

Dear parent and carers,

As promised, I am writing with additional information about the return of students to our school. First, a reminder about the dates for our phased return.

Commencing 25 October (Week 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preschool and kindergarten • Years 1 and 2 • Year 6 • Out of school hours care (OSHC)
Commencing 1 November (Week 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years 3, 4 and 5
<i>From weeks 1 to 4 of term, onsite supervision and care continues to be available for vulnerable children and young people whose parents are essential workers.</i>	

Drawing on national and local health advice we have developed a return to school plan which has three key priorities:

- the health and safety of staff and young people,
- the mental and emotional well-being of students and staff, and
- ensuring continuity of learning.

Below is an outline of [ACT Health Guidelines](#) that schools are required to implement to ensure effective COVID-19 measures are in place.

Use of Check in CBR app	All staff and visitors must check in using the 'Check in CBR' app. Parents and carers cannot enter school grounds except for an essential reason. Visitors must call to make an appointment, or in advance of attendance. All visitors must report to the front office.
Student illness	Staff and students who are unwell are not able to attend school. Students who present as unwell will be required to go home.
Hygiene	Schools will maintain and promote appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene practices. Students will need to wash hands and use hand sanitisers throughout the day. Students will not be allowed to share food or drink.

Masks	Students in years 3-6 are encouraged to wear a mask if they are comfortable doing so. Students in Preschool to year 2 are not required to wear a mask. Disposable masks are available at school and should be changed at least every four hours.
Physical Distancing	Physical distancing between children and young people is not always possible, particularly in single classrooms and school environments. It is however important for limiting the transmission of COVID 19. To promote physical distancing we will be adjusting our learning programs, breaktimes, our timetable as well as pick up and drop off arrangements. More specific information about what this means for your child is included below.
Environmental cleaning	Our school cleaning program includes regular cleaning of high touch services, frequently used objects, and play equipment.
Ventilation	All schools have been assessed to increase fresh air circulation and this may involve changes to ventilation, modified HVAC system settings and maximising the use of outdoor learning spaces.
Managing suspected cases	We are prepared to respond to a positive COVID-19 case on campus, should the need arise. ACT Health will provide direction to the school and community, which may result in a full or partial school closure. A student who presents with symptoms of COVID-19 will be isolated with suitable supervision, and parents will be required to collect their child. Symptomatic students will be required to wear a mask.
Will schools have routine testing for COVID-19?	Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms should get tested immediately. ACT Health is not recommending routine COVID-19 testing of children, young people or staff using rapid antigen testing.
Wellbeing supports	Wellbeing and learning supports, such as access to a Learning Support Assistant, will recommence with the return to school. For parents and carers of students with a medical vulnerability: if you wish the school to make reasonable adjustments for the safe return of your child, you must consult a GP and provide medical advice to that effect. Where adjustments can't be made, the school will support your child to learn from home.

To further support the ACT Health Guidelines our school is making the following adjustments.

<p>Drop off and pick up</p>	<p><i>As we did last year, no parents or carers are allowed on the hard surfaces of school and the courtyard is closed: there is no access through the courtyard or the front office. Our preference is for all parents to wait at the perimeter of the school and children will come down to you. This is shown in green on the map. Please remember to maintain social distancing from other parents whilst dropping off or collecting your child. We have included two maps: one shows places where you can park to collect your children (please be mindful of local residents) and the other is more localised on the school grounds.</i></p> <p><i>Preschool children will be dropped off at the front entrance of the Preschool via a one-way route shown in light blue on the map. They will be collected at the bottom of Preschool via the bottom gate shown in the dark blue line. Neither of these areas are normally used.</i></p> <p><i>Kindergarten children will be dropped off from the grass area at the rear of Kindergarten and meet their parents there at the end of the day. This is the pink line on the map which is where Kindergarten are usually collected from.</i></p> <p><i>Years 1-6 children can be dropped off and collected at the perimeter of the school.</i></p> <p><i>The yellow lines on the map show where parents can drop off or collect their child if, due to anxieties, they need additional support.</i></p> <p><i>The carpark is in red. If you need to get out of your car to collect your child, our expectation is you will walk around the perimeter of the school to a place where they can see you rather than congregating at the front. Please do not park in the pick-up and drop-off zones.</i></p> <p><i>The path between the library and Preschool is not accessible as is the path that leads from the Preschool and library around Mark's shed and out to the carpark. This is also shown in red.</i></p> <p><i>Orange shows where to enter and exit for MFOSHC.</i></p> <p>Please see attached maps</p>
<p>Hygiene routines</p>	<p><i>Hand sanitiser will be located inside each classroom area and children will be encouraged to use this, or wash their hands, when coming into the classroom, before eating or after sneezing or coughing. Children are welcome to bring their own, small, bottle of hand sanitiser if this is desired. Before and after each outside break (lunch and recess) children will line up and staff will supervise this for all.</i></p>
<p>Teaching and learning</p>	<p><i>We have made 3 broad groups (cohorts) in the school to reduce the likelihood of Covid transmission. There will be some crossover of staff, but our goal is to minimise this as much as possible.</i></p> <p><i>Preschool: Preschool team plus Chloe, Steph, Wendy, Georgina Sofatzis (Deputy Principal and Preschool and Kindergarten team leader), Scarlett Conroy.</i></p>

	<p><i>K-2: K-2 teams, Jordan, Steph, Wendy, Vicki Nunn, Lisa McGruer, Michele Davis, Jacqui Green, Luned Scholfield, Georgina Sofatzis, Penny Day (years 1 & 2 team leader).</i></p> <p><i>3-6: 3-6 teams, Jenny Hudson, Jessica Clarke, Cathy Marot, Nat Collis, Vicki W, Joe, Mary, Eliza Aston (years 3 & 4 team leader), Bec Rizzo (years 5 & 6 team leader), Dhana Oakman.</i></p> <p><i>There will be changes to curriculum taught, assessed and reported against. Specialist teachers will only be teaching in the cohort areas they have been assigned to and so this has resulted in some of the report outcomes they were planning on teaching to different cohorts having to be removed from the reports. For those children who have been completing their learning, this will be reflected as we value the teaching our specialists have done, and the learning children have presented. Thank you to those parents who have already responded requesting 'status' grades for their children where applicable.</i></p> <p><i>Under the current restrictions it is unlikely there will be whole school events, excursions or incursions. Advice on end of year events, such as graduation, will be sent out once ACT Health and the Education Directorate provide us with this information.</i></p> <p><i>The final unit of inquiry will be sent out by each team in forthcoming newsletters and will be adjusted to reflect the emphasis on wellbeing for the children when they return.</i></p> <p><i>Any Chromebooks that have gone home from Preschool to year 2 should be returned with the charger on the first day back. For year 3 upwards, children will need to keep the Chromebook at home. We believe children have spent a long time in front of screens and we want to minimise this when we return but understand technology is an integral way in which we research. Individual teams, however, might communicate with you that children will need Chromebooks for a period of time and they will communicate this directly with you (please do not bring the charger- to reduce weight). Please charge Chromebooks at home each night in those circumstances.</i></p> <p><i>We understand the transition back for children might be challenging and we appreciate your support over the coming weeks.</i></p>
Break times	<p><i>Break times will remain the same. However, children will be split as they currently are into junior and senior areas, and these areas will be staffed by those in their cohort group. This will mean years 3-6 will not be able to use the basketball courts.</i></p> <p><i>The courtyard will also be closed to children at break times so staff can eat (due to density requirements we do not have enough space in each classroom office area or the staffroom).</i></p>
Before and After School Care	<p><i>Covid protocols have remained at MFOSHC so there are no changes to pre-lockdown arrangements (social distancing, waiting outside by the rear of the hall, check-in CBR app, hand sanitiser etc.).</i></p>
School canteens	<p><i>The school canteen will continue to operate. All orders will need to be made on Flexischools as there are no counter sales for the foreseeable future (even if restrictions change this will continue as we are having a new air-lock built near</i></p>

<i>to the hall entrance). Orders will be taken to the classroom for the children. The same arrangements apply to the uniform shop and there will be no second-hand sales at this time.</i>
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We will continue to review and adjust these measures based on the most up to date advice from ACT Health.

Remember, all adults and children aged 12 years and above are eligible for vaccination. If your child is eligible but not yet vaccinated, we encourage you to book them in by calling the COVID-19 vaccination line on 5124 7700 daily between 7am-7pm. Bookings can also be made with some [GP clinics and pharmacies](#).

We understand that there has been considerable change and uncertainty for our students during the pandemic, and as we transition back to school. I'd remind you that you and your child can book an appointment with our Telehealth Support Service on 02 6205 1559 between 9.00am and 4.30pm weekdays.

For more information about the return to schools, I'd recommend visiting [the Education Directorate's website](#).

You can keep up to date with the latest health information, advice and resources on the [ACT's COVID-19 website](#).

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and understanding as we return to face-to-face schooling.

We look forward to seeing all our students back at school.

My regards,

Chris Jones

Principal

Miles Franklin Primary School



Green- Perimeter of the school (where most parents will need to stop)

Yellow- where parents will come to drop off or collect children who require additional supports

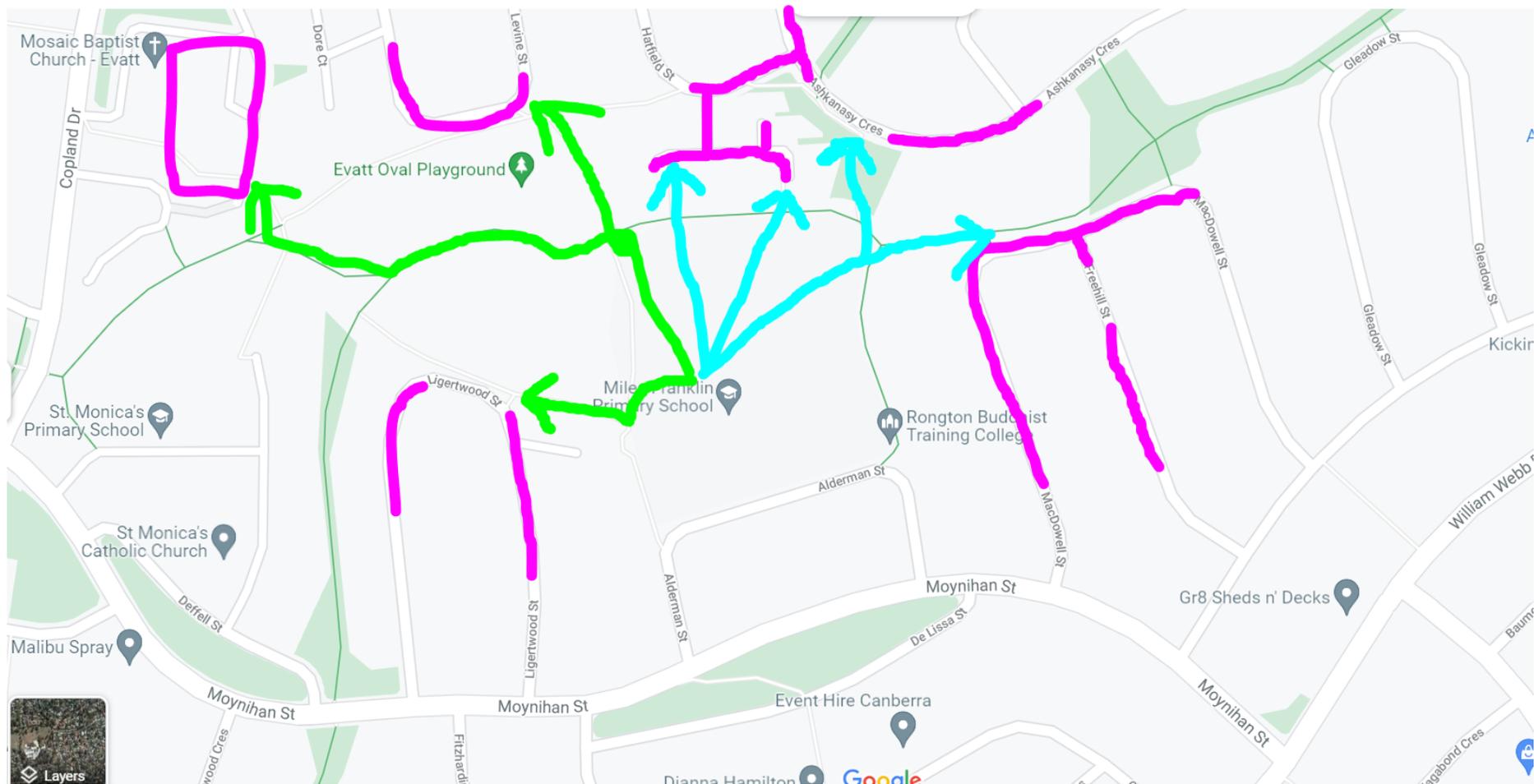
Red- areas that parents should not be accessing

Light blue- Preschool morning drop-off

Dark blue- Preschool afternoon collection

Gold- Access to MFOSHC (Before and Afters)

Pink- Kindergarten drop-off and pick-up



Pink- suggested parking areas

Green- suggested pathways for Years 3-6

Blue- suggested pathways for Preschool to Year 2