

1st October 2021

Dear RPS Families,

Welcome to Term 4. We hope you had a welcome change of pace over the holiday break and some time together without having to balance learning from home with other demands. We look forward to an exciting term and are counting down the days till we can safely welcome all our students and staff back to Riverstone Public School.

Term 4 returns with learning from home

Riverstone Public School is in an LGA that is still under stay-at-home rules therefore we will continue to learn from home for the start of Term 4. We have moved from Level 4+ down to Level 4. It is important that you continue to keep your children home if you are able to work from home. While we are planning for our return to face-to-face learning and our teachers are completing their COVID-19 vaccinations there will only be minimal supervision, including casual staff, for students onsite and all students will be provided with the same work as they would be completing at home.

I know we are all excited about the coming freedoms available to those who are fully vaccinated in NSW, but I ask every family to hold on just a few weeks more to give us the time we need to complete our planning for your child's safe return.

Thank you to the families who have notified our school about requiring essential supervision in Term 4 Week 1. Your communication has allowed us to plan adequate supervision while following the stay-at-home orders.

Return to school roadmap for Term 4

In Term 4, where stay-at-home rules are still in place, but high community vaccination and low transmission conditions are met, students will return to school in a staggered approach for prioritised cohorts, with no mingling or on-site activities.

In the majority of schools students will return to face-to-face learning with NSW Health-approved COVID-safe Level 3 plus settings on school sites in the following order as announced by the Premier on 30 September:

- From 18 October 2021: Preschool, Kindergarten and Year 1
- From 25 October 2021: Years 2, 6 and 11
- From 1 November 2021: Years 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

The return to school roadmap is subject to change depending on new information expected through the Public Health Order and additional advice from NSW Health. You can stay up to date with the most recent advice on the DoE page: [Advice for families page](#).

For those families who have siblings across year groups we know it will be difficult to keep some at home while others are back onsite. But to re-iterate the message above – we need this time to prepare our school and

operations for having all our students back so it would be appreciated that you only send your children to school in line with the NSW Health-approved plan.

Vaccinations for students aged 12 years and over

Young people aged 12 years and over are now also eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. You can [book in your children for Pfizer now](#), or Moderna where indicated there is availability.

Vaccination appointments are available at more than 3,000 locations across NSW, including GPs and pharmacies. More appointments will become available as supply increases, so keep checking for new appointments in coming weeks.

Learning from Home

We will continue to provide quality and supportive learning from home grids each week. The LFH grids will be emailed each Friday and also appear on our school website in the LFH Hub. We have taken on community feedback, to further support your child's learning and are confident that your child will continue to enjoy and be challenged by the set activities and explicit teaching sessions.

Please take some time to check out the DoE [wellbeing resources for students and families](#). You'll find useful tools for mental health and Term 4 preparation. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can do anything to help you and your children to prepare for the return to face-to-face learning or if you have any concerns about the return to school.

Our executive is spending time in the first week back at school finalising our COVID-safe plans for a return to face-to-face learning and we hope to share these plans with you very soon. There will be a Term 4 Parent Q&A ZOOM session on Friday 8th October. Please check your emails early in Week 1 for the link and designated time.

Thank you again for your understanding and support during what is going to be both an exciting, but also an anxious time over the coming Term.

Continue to stay safe and please do not hesitate to contact the school if you require support.

In kindness,

Samantha Gillard
Deputy Principal

Michael Cruickshank
Principal