

Returning to School in 2022

- Update #1: 28th January 2022 -

Welcome to 2022. In an effort to ensure we manage the return of students and families to Lockridge PS, we provide this **Update #1** to our school community. Further updates will be shared as required, with additions/changes highlighted in **red** for easy reference.

All schools, including Lockridge PS, will be open for Term 1 on Monday 31st January.

In line with the latest public health advice, schools are safe and open for learning. Arrangements for school operations have been reviewed with the following highlighting a snapshot of protocols as we return to school for 2022.

COVID-19

Safe return to school plan

Learning

Face to face teaching

Staff

Required to be triple dose vaccinated

Visitors

Show proof of vaccination when required

COVID-19 safe schools

Masks supplies for staff and students

Pool of vaccinated school staff available

Adequate ventilation for all classrooms

Air purifiers supplied where required

Stay home when sick

Avoid unnecessary physical contact

Additional cleaning

Hand sanitiser supplies

COVID-19

School visitor information

Proof of vaccination or exemption not required

Drop-off and pick-up

Parent/teacher interviews

Sports carnivals

Assemblies

Volunteering (once a week or less)

Delivery of goods and services

Proof of vaccination or exemption required

Volunteering or working (classroom, school canteen or uniform shop) more than once a week

Parents attending KindiLink

Contractors

In-class literacy and numeracy program

Events (more than 500 people)

Please sign in at the front office and show your proof of vaccination or exemption.

As partners in the education of your children, it is imperative that we all support each other so we may then best support our students. This includes adults and anyone over 16 wearing masks indoors, maintaining social distancing and not remaining on the school site for longer than is necessary, as well as following any directives or changes made that are deemed required.

We thank you in advance for helping us maintain the safety and wellbeing of everyone throughout this period and beyond and we ask that you please review the following pages to assist with the return to school in 2022.

For general information about COVID and the WA Government's response, go to <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus>.

1. Parents and carers are welcome to enter the school grounds, classrooms and office.

Parents and carers are able to go about normal drop off and pick up without the need to show proof of vaccination. However, masks must be worn when inside classrooms, the front office and any buildings (this includes the undercover area during assemblies at this stage).

Parents, carers and visitors visiting the office may now only use the front main doors. We ask that you use the sanitiser made available before entering, and abide by any further instructions of office staff. Signing in using the QR code is not required for parents/carers, or for visitors who sign-in using the regular school processes, but will be expected for delivery drivers etc...

For some parents/carers and visitors, vaccination and associated evidence are required, with the school to liaise directly with these individuals in the early part of the school year. These parents/carers or visitors include but are not limited to:

- School Council and P&C Members (roles may require multiple official visits per week)
- KindiLink parents/carers
- School Volunteers (with regular planned visits)
- Contractors (working across multiple sites)

2. School access, start and finish times will be as normal.

The official start time will remain at 8:50am, with the gates opening at 8:15am for Year 1 – 6 students. Kindy and PP students are to either remain outside their respective gates with their parents/carers until they open at 8:35am (when the first siren goes for classrooms to open), or with their parents/carers on the Gryphon Grass. Kindy and PP students must always remain in the care of an adult until they are delivered to their classroom.

Entry into Kindy for students on their first day (Wednesday for Kindy A in K5 and Thursday for Kindy B in M3) will be staggered using smaller groups. Miss Scott and Mr Mount-Bryson will assist movement of new students and their accompanying parents/carers into the classroom to minimise the number of individuals in the classroom at one time. This practice was used successfully in 2021, allowing teachers more time to meet families and students, and to assist students to have a calmer transition into the classroom. We look forward to meeting all new families next week.

3. Communication

We will continue to utilise a range of channels of communications including updates such as this, newsletters, our Facebook page, SMS messages and our new Seesaw app.

In order to ensure we can stay in contact with you, parents/carers must keep their details up to date, especially their phone numbers and email addresses. Further, joining your child's classroom Seesaw page is vitally important. Information will be sent home on this early in Week 1.

4. Teaching, Learning and Social Distancing

Students will be taught a rich curriculum as normal, by our skilled group of educators. Whilst there are some social distancing and hygiene requirements in place, they will not impact teaching and learning programs.

Staff are required to wear masks whilst indoors, unless they are directly involved in the instruction of students. In a LPS context, that is anytime they have the duty of care of a student/class and/or are providing teaching and learning.

5. Break times will remain the same for students, however, precautions will be in place

Students will be supported to wash their hands or sanitise at key times throughout the day. This may include before and after break times and when they transition between classes.

6. Some school activities may be impacted

Whilst planning is in place for the school year to run as 'normal', there may be occasions where events are impacted. This will be communicated to families and may include but not be limited to:

- Breakfast Club
- Assemblies
- KindiLink
- Learning Club
- Excursions and In-school activities/performance
- Volunteer visits
- Whole school events and celebration

7. Unwell students or those showing signs of illness

As per our normal care and consideration for people on our school site, students who are unwell are expected to remain at home. Further, if students demonstrate signs of illness, they will be transferred to the medical room and parents/carers contacted. Parents/carers are then expected to either pick-up or arrange for pick-up within 30 minutes. If parents and carers are unable to be contacted, emergency listed contacts will be phoned. This action is taken in the best interest of all in our school community.

8. Cleaning Provisions

The Department of Education has supported schools with extra cleaning time and resourcing, meaning we have an even greater capacity to keep our students, staff and community safe. Cleaning of classrooms and areas around the school will happen before, during and after school, whilst playground equipment will be cleaned weekly. This will not negatively impact the teaching and learning program.

9. What will happen if we have a confirmed COVID case in our school

Should we have a case of COVID in our school, the Department of Health and Department of Education will direct our actions. Whilst we have a Pandemic Action Plan in place that considers our actions in preparing for, responding to and recovering from a COVID case, specific actions will depend on the specific circumstances.

Preserving the wellbeing and safety of each member of our school community will guide our decisions and actions, with parents, carers and community members playing their part by communicating with us in the event of a confirmed COVID case directly affecting their household. Whilst not every case will impact school operations, keeping us informed, as we will do you, is essential.

The Department of Education plan to ensure schools do not close, however, in the event of circumstances where COVID heavily impacts a school, the Department of Education will work with the Principal to ensure continuity of teaching and learning. Our arrangements, as outlined in the Pandemic Action Plan, will then take effect, which includes the provision of curriculum to students.

10. What will happen if we have a confirmed COVID case in our school

Whilst there is some uncertainty in the broader community about the return to school for students across WA, we must stay positive and vigilant. Communication is key and whilst we have plans in place to mitigate any negative impact on our students, staff and families, each context is different and will require, above all else, understanding and patience as we navigate any situations together.

Most important for parents and carers is to:

- abide by the directives of the WA Government;
- keep your contact details up-to-date with the school;
- ensure your children remain home if they display signs of illness;
- remain on the school site only for the time necessary;
- communicate with us immediately upon learning of a confirmed COVID case in your household; and
- discuss the positives of the school day with your children, rather than any changes that may appear different to them or issues that arise due to COVID.



I take this opportunity to acknowledge our staff who have been responsive and diligent over the holiday break and especially since returning to school to ensure as much is in place as possible for the complexities that may arise over the coming days and weeks. We are very lucky to have the staff we do who invest so heavily in the wellbeing and education of your children.

I thank our parents, carers, families and community in advance of their assistance and understanding as we return to school. Our shared efforts to support each other will be sure to benefit the students as they begin their schooling for 2022.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'm. mount-bryson', written in a cursive style.

Mike Mount-Bryson
Principal