

# The Crest



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## Term 4 Week 2 13 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all back into the swing of learning from home for the beginning of Term 4. This term will see a lot of changes as we gradually transition back to face-to-face learning as the Premier announced in the adjusted return to school plan last week. Below are the key dates and details to help prepare you and your family for the return, including some changes in the staged return to school.

### Return to school roadmap

During Term 4, students will return to school in a staged approach, with no mingling or on-site activities.

In schools like ours where we have been learning from home for extended periods of time, students will return to face-to-face learning with NSW Health-approved COVID-safe settings on school sites in the following order:

- from 18 October – department preschools, Kindergarten, Year 1
- from 25 October – all remaining year groups.

The return to school roadmap is subject to change depending on advice from NSW Health. You can stay up to date with the most recent information on our [Advice for families page](#).

For those families who have siblings across year groups I know it will be difficult to keep some at home while others are back at school. But to re-iterate the message above – we need this time to prepare our school and staff for having all our students back, so it's essential that you only send your children to school in line with our set plan.

### Canteen

The canteen will be operational from Wednesday 27 October for online orders only.

### Cohorts

On 25 October when all students return to site, students will be separated into class cohorts and classes kept separate during learning time. During eating time and on the playground stage groups will be allocated sections of the playground to play in. We are very lucky to have such a large outdoor open space which means we will not have to have staggered lunch time like many other schools. Teachers will

explicitly teach and remind students of their allocated areas.

### **Drop-offs and pick-ups**

The drop off and pick up of students will continue from Hillcrest Road. To limit contact please ensure you don't linger at drop off or pick up. Teacher supervision in the playground starts at 8:50am, so please ensure students walking to school by themselves are arriving after 8:50am.

To ease congestion at pick up time children will exit from their allocated stage gates as follows:

Kinder - Office Gate

Stage 3 - Hall Gate

Stage 1 - BOOSH gate

Stage 2 - Bottom gate near the car park

Students catching a bus or riding a bike will exit from the Hall gate.

Please note siblings who travel home together are able to meet on school grounds and exit together. Please ensure you talk to your children so they are aware of the drop off and pick up arrangements.

Parents and carers must follow their school's advice regarding changes to student drop-off and pick-up. This includes staying in the car when dropping off and picking up children if it is safe to do so. This does not apply to drop off and pick up from outside of school hours care (OOSH) as sign-in and -out procedures are required.

Parents and carers should:

- follow the physical distancing guidelines and avoid gathering outside school gates
- remain outside school grounds (some exceptions may exist for SSPs, vulnerable students or students with disability)
- adhere to mask-wearing requirements in accordance with the Public Health Order
- sign in using the Service NSW QR code if entering the school.

### **Visitors**

Restrictions to visitors on site will remain and essential workers such as allied health professionals will be able to attend site from the 25<sup>th</sup> October.

Check-in protocols when attending a school site

All staff and visitors attending a school site must comply with school protocols and check in using the applicable Service NSW QR code

## **Health and Safety**

Staff and students must not attend work or school if unwell, even with mild symptoms of COVID-19. Any person with any COVID-19 symptoms must 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.

## **Student absences**

If you believe that their child has a condition that means it's not safe for them to return to school, you will need to provide a medical certificate. In this instance, we encourage you 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. Please contact your class teacher if you have concerns regarding your child returning to school so that we can work with you to support their safe return as we know school is the best place for our children.

## **Masks**

Masks are not mandatory for students however they are strongly encouraged. Masks are mandatory for staff both inside and outside. The DoE has provided teachers will information about how to teach the children to wear masks safely all teachers will cover this with their classes.

## **Changes in Levels**

We will be returning to school as a Level 3 Plus category. As we receive further updates it is possible that we move to Level 3 which would see more restrictions on school site ease.

There is a possibility of schools reverting back to Level 4 and into home learning if there is a positive case in the school or an escalation of positive cases in the community. We need to keep that in mind as it may be a possibility in the future. We are moving into the unknown. We will keep the community updated as soon as possible with any changes.

## **Reporting**

Reporting for Semester 2, 2021 will occur but with some amendments. During Term 4 Week 10 parents/carers will receive a simplified written report about their child's learning during Semester 2. Parents will also be given the opportunity to report on their child's progress and learning while learning from home. This information will be valuable for the teachers in helping to understand the learning and application from a parent's point of view.

## **Parent and Carer Zoom Sessions**

It was again encouraging to see our parents attend our Parent/Carer Zoom session on Friday at 10am. We appreciate you taking the time out of your busy day and we thank you for your questions, well considered suggestions and positive comments of support.

We will be holding our final Parent Zoom sessions this Friday as all students are expected to return to school the following week. We encourage any parents who

are able to attend to jump on to find out the updates and so that we can answer any questions you may have. If you can't make it a summary of the updates and the Q & A will be emailed by School Bytes.

Please use the link/details below to access the Zoom meeting:

Topic: Parent Meeting

Time: Term 4 Friday 15 October 10:00am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://nsweducation.zoom.us/j/69772194665?pwd=RnhUbEFFeFRoeE5DYytPbk1JelJHUT09>

Meeting ID: 697 7219 4665

Passcode: 643116

### **Parent Communication**

BPS Parent Communication Procedures and our BPS Visitor Procedures are available on our school website.

We encourage parents to engage in their child's learning by leaving a like or a comment on their Seesaw work. If you have questions, enquires or comments for teachers please email or phone the school and the teacher will get back to you as soon as possible.

Please note access to the school site is restricted to essential visitors only. All staff and any visitors are required to use the QR codes to check in and out of school premises and are required to wear masks.

School Bytes, our school email system is set up to send emails to the parent listed as the 1<sup>st</sup> contact on student enrolment forms. If you would like to add a second parent/carers contact to receive emails please email your request to the school email address.

Additionally, if you change your email address or are not receiving emails please ensure you notify the school so we can check and update your details.

### **Loan Devices**

If you require a device for your child to access online learning please contact the office so arrangement can be made. At this stage there is a limit of one device per family.

### **WHS**

Intensive cleaning will continue to take place daily and schools are being provided with additional hygiene supplies.

### Questions or concerns

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the school via the school email or phone the office. Please be aware that response times may be slower than usual as we are experiencing a higher volume of calls and emails due to the changes.

### Risk Management Plans

If your child has sustained a serious injury and requires accommodations or adjustments to be put in place please phone the school office to make an appointment with me. We create Risk Management Plans to prevent any further injury and so that all staff are aware of any necessary changes that are put in place.

### 2022 Enrolments – Please enrol your child now for 2022 using online enrolments

A child is entitled to enrol at the local school that the student is eligible to attend if his or her home is within that school's intake area.

Currently our school has an enrolment of 374 students. We sit 50 above our enrolment cap of 324 students. An out of area application for BPS can still be made, however, it is submitted to a panel who follow criteria to decide whether the application is accepted.

BPS Enrolment Procedures and Protocols are located on our school website at <https://berowra-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

Please contact the office if you require any additional information.

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me via the school email [berowra-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:berowra-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au) or phone the front office.

Vicky Wallace  
Principal

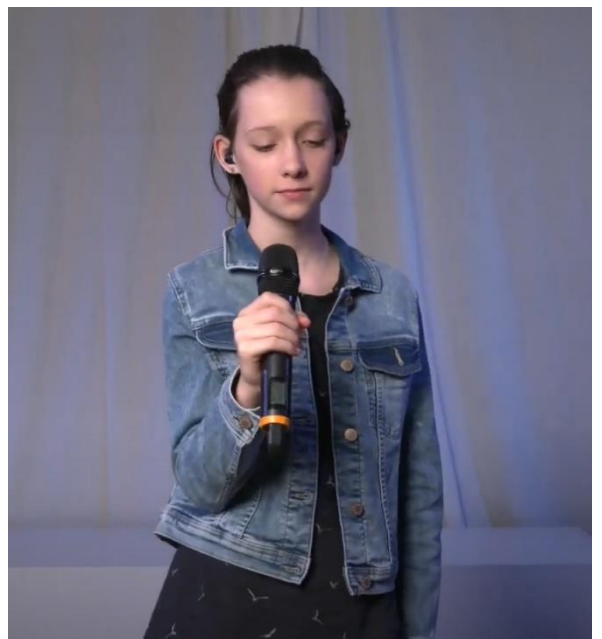
### Student Learning

Congratulations!!!

Beth entered Ryde Eisteddfod in the Amplified Vocal Own Composition section. She had to submit a video entry due to Covid restrictions, there was no live competition.

She submitted her own composition called "Mountains" and she was awarded Highly Commended for her efforts by the judge. All music and lyrics were composed by Beth.

What an outstanding achievement we are so proud of you!!!



## Road Safety

### Driver Safety Message



Hillcrest Road is very busy and there are a number of pedestrians crossing at Balaclava Road before and after school.

Please be mindful that U-turns are not safe around school zones

## Attendance

Teachers are still recording attendance. Students who are learning from home are recorded as Flexible on the roll. This will not negatively affect their attendance. Teachers will be checking if students have submitted work.

If your child is sick please let the school know by either email or phone so that we can update our rolls accordingly.

## Health and Safety is everyone's responsibility

Our P&C has purchased accident insurance for students who are injured as a result of a serious incident at school. Information is available at the office.

**Accident & Health International**  
Underwriting Pty Limited



**Covid-19 Update** Berowra Public School is continuing to follow DoE and NSW Health advice to help manage the spread of viruses and we will continue to keep the community informed as we are provided updates.



1. **Wash your hands** regularly and thoroughly.
2. **Sneeze into your elbow** or a tissue, disposing of the tissue straight away and then washing your hands.
3. **Stay home if you are unwell** and in schools, send home staff or students who show signs of being unwell through the day.

# BPS SCHOOL CALENDAR

**\*Please note that all events scheduled onsite until 25 October have been cancelled**

**\* Please note calendar events for the remainder of the term are pending Covid-19 restrictions and DoE guidelines at the time of the event**

TERM 4		
Week	Date	Event
Week 1	Tuesday 5 October	Term 4 resumes for staff and students
Week 3	Monday 18 October	Kindy and Year 1 return to school
Week 3	Tuesday 19 October	Year 2 Excursion to Sydney Zoo
Week 3	Wednesday 20 October	P&C Meeting
Week 4	Monday 25 October	All students 2-6 return to school
Week 4	Thursday 28 October	Grandparent's and Special Friend's Day – Modified activities
Week 5	Thursday 4 November	Canteen Special Day: TBA
Week 7	Wednesday 17 November	P&C Meeting
Week 7	Sunday 21 November	Working Bee
Week 8	Friday 26 November	School Support Group Disco
Week 9	Thursday 2 December	Term 4 Dance Concert
Week 9	Thursday 2 December	Year 5 High School Experience Day
Week 9	Saturday 4 December	Election BBQ run by the P&C
Week 10	Wednesday 8 December	Presentation Day
Week 10	Friday 10 December	Semester 2 Student Reports
Week 10	Date TBA	Year 6 Farewell
Week 11	Tuesday 14 December	Talent Show
Week 11	Wednesday 15 December	P&C Meeting (if required)
Week 11	Thursday 16 December	Last day of school for students
Week 11	Friday 17 December	Last day of school for staff



# HELPFUL TIPS FOR COMING BACK TO PRIMARY SCHOOL

Your teacher is looking forward to seeing you and we know that you are looking forward to seeing your friends.

Sometimes learning from home felt easy, sometimes it felt a bit hard. Everyone has a different learning from home story to tell. Here's some helpful tips for you as you get ready to return to school.



## GET READY

Check your uniform and shoes still fit, and repack your school bag. Your school will have hand sanitiser and masks, but you can take your own too!



## BE SAFE

Safety first – wear your mask. Sneeze or cough into your elbow, put used tissues in the bin, and wash your hands during the day and before you eat.



## BE KIND AND PATIENT

Everyone will settle back to school in a different way. Showing kindness and being patient with the people around you will help everyone feel better.



## SCHOOL WORK

Try your best. Let a teacher, parent or a carer know what you found easy or hard when working from home. They are there to help you.



## FEELINGS

It can help to talk. It's ok to feel a little unsure, worried, nervous, happy, angry or any feeling in between. Talking to your parent or a carer, your teacher or other staff is important when you feel unsettled or are worried about a friend.



## HAVE SOME FUN

Your teacher wants you to enjoy being back at school. Join in the classroom and break-time fun, and play outside with your friends and classmates.



## EAT

Food is fuel for your body and brain. Don't forget to eat breakfast and grab a healthy lunch and keep your water bottle topped up!



## SLEEP

Nothing beats a good sleep. Go to bed early and keep phones and other devices in another room, so you're not disturbed. It might take a little time to get back into your routine.



| NSW Department of Education


# Roadmap for parents and carers Return to school for Level 3 plus

Information current as at 7 October 2021.

Developed in partnership with NSW Health

[education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families](https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families)





# In Term 4, schools will return to face-to-face learning either through a 'staged return' or 'full return'.

The best learning environment for students is in the classroom and we are looking forward to welcoming back our staff and students in Term 4. We know that while there will be excitement, there will also be some anxiety and uncertainty about being back together at school.

Recent evidence shows that very little COVID transmission happens between children in school settings, and only a very small number of children who contract COVID-19 get seriously ill. However, to support school safety we are requiring all staff on site to be fully vaccinated, and we are strongly encouraging our students and school community to do the same.

We have worked with NSW Health on our COVID-safe plan to return to school sites and have developed effective practices to support this, including staff vaccinations, mask wearing, reduced mingling of staff and student groups, ventilation in classrooms and continued good hygiene and cleaning. We are confident that this, in combination with support from our school community, will minimise risk and help to keep schools open and students learning face-to-face next to their peers.

## How the staged return to school will work

Students will return to face-to-face learning at school in the following order:

- from 18 October – department preschool, Kindergarten, Year 1
- from 25 October – all remaining year groups.

To maximise the re-establishment of a consistent routine, students who attend schools for Specific Purposes (SSPs) are recommended to return at the same time as students in mainstream settings. Students with disabilities in mainstream classes or support classes can also return as part of the staggered return at the same time as their year groups.

Students completing their HSC can already return in a limited way and this will continue for the first two weeks of Term 4. From 18 October, these students will have full-time access to school campuses and their teachers.

Some schools may have slightly different return to school plans, particularly if they have stage based classes or are very small schools.



### School attendance

All students should be at school on the date indicated for their year group, unless:

- they have a medical certificate which says they can't return to school due to a condition or illness
- they are currently unwell
- they have been asked by NSW Health to self-isolate.





## Wellbeing

If you are worried that the impacts of COVID-19 or going back to face-to-face learning may be affecting your child's wellbeing, please discuss this with your child's teacher.

You can find more information to help your child's wellbeing through the mental health and wellbeing resources on the department's website.

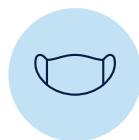


## Break times, drop-offs and pick-ups and canteens

To make sure students reduce the risk of transmission across cohorts, schools will put in place staggered recess and lunch breaks, start and finish times and drop-off and pick-up points.

Students can use the canteen during breaks. This will be different at each school depending on the size of the school, the number of students, traffic flow and other factors.

## Creating a safe learning environment



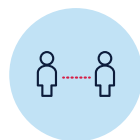
## Masks and face coverings

Masks will be mandatory 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 mandatory for all travel on public transport for children 13 years and older.



## Physical distancing

All adults must keep 1.5 metres distance from each other, including teachers and support staff, and parents and carers waiting to collect children.

Physical distancing between children in the same class is not required under the latest health guidelines. Mixing between class groups will be minimised and students will be supported to follow strict hygiene practices like:

- regularly washing hands
- not sharing drinks or food
- coughing or sneezing into their elbow, or else using a tissue which should be put in the bin straight away
- filling water bottles from bubblers rather than using the bubbler directly.



## Vaccination

All adults at school sites, including employees, contractors, volunteers and essential visitors, must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by 8 November 2021. Adults that are required to support the staged return to school in October 2021 will be required to have received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine by that date. For schools under Level 3 settings, adults are strongly encouraged to have had two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, but are not required to be fully vaccinated until 8 November.

Students aged 12 or above are now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination. Parents and carers can book in a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine now.

Vaccination appointments are available at more than 3,000 locations across NSW, including GPs and pharmacies. For students and families who have questions or concerns related to getting vaccinated, refer to [NSW Health's Know the facts COVID-19 vaccination fact sheet](#).



## School cleaning and hygiene supplies

Schools will continue to receive additional cleaning in line with advice from NSW Health.

Schools have received extra supplies of soap, hand sanitiser, toilet paper, paper towels, disinfectant wipes and personal protective equipment and can order more as needed.



## School activities

Many school-based activities will remain on hold, including large celebrations such as presentation days and graduations, arts and sports events. For a full list of what is permitted and what is on hold, refer to [education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families](https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families).



## Visitors

Only essential visitors are allowed on school sites at this time. When dropping off or picking up your child, parents and carers need to stay outside school grounds, you will need to wear a mask and physically distance. Some exceptions may exist for:

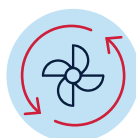
- schools for specific purposes
- vulnerable students
- students with disability
- preschools.

In these instances, follow the vaccination and mask-wearing requirements and sign in using the Service NSW QR code when entering the school.



## Reporting and assessment

You will receive your child's Semester 2 report by the end of the year. This will be a simplified version of the report you normally receive.



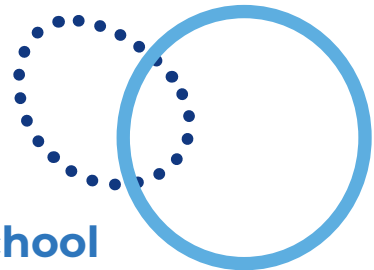
## Ventilation

Open or well-ventilated spaces reduce the risk of COVID-19. Where possible classroom doors and windows will remain open and fans and air-conditioners will be set to use outside air, where possible.



## Rapid antigen testing

We are exploring with NSW Health the use of COVID home testing kits (known as rapid antigen testing) as a further screening measure to reduce the risk of outbreaks in schools, or the length of time students need to isolate after contact with someone with COVID. Further details will be provided in Term 4.



## Orientation and transition to school

We have flexible arrangements so that students and parents and carers can still get help with orientation and transition to school in a COVID-safe way. Kindergarten and Year 7 orientation programs will be possible for schools that are no longer under stay-at-home rules. Transition and orientation programs will be virtual for schools still under stay-at-home rules.



## Responding to COVID-19 cases

Where there is a case of COVID-19 in the school community, the department has established systems and protocols with NSW Health to manage and respond accordingly to keep our staff and students safe. These protocols include communication with parents or carers if their child has been in contact with someone who has tested positive to COVID-19 while at school or if the school becomes closed.



## If your school reverts to learning from home

If schools revert to learning from home due to a Public Health Order or direction from NSW Health or the Department, the school will continue to provide learning activities for your child to do at home and will communicate with you about their learning.

If your child's school needs to revert to remote learning, your school will let families know through the usual channels, which might include email, social media or the school website.



## If your school becomes closed due to a COVID-19 case

Parents and students will be notified when a decision is made to make the school closed for onsite attendance due to a confirmed case of COVID-19 or other events that require the school to close. Information about the operational status of the school will be distributed through the school's information channels, including the school website, Schools Safety App, any school social media channels and the department's website. During this period, the school will continue to provide learning activities for your child to do at home and will communicate with you about their learning. Parents and students will be informed by the department when the school is ready to resume onsite learning.



## Get in touch with questions or concerns

Your principal has already started planning for a COVID-safe return at your school, taking into account the unique needs of their students and school. To support this planning, and to allow for your teachers to be fully vaccinated by 8 November or earlier, it is important that students return on the date specified for their year group.

Get in contact with your principal directly if you would like more information about your school's COVID-safe return to school plan or if you have concerns or questions about your child being back in their classroom for face-to-face learning in Term 4.

If you need further information, please call your school. If you need an interpreter to assist you with your enquiry, please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. You will not be charged for this service.

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## Say hello



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[education.nsw.gov.au](https://www.education.nsw.gov.au)

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# eSafety's parent guide

## to digital technologies and mental health

Join the **eSafety Commissioner's** expert education and training team for a **FREE** live webinar.

This Term 4 webinar will provide parents and carers with strategies to help young people and their mental health when they are online.

### Register now

#### **Dates:** (AEDT)

<b>19 October</b> 7.30 to 8.30pm	<b>26 October</b> 7.30 to 8.30pm
<b>20 October</b> 12.30 to 1.30pm	<b>9 November</b> 7.30 to 8.30pm
<b>21 October</b> 12.30 to 1.30pm	<b>18 November</b> 12.30 to 1.30pm



**Register now:** [esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars](https://esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars)





# Tuning in to Teens

emotionally.intelligent.parenting

**TERM 4: 2021**

## ONLINE PARENTING PROGRAM

**Would you like to learn how to:**

- Talk more effectively with your teen?
- Be better at understanding your teen?
- Prevent behaviour problems in your teen?
- Help your teen manage their emotions?

**Risk taking behaviour can be common in adolescents, with potential varying pressures of substances use from alcohol to vaping and harder substances. This group will deliver the evidence-based Tuning into Teens parenting group based on emotion coaching with additional information and support around risk taking behaviours.**

**Teens with higher emotional intelligence:**

- Are more aware, assertive and strong in situations of peer pressure
- Have greater success making friends and managing conflict with peers
- Are more able to cope when upset or angry
- Have fewer mental health and substance abuse difficulties
- Have more stable and satisfying relationships as adults
- Have greater career success

**WHEN:** 20 October- 24 November  
Wednesdays: 10:00am to 12:00pm

**WHERE:** Online via Zoom (link will be provided upon confirmation)

**ENQUIRIES:** Email: [dayss@catholiccaredbb.org.au](mailto:dayss@catholiccaredbb.org.au)

**BOOKINGS:** <https://form.jotform.com/212510637554856>