball court area)

Year 3 and 4 – Quiet Quad (outside 4T and 4W rooms)

Year 5 and 6 - COLA



Pick Up

To minimise mingling at the school gates, Barnier will be staggering their finishing times.

- Students in Kindergarten who will be picked up by a parent at the school gate (and their older siblings), will need to be collected at their specified gate at 2:20pm
- Students in Year 1 & 2 who will be picked up by a parent at the school gate (and their older siblings), will need to be collected at their specified gate at 2:30pm
- All other students will be dismissed at 2:45pm

All parents of K-2 students should have already spoken with their class teacher about which gate their child will be picked up from. If you have not yet discussed this with the class teacher, please contact the school ASAP.



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 training teachers 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, we will do our best to keep students 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.

At Barnier we will be grouping our students by Stages:

Early Stage 1 – Kindergarten

Stage 1 – Year 1 & 2

Stage 2 – Year 3 & 4

Stage 3 – Year 5 & 6



Mask wearing for students and staff



Masks

Masks will be required for all staff and all students

in Year 7 and above while they are indoors and outdoors on school sites unless eating or exercising.

Masks are strongly recommended for primary students both indoors and outdoors unless eating or exercising.

Students should bring their own masks where possible, but schools will have back-up supplies just in case. Masks are also required for all travel on public transport for children 13 years and older.

Masks are required to be worn on school site by staff indoors and outdoors and strongly recommended for students indoors and outdoors unless exercising or eating.

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 our primary students they are strongly recommended by NSW Health and the department 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>



Fitting a mask to younger children

How to wear a mask



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1

Ensure the mask covers your nose and mouth and fits snugly under your chin, over the bridge of your nose and against the sides of your face

How to wear a mask



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2

Make sure the ear loops are firmly in place

How to wear a mask



3/4

3

Fold the metal strip in the mask around your nose so it stays in place

How to wear a mask

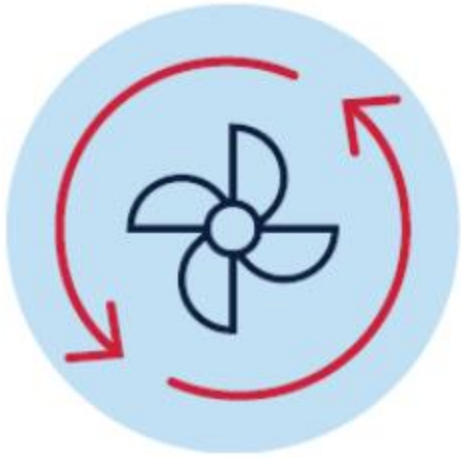


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4

Try not to touch your face while wearing your mask

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.

Our school has been assessed and classroom windows can be and will be opened to ensure they are well ventilated. We understand that at Barnier mosquitoes have been an issue in the past, we are following the school's risk management plan to assist in dealing with this, but also encourage students to apply an insect repellent spray prior to coming to school each day.

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.

Barnier will look at creative ways to celebrate our usual end of year events and keep you informed through Sentral.



School Canteen

The School Canteen will be operational for online orders only commencing Monday 25th October until further notice.

There will be no school canteen in Week 3.

Please order through:

<https://www.flexischools.com.au>



Payments for organised events

Payments can be made for organised events online from our school website. Please click on the *Make a Payment* tab. Payments cannot be made over the phone.

Completed and signed permission notes can be placed in the payments box outside the administration building.



MAKE A PAYMENT | ENROLMENT | NEWS | NEWSLETTER | EVENTS | GALLERY



Barnier Public School

Challenging the Future

T: 02 9837 1600

E: barnier-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Ordering School Uniforms

School uniforms can be ordered online through our school website. The link to our Flexischools uniform orders can be located by clicking on the following pages:

- About our School
- What we offer
- Uniform Shop



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.



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

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>

Things You Can Do: Talk To Your Child

Step 1: Talk to your child about returning to School

- Talk to your child about the changes the school has let you know about and tell them the teachers will be there to help if they are unsure about anything.
- Reassure them with calm words and actions that going to school will be safe and fun.



Things You Can Do: Talk To Your Child

Talk to your child about their feelings

- Encourage your child to share their feelings and any concerns they have before and after returning to school.
- Reassure them that it is normal to have big and sometimes mixed feelings such as excitement or worry.
- Practice some deep triangle breathing together and let them know they can do it on their own at school to help with any big feelings there.

Triangle Breathing



Use your index finger to trace a triangle on the palm of your hand as you take deep breaths

Things You Can Do: Re-establishing Routines

Getting your child and family into a regular routine in the weeks leading up to returning to school will help make the transition and change easier to manage.

The week before:

- Return to usual school day wake up, morning and bedtime routines.
- Ensure they are getting enough sleep.
- Practice having breakfast, lunch and snack times that coincide with typical school breaks.
- Create a calendar that counts down the days until their return.
- Practice getting ready to go to school e.g. finding their uniform and packing their bag.

Things You Can Do: Re-establishing Routines

The day before:

- Include your child in packing their school bag and getting their uniform ready.
- Talk with them about the plans for the next day including the morning routine, what to expect when they arrive at school and afternoon pick up plans.

The morning of:

- Allow extra time to get ready.
- Keep yourself calm to help your child remain calm.
- Repeat all the information you discussed with them the previous night about what their day will look like.

Things You Can Do: Drop Off and Pick Up

School drop offs might look different when school resumes, some children and parents might find saying goodbye difficult. We can prepare our children for this by:

Planning ahead:

- Talk about whatever details you already know – who will be where to drop and pick them up. Reassure them the teachers will help them if any changes are made.
- Create a quick goodbye ‘ritual’ for each child e.g. a secret handshake, special wave or triple kiss just for this occasion.
- Organise for a buddy to walk into school with them or for them to keep a special item that helps them feel “brave”.

Things You Can Do: Drop Off and Pick Up

Practice, Practice, Practice!

- Practice small periods of separation prior to school starting e.g. hanging out the washing while your child stays inside or leaving them with a friend while you go to the shops.
- Practice your goodbye ritual so your child knows what to expect.

At the gate:

- Remain calm, confident and be consistent.
- Give your child your full attention.
- Say a proper goodbye (but keep it brief) and tell them when you'll be back e.g. "I'll be back later today after school". Do not sneak away when your child is distracted and don't linger.
- Perform your goodbye ritual once only.
- Reassure them that their teacher and school staff will be there to help.

Thank you

If you have any questions regarding the return to school, please email the school at:

Barnier-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au