

WEBSITE POST February 23 February 2022.

Dear parents and carers

A big thank you for your continuing efforts in supporting our school and students during the pandemic – especially prioritising safety and learning.

The Premier and Minister for Education have announced changes to school settings for the remainder of Term 1. These updated settings were developed in close consultation with NSW Health and key stakeholders to ensure we continue to keep our schools open for learning, while keeping up with changing community settings.

The updated settings include:

- We will continue the use of rapid antigen tests (RATs) for twice-weekly testing of students and staff until Friday 25 February
- **From Monday 28 February**, we will move to symptomatic testing. Tests are to be used at your discretion such as if your child is symptomatic or there are cases in their class. Our school will provide each student **8 tests per student**. Your child will receive these test kits delivered personally into their school bags this Friday. Please note the kits are delivered to each student not to eldest in family as each child receives a large package to put into their school bag. If parents do not want this please email the school before Friday.
- Beyond that, students and staff can access PCR tests or buy their own rapid antigen tests as these are now freely available and accessible in the community.
- **FOR PRIMARY** – Masks will continue to be required indoors for all school staff, volunteers and visitors including parents and carers in primary schools **until Friday 4 March**. This means that from Monday 7 March, masks will no longer be mandatory for all staff. However, those who wish to continue to use them will be supported to do so.
- From Monday 28 February, visitors can be allowed back on school sites regardless of their vaccination status. **Our school will consider activities such as assemblies, parent-teacher meetings and other gatherings in the coming days. We will let you know if these can proceed with our school in a COVID-smart way.** All visitors are asked to follow our usual sign-in and sign-out process.

Our school will continue to ensure our layered COVID-smart measures are in place, including vaccinations, maximising natural ventilation in learning spaces, continued good hand hygiene practices and enhanced cleaning.

Our school does have saliva testing kits for some of our students. We are distributing these to our older students with a combination of familiar RAT test kits.

Cohorting no longer required

As of Monday 28 February, students will no longer be required to be kept in year groups or other cohorts and we will no longer be required to use staggered start or finish times. [insert any changes to highlight for your school] We will continue to use the core layered COVID-smart measures for minimising risk when planning activities and events.

We strongly encourage our students and their families to consider vaccination including boosters when eligible. [Find a vaccination clinic](#) External link to book an appointment near you.

Thank you again for your continued support during this school term.

UPDATED IN OO for EARLY EDITION elaborating on above post. Friday 25 February 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

We have been traversing through 5 weeks of COVID regulations at Oatley Public School and when decisions have been made for our students for their health and safety, those decisions have been made at the point in time of strict COVID regulations. Although schools now are moving into non cohorting school community, still maintaining COVID – smart measures, decisions made prior to this new date of 28 February 2022 won't be changed.

I am grateful to the parent and students who have had to RAT test their child regularly, make responsible decisions for their child and others and contact school in regards to positive COVID outcomes. We had a slow start to the school year with a sudden spike after a couple of weeks and now we enter into another unknown period as Health regulations are lifted. We respect any parents decision if students want to continue to wear masks as I do with teachers after Monday 7 March 2022. We traverse through this unknown together.

Monday 28 February 2022 all K-6 enter school onto our south site.

As of Monday 28 February, students will no longer be required to be kept in year groups or other cohorts.

For our Oatley Public School students this will mean changes to our students on arrival to school each day. Starting Monday 28 February 2022, all K-6 students will enter into the south site playground through Neville Street and Letitia Street. There will be staff at each of these gates to greet our students and there will be staff on the playground to supervise their safety. If you are a K-2 parent this will be a huge change to your morning routine only. Class teachers of K-2 have notified all their parents through Class Dojo and will be there on the south site in the morning to support where each class will be lining up. K-2 will be under the COLA near the hall and canteen for their class lining up. If these students have an older sibling they can support their sibling with these new procedures.

We will continue to use the core layered COVID-smart measures for minimising risk when planning activities and events.

We strongly encourage our students and their families to consider vaccination including boosters when eligible. [Find a vaccination clinic](#) External link to book an appointment near you.

Students' lunchbreak and fruitbreak for 3-6 will have all cohorts together on the south site playground and K-2 will come together on the north site playground. This now opens 3-6 students to access Canteen service at lunchtime.

Unfortunately I have completed a risk assessment and we have a tree that needs action to occur for student safety. This is in the swales area. Until this is finalised we have limited space for our K-2 students to fit on the south site playground at this point in time, so they will continue to play on the north site together.

At the end of the day for exiting school we remain the same as we have been doing since the beginning of this term. K-2 will exit from the north site onto Neville Street, to allocated class spaces for parent pick up. 3-6 will exit Neville and Letitia Street supported by their class teachers.

With the opening up of cohorting we are excited about our Library finally reopening again to our students for class lessons and lunchtime access.

RAT TEST KITS are in your child's bag Friday 25 February 2022.

From Monday 28 February, we will move to symptomatic testing. Tests are to be used at your discretion such as if your child is symptomatic or there are cases in their class. Our school will provide each student **8 tests per student**. Your child has received these test kits delivered personally into their school bags unless child is absent.

A reminder that your child may receive a nasal swab or saliva rapid antigen testing kits in the coming weeks. 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 \(TGA\) External link](#) website. The user guides will also contain a contact number for the suppliers if you need additional support.

Students using saliva testing kits must not eat or drink for 30 minutes before taking the saliva RAT, to give more accurate results

RULES OPS TEACHERS HAVE SET IN PLACE FOR CLASS DOJO.

This platform is the best way for Class teachers to keep you updated on notices or events specific to our class and for us to have more direct communication.

Class Dojo hours are 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday and teachers will endeavour to respond to messages within 2 business days. (Not inclusive of weekends)

Please remember that Class Dojo is a formal, written form of communication so please always use respectful language and tone.

As parents you must not use this communication tool for confidential purposes by writing elaborate details of incidents to Class Teachers in response to an incident that your child may tell you about which includes other student names. Please remember this is a third party APP which does not have DET security protection)

If issues arise then a Class Dojo message goes to the teacher requesting an interview to discuss or you ring school for that interview. The interview will be actioned by Class Teacher.

If your message is time-critical then the office needs to be contacted eg late pick up.

Regards

Debbie Hunter

Principal.