



LEURA PUBLIC SCHOOL
Cnr Mount Hay Rd and Willow Park Ave
Leura, 2780
ph : 4784 1251 fax : 4784 3156
email : leura-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

respect

responsibility

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25.01.22

Return to School Plan Term 1, 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to the 2022 school year. As we prepare for the start of Term 1, I want to share some initial information with you all about the return to school for students and staff.

Start dates for students remain the same: Years 1-6 commence on Tuesday 1 February 2022 and our Kindergarten students will have their first day on Friday 4 February with staggered start times as per the letters sent out to families. If Kindergarten families have not received their letter outlining their Best Start Assessment time and first day start time please contact the school via email leura-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au .

The NSW Department of Education have updated guidelines and we will start 2022 with a layered approach to COVID-smart measures that have been developed in partnership with NSW Health to help to minimise transmissions at school. These key measures include:

- Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) kits will be provided to all students to help monitor your child's health and minimise transmission of COVID-19 across our school.
- Wearing of surgical masks indoors is required for all staff and students in Year 7 and above and strongly recommended for all primary students. Masks will be provided by the school if required.
- Only fully vaccinated visitors essential to delivering and supporting learning or wellbeing can come on a school site.
- Two parents or carers are allowed to accompany their child into school on their first day of Kindergarten or for students starting at a new school.
- Students will be kept in cohorts on school grounds, with staggered drop-off and pick-ups, and playground access to minimise the spread of COVID-19 across cohorts.
- We will continue to use good hygiene, enhanced cleaning, good air flow and ventilation in learning spaces, as well as physical distancing practices.

While this is not going to be a normal start to the school year, we know that being together in the classroom is the most effective way for students to learn and grow. Your child's relationship with their teacher is important, but as we manage potential disruptions to staffing due to COVID-19, they may get to meet more teachers than usual.

Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT)

We will distribute packs of Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) kits for all students and staff at the start of Term 1. We will be offering a drive thru service in our bus bay area on Monday 31 January for our families between 10am-12pm.

K-2 families should pick up between 10am -11am

3-6 families should pick up between 11am-12pm

**If you have children across different years you will be able to collect kits for all your children at the one pick up.*



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If families will not be available for the drive thru collection then they will be able to pick up their allocated rapid antigen tests from our school after 11.30am Friday 28 January 2022. If you unable to make either of these days please contact the school to see about alternate arrangements.

The use of RAT kits is an important step to support the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. They are a quick and easy screening tool to help detect COVID-19. It is a simple process of placing a nose or throat swab in a chemical solution, which is put onto a scanning device. Results can be ready within 15 minutes. Use of RAT kits is highly recommended but not mandatory.

Instructions are included in the kits detailing how to use the tests, check the results and dispose of the tests safely. You can also download the instructions through the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) website. The user guides will also contain a contact number for the suppliers if you need additional support.

If a student or staff member receives a positive RAT result, they need to:

- record the positive RAT result through the Service NSW website or Service NSW app
- notify the school of the positive RAT or PCR test result as soon as possible
- follow NSW Health advice to isolate for 7 days.

Negative results do not need to be recorded to Service NSW or to the school.

Unwell at school

Any student or staff member who is unwell and/or displays symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to go home and stay until they can complete a RAT or PCR test.

- If symptoms continue, they should stay at home and take another RAT in 24 hours or have a PCR test.
- If the second RAT or initial PCR test result is negative, the student or staff member can return to school.

What happens when a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?

Under the new close contact rules, schools are no longer included in contact tracing. I will inform the school community when there is a positive case in our school and advise families on public health advice, including monitoring for symptoms.

Use of surgical masks

All school staff will be required to wear masks indoors.

Primary school students are strongly recommended to wear well-fitted masks indoors and in outdoor settings where they cannot physically distance. Students and staff can remove their masks when eating, exercising or playing a musical instrument. No vented or cloth masks should be worn. If required, surgical masks will be available at schools. Masks are also strongly encouraged in outdoor settings where you cannot physically distance. Your child can remove their mask when eating, exercising or playing a musical instrument.



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Visitors on school sites and vaccinations

No parents, carers or visitors will be allowed on school site until further notice with the following exceptions:

- Two parents or carers are allowed to accompany their child into school on their first day of Kindergarten or students starting at a new school.
- Volunteers or staff operating uniform shops and canteens must be fully vaccinated.
- Visitors supporting school operations and curriculum delivery must be fully vaccinated.
- Allied health partners for the wellbeing of students must be fully vaccinated.

All staff on school sites are required to be fully vaccinated, including having their booster when eligible. We strongly encourage our students and their families to consider vaccination when eligible. Visit the [Find a vaccine clinic website](#) to book an appointment near you.

Other key measures

Our COVID safe measures put in place in Term 4 last year will continue. This includes our optional flexible arrival time of 9:15-9:30am, staggered leaving times and maintaining ventilation in teaching and learning spaces. Students will not be marked as late unless arriving after 9.30am. Students in Years K-2 will finish at 2:50pm. If a K-2 student has an elder sibling in Years 3-6 then they may meet their sibling at the allocated K-2 gate at 2.50pm. All remainder 3-6 students will finish at 3.00pm and exit via their allocated gate. Once school resumes, we will share more specific details with you about the gates that your child/ren and class will leave from.

*Kindergarten students only will finish school at 2.45pm from 4 February until 11 February.

We will continue to provide our community with information regarding the return to school via the school website, Facebook page and Skoolbag app.

Thank you for your time and attention to reading and becoming familiar with all this information as we prepare for the 2022 school year.

Best wishes,

May Ptolemy
Principal