



Ashmore State School

An Independent Public School

Working together to ensure that every student is understood, engaged and successful at school, going on to live a life of choice, not a life of chance.

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Website
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The Queensland
Department of
Education and Training
trading as: Education
Queensland
International (EQI)
CRICOS Provider No.
00608A

Principal Update

Update 5: 7 February 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Despite current restrictions in place, our community has stepped up and is supporting our school, the students and staff in a supportive and positive way.

Thank you for your ongoing support, patience and adherence to the COVID-safe measures we are currently required to apply in our school at the moment.

Important reminder:

I noted this morning that there were a large number of parents of older year levels (Year 2 – Year 6) on-site this morning, in particular, outside classrooms. I need to remind you all that only parents/carers of students in Prep and Year 1 are permitted access to the school grounds.

Parents/carers of all other year levels (Year 2 – Year 6) are currently not permitted on-site. This arrangement remains in place until 7 March.

I thank you for your cooperation with this.

Some important points (new information has been highlighted for you):

The school community currently has 39 students and 1 staff member in isolation.

COVID-Safe Measures:

Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) for students – administered by parents/caregivers:

- 1. Only PARENTS OR CAREGIVERS have the authority to administer Rapid Antigen Tests to their children.**
- 2. Ashmore State School Staff will NOT administer a RAT test to ANY student.**
- 3. The school will receive a limited supply of RATs by the end of this week.**
- 4. RAT tests will only be made available to the parent/caregiver of a student who becomes unwell at school**
- 5. Parents/caregivers collect their child from school and administer the test from home.**
- 6. The school will not supply additional RATs for other family members, as supplies are very limited.**

Priority Access to Rapid Antigen Tests at Queensland Health Testing Clinics:

- 1. If your child is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 you need to get them tested.**

2. If you do not wish to administer a RAT test to your child yourself, school children have priority access to RAT testing at any Queensland Health testing clinic.

Management of student illness:

- If your child is unwell, do not send them to school.
- If your child is exhibiting COVID-19 (Cold or Flu) Symptoms – isolate them and get them tested, keep them in isolation until you get the result.
- In every instance, follow the advice from Queensland Health - <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/stay-informed/i-have-covid/first-steps-if-you-have-covid>

What do I do if my child is confirmed positive for COVID-19 or are a confirmed close contact?

- Contact the school with this information – this is very important.
- Specific information about your child's situation will remain confidential at all times.
- Isolate your child and follow QLD Health Guidelines
- Your child can return to school as long as they have finished their period of isolation and no longer have any symptoms
- In every instance, follow the advice from Queensland Health <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/stay-informed/i-have-covid/isolation/ending-isolation>

What happens if my child becomes unwell at school?

- Your child will be sent to the school sick bay as part of the usual school procedures.
- If your child is experiencing COVID-19 (Cold or Flu) symptoms they will:
 - Be isolated from other children in a school sick bay and cared for by an office staff member and a member of the Leadership Team
 - Have their temperature taken
 - Parents will be contacted and requested to collect the child from school immediately
 - Parents will be offered a RAT Test to administer at home
 - If your child is confirmed positive for COVID-19, inform the school immediately, isolate for 7 days and your child can return to school as long as they have finished their period of isolation and no longer have any symptoms
 - In every instance, follow the advice from Queensland Health - <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/stay-informed/i-have-covid/first-steps-if-you-have-covid>
 - In order to keep staff supervising children in sick bay safe from infection, children with COVID-19 (Cold or Flu) symptoms may be required to wear a mask until collected by their parent.

Limiting Visitors on the school site:

Thank you for your patience and support with the restrictions that are currently in place.

- Parents of Prep and Year 1 students (only) are permitted on-site at the following times:
Drop-off: 8.45am – 9.15am
Pick-up: 2.30pm – 3.15pm
- Parents of Year 2 – Year 6 students are not permitted on the school site at this stage. This situation will remain in place until March 7.

- **Staggered finishes for students** will be in place until Friday 4 March – see attachment for more detailed information. There has been a minor change to accommodate Parents/carers of Year 1 children with older siblings
- Masks are required for all adults while on-site
- Social Distancing must be applied in all instances and parents are strongly discouraged from lingering on the school campus or around the school boundary or gathering in groups.
- If you are unwell, please do not enter school grounds.
- At this stage, parents cannot access classrooms or the class teachers
- Any meetings with class teachers must be pre-arranged and occur either over the phone or through an on-line platform.
- The **school office** will be accessible, by phone or email, between 8:30am until 3.30pm each day. The Office will be closed to the public however, all services will be provided by telephone or online to ensure we can serve you. Payments to the Finance Office will be via BPoint, otherwise please email admin@ashmoress.eq.edu.au to make alternate payment arrangements.
- The **Tuckshop** is open for on-line orders only, via Flexischool, there will be no 'over the counter' sales of any items to students during this time. Flexischool orders close at 8.30am each morning.
- Access to the **Uniform Shop** will be appointment only, please phone the P&C Uniform Shop on 56561367 to make an appointment.
- **Book Packs:** class teachers will be in contact in their welcome email, being sent to families from today. This letter will contain details for Book Pack drop-offs. If unsure, contact your child's teacher.

Suspension of Camps, Excursions, Assemblies and Large Gatherings:

- These arrangements will be in place for a period of 4 weeks.
- The school is optimistically continuing to book and organise excursions, incursions, assemblies and camps into the future.
- Further information will be provided for students and parents once the return to school plan is reviewed in 4 weeks.

What will Occur?

1. **Fitter, Faster, Stronger:** Joel Campbell will be in contact with families with further information.
2. **Regular class activities**
3. **Regular School Sport activities & Health and Physical Education.**

What won't occur (for 4 weeks from February 7):

1. Camps
2. Excursions
3. Incursions
4. In person Assemblies
5. Choir
6. Clubs
7. Library Visits for students
8. Parent Volunteers
9. 'In person' parent meetings with teachers (pre-arranged on-line and phone options available, contact your child's teacher)

Workforce Planning:

Ashmore State School is committed to ensure continuity of learning for all students and minimise disruption to student learning.

During the year there may be times when we need to adjust class timetables, combine classes or bring in relief staff to manage workforce challenges. There may even be a need to close our school on departmental or Queensland Health advice – this would be a last resort.

Please note that, in the instance of large staff shortages due to illness and isolation your child/children may be placed in age appropriate groupings and will be supervised in classrooms. At times they may not be supervised by their 2022 allocated classroom teacher.

The school will keep parents informed as and if any changes occur.

Learning@home (continuity of learning) – support children who are not at school:

The Department of Education recommends that if your child is unable to attend school due to illness or isolation students and parents should access the following resources:

- General learning tasks via the Department of Education online resource 'Learning at Home' <https://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/learning-at-home> This site contains a range of student learning material and links to other high-quality education websites.

Even though we are not required to by the Department of Education Queensland, Ashmore State School Teachers are currently developing a plan to provide a consistent level of educational support for students who are unwell or required to isolate. This plan will be shared with students and families early next week. In the interim, along with the Department's learning-at-home resources (see link above) all Ashmore Students are connected to the following on-line resources:

- SeeSaw, so both parents and students can contact their class teacher to remain connected.
- Mathletics
- Literacy Planet

I encourage you to stay informed of the latest developments relating to COVID-19 by regularly visiting the Queensland Government website: <https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/>

Further information for parents has been developed including frequently asked questions: <https://qed.qld.gov.au/covid19/frequently-asked-questions>

Please stay in contact and send through your questions if they have not been answered through my weekly communications.

I thank you for your support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Karen Brown