



From the Head of Junior School Wentworth Falls and Springwood Campuses Letter to Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

6th October 2021

Dear Junior School Students, Parents and Staff

It is with a great sense of relief that we can finally look forward to a staged return to School for all of our learners who have been at home learning remotely now for many months indeed. The School has been so sparsely populated for so long it has felt very odd for those of us in attendance. It will be a joy to hear the hum and excitement of a normal school community once again.

Return to School Planning

In light of the Premier's announcement changing some details regarding return to school dates there will be a slight revision to the BMGS plan. Essentially, the date for Stage 2 to return to school will be brought forward to October 25, a week earlier than originally mandated. Our other return to school dates remain the same. Please see below for confirmation.

Week	Pre-K	Kindergarten	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
1 Oct. 6	Online Learning	Online Learning	Online Learning	Online Learning	Online Learning
2 Oct. 11	Online Learning	Online Learning	Online Learning	Online Learning	Online Learning
3 Oct. 18	Face-to-Face Learning	Face-to-Face Learning	Face-to-Face Learning	Online Learning	Online Learning
4 Oct. 25 onwards	Face-to-Face Learning	Face-to-Face Learning	Face-to-Face Learning	Face-to-Face Learning	Face-to-Face Learning

Mrs Arrell and I have received some enquiries additionally regarding vaccination status of staff and so on. The School's position on this will be detailed by the Headmaster when he releases the latest COVID safety plan in the very near future.

Please note this is our advice as it stands at the moment and look out for a further communication from the Headmaster.

[COVID-Safety Planning for Return to Face-to Face Learning](#)



While the return to face-to-face learning is not scheduled until Week 3, please be assured that planning for the health and safety of our students, staff and community is well underway.

The Headmaster will release more detailed information with regard to the School's response to the Public Health Order closer to the planned return dates. In the meanwhile, the following information is indicative of the health and safety regulations that will apply throughout Term 4.

- Parents and visitors are still not permitted on Campus unless attending a planned meeting with a staff member. Where parents drop students off they are requested to remain with their vehicles where ever possible. If waiting outside the School gates for younger children, please remember to stay safely distant from each other and to be wearing a mask.
- No person is to attend School if they have even mild cold and flu symptoms. Any student presenting with even the mildest of symptoms will necessarily be isolated and parents will be contacted to come and collect their child from Sick Bay.
- Public Transport and the School Bus Service will be available in time for students to return to School, although parents are encouraged to drive their children to School where possible. Students are requested to remain within their family units and School cohorts. For this reason, students normally driven to School by older siblings will be permitted to do so. We will, however, be asking parents not to allow children to be driven to school by students outside their own family units and cohorts.
- Junior School Students are not required to maintain social distancing while at School, though we will separate cohorts within the playground as follows:
 - Springwood Campus is considered one cohort so there will be no separation required.
 - Wentworth Falls will have two cohorts; Early Learning (Pre-K to Year 2) and Primary (Years 3 to 6).
- At Wentworth Falls the Early Learning cohort will eat and play on the upper playground whilst the Primary cohort will eat and play on the Oval.
- When arriving at Wentworth Falls in the morning Early Learning children should enter via the playground gates, drop off their bags and return to the playground; Primary children should enter via the front doors, drop off their bags then proceed via the back door to the Oval.
- Junior School students are not required to wear a mask but are encouraged to do so.
- All staff and visitors will be required to wear a mask at all times both indoors and outdoors while on School grounds.
- Students will be required to practise good hand-hygiene by sanitising their hands at the beginning of each lesson.
- Commonly touched classroom surfaces and desks will be thoroughly cleaned at the conclusion of each school day.
- Parents are requested to contact our Uniform Shop Manager, Ms. Kellie Naughton either by email at uniformshop@bmgns.nsw.edu.au or by phone on 47579004, if they wish to make arrangements for contactless payment and collection of items.

Supporting Student Wellbeing

Learnings from both Australia and around the world suggest that extended time in online learning means students benefit from a renewed wellbeing focus. Regular time away from screens and more ways to connect with peers, teachers and staff, their families and their local community are crucial. Should students need support please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.



Wellbeing Wednesday remains in place during the remote learning period despite changes to this plan in the Senior School. It is important for our younger learners to not have too many disruptions to their schedule.

The School has created a Wellbeing Hub Website that has been updated with links to access a range of wellbeing resources. You may be interested to have a look: <https://bmgswellbeinghub.wixsite.com/bmgs>

Supporting Families

Family Liaison Personnel will continue to contact families throughout this extended lockdown and until the end of this year. If there is anything that the School can do to support our students and families, please do not hesitate to let your Family Liaison Officer know.

Uniform Expectations

We will be returning in Summer Uniform. Blazers will not be required on a day to day basis but should be worn over any jumper or vest when travelling to and from School. Blazers will need to be clean and ready for Presentation Day in Week 10.

Online Learning Expectations

Please continue to prioritise Literacy (English) and Numeracy (Mathematics) learning and make decisions suitable for your family and your learners in regards to engagement with other learning activities provided. Please also prioritise zooming in for class discussions and instructions, and those scheduled for Learning Support. This will help your child to maximise his or her learning in the remaining weeks of lockdown.

End of Year Events

A review of regular Term 4 events and risk management planning is currently underway to determine which events we will be able to hold in a manner that would be compliant with COVID safety restrictions. Further information regarding events will be communicated once this process is complete.

Open Zoom Meeting for Parents

To discuss the contents of this communication and any further updates in regards to plans for Term 4, I will be holding an Open Zoom Meeting for Parents next Monday, October 11th at 1pm. Please click on the link below in order to attend the meeting. A communication will be distributed following the meeting for those parents unable to Zoom in.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86290977105?pwd=bjhVMUphWjVZcmZ6ZVpWaWxLc2xYdz09>

I look forward to seeing you soon, online or in person.

Yours sincerely

Nigel Cockington
Head of Junior School