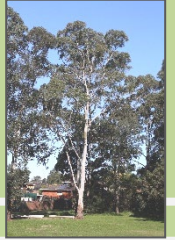




# KENT ROAD PUBLIC SCHOOL

## BLUE GUM NEWS



Kent & Herring Roads, EASTWOOD 2122 T:9878 2884 E: kentroad-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Term Four Week Two

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Kent Road Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Term Four everyone. It is very exciting that our students will be returning to school over the next two weeks, however it will require everyone to work together to ensure this is done safely. Below is an outline of the school's organisation for the safe return to school. **Please ensure you read the drop off and pick-up arrangements which will be in place from next week, Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November.**

### RETURN DATES

The NSW Department of Education's expectation is that students will return to school. Parents who choose to not return their children to school will need to provide a medical certificate, or their child will be recorded as absent. Teachers will no longer be providing online lessons. Following last week's announcements by the NSW government students will now return as follows:

- **KINDERGARTEN and YEAR ONE: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October**
- **YEARS 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

### BEFORE SCHOOL DROP OFF ARRANGEMENTS

**Students must not arrive at school before 8.35am unless attending OOSH.**

All gates will be open for students to enter the school but will be locked from 9.06am. Students arriving after the 9.05am bell will need to enter via the administration office gate on Kent Road. Parents are not permitted to enter school grounds unless attending OOSH.

If it is raining, at 8.35am students will go into their classrooms. Each grade will have a separate area to place their bags and assemble before school as below:

<b>K</b>	Students enter from any gate; place bags near circles; assemble in Kindergarten playground under the blue sail (same as Term One)
<b>Yr 1</b>	Students enter from any gate; place bags next to R block (as in Term One); assemble on grass area near the basketball court
<b>Yr 2</b>	Students enter from any gate; place bags on steps behind P block; assemble on top grass (Herring Road)
<b>Yr 3</b>	Students enter from any gate; place bags under the tree COLA; assemble under the tree COLA
<b>Yr 4</b>	Students enter from any gate; on steps behind Q block; assemble on sports court
<b>Yr 5</b>	Students enter from any gate; place bags on library steps (back of library); assemble near library steps
<b>Yr 6</b>	Students enter from any gate; place bags on assembly hall steps; assemble near at rear of assembly hall

## AFTER SCHOOL PICK UP ARRANGEMENTS

At the end of the school day students will be dismissed between 3.00pm-3.10 pm.

Older brothers and sisters will be sent to their youngest sibling's class, and wait (at a distance from the group to minimise interaction) to be collected.

Kindergarten	Parents will be permitted to enter the school via gate 5, walk through the playground to collect your child and exit via gate 4. Gates will open at 3pm. Parents must physically distance from other parents both inside and outside the school. Parents are not permitted to access other areas of the school grounds (toilets, seats, classrooms, play equipment etc).
Year One	Students in Year One will be collected from gate 3. Parents must physically distance from other parents both inside and outside the school. Parents are not permitted to access other areas of the school grounds (toilets, seats, classrooms etc).
Years Two-Six	Students in Years 2-6 will leave via the gate which has been nominated by parents. <b>All parents of children in Years 2-6 must establish with their child/children which gate they will collect them from, and not change it as this causes confusion.</b>

\* Gate 3 will be used for Year One only. Parents of children in Years 2-6 who wish to collect their children from Kent Road will need to wait at gate 2.

\*\* Students should be collected by 3.10pm. Parents who have difficulty collecting their child at 3.10pm are asked to book their child into OOSH. Teachers are required to attend meetings directly after school finishes and are not available to supervise students after 3.10pm.

\*\*\* Teachers are not available to meet with parents in person at this time. Should parents need to speak with your child's teacher please email the school to request a phone interview. Please be mindful that teachers have not seen the class at school for some time now, and the focus will be on settling students back into classroom routines and expectations. After such a long time away this will take days or even weeks.

## MASKS

Students will be returning to school under Level 3+ guidelines. During this time the NSW Department of Education has advised that all students Kindergarten – Year Six strongly recommended to wear a mask indoors and outdoors, except when eating or drinking. Parents are asked to ensure their child brings a mask with them each day.

All staff and workers on school grounds must wear a mask when indoors or outdoors.

## VENTILATION

The guidelines require staff to ensure cross ventilation in all buildings. In regards to Kent Road classrooms, the NSW Department of Education has inspected our buildings and found the ventilation is very good.

All windows and doors will be open to ensure airflow. We are permitted to use the air conditioning as we can switch to external air flow but this is not likely to be needed. Students may need to wear jackets inside the classroom if the weather is cool.

## HYGIENE

Hand sanitizer is available at each entry to the school, in every classroom and in the playground. I ask parents to continue to reinforce the message about hygiene and remind children to cough or sneeze into their elbow, wash their hands frequently and not attend school if unwell.

## PLAYGROUND

Each grade will be allocated to a playground space for eating and playing to reduce the interaction between grades.

## **PHYSICAL DISTANCING**

Our classrooms are double classroom spaces. On each floor of the new buildings we have withdrawal rooms, a performance room and an arts room. This improves our capacity to promote physical distancing inside the buildings.

## **TOILETS**

Classes will be allocated times throughout the day to use the toilets to minimize crowding during break times. (Students will still be allowed to use the toilets as required.)

## **ACCESS TO 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR**

Grades will be allocated one set of steps per grade to access their classrooms to minimise interaction between grades.

## **SPECIALIST TEACHERS**

For the next few weeks, our specialist teachers (Music, Library, EAL/D) will be allocated to a grade to reduce the number of students with whom they have contact.

## **VACCINATION**

All Kent Road teachers and staff members will be fully vaccinated before 25<sup>th</sup> October. Workers who enter the school must also be fully vaccinated.

## **CANTEEN**

The canteen will not be open next week. I will keep you parents informed if this changes.

## **NO SHARING OF FOOD (birthday treats)**

Unfortunately, birthday cakes, cupcakes, unwrapped lollies etc are not permitted to be shared at school at this time.

## **CHILDREN WHO ARE UNWELL**

No child should attend school if they are sick. If your child is coughing, has a runny nose, or has a sore throat it is essential they get a covid test. Students showing any of these symptoms must not attend school until they receive a negative covid test AND are symptom free.

## **CHILDREN WHO DO NOT RETURN TO SCHOOL**

Parents will be able to access the NSW Department of Education's online lessons, available at:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/learning-from-home/learning-at-home/learning-packages>

Class teachers will not be able to assist with this work as they will be teaching the students who are at school.

## **SCHOOL UNIFORM – PLEASE ORDER NOW**

As parents know, the school uniform shop is currently closed. However, parents can now order uniform items online, and a member of the school's administration staff, Linda Hogan, will pack the order and contact parents to let them know it is ready to be collected. Mrs Hogan will be the only person allowed in the uniform shop, under the current Department of Education guidelines and I thank her for her help with this.

I encourage parents who anticipate their child will need new uniform items for Term One 2022 to **place your order as soon as possible**. The suppliers of school uniform are experiencing significant delays with items coming from overseas and the best way of ensuring your child will have the school uniform items they need is to place an order now.

Parents of children starting Kindergarten in 2022 can place an online order for uniform items or a Kindergarten pack.

## **TRIVIA NIGHT - CANCELLED**

**Unfortunately, the school's Trivia Night planned for next Saturday evening has been cancelled.**

**As the 'stay at home' orders have now been removed, families now want to take the opportunity to catch up with relatives and friends, which is entirely understandable.**

**We may be able to hold a Trivia event in 2022. We will be sure to let you know!**

## **KINDERGARTEN 2022**

Parents of children who will start in Kindergarten in 2022 are asked to submit an enrolment application as soon as possible. We will have an orientation program for children starting school in 2022 in late November.

Only children who have been enrolled are permitted to attend.

Parents are asked to submit an online application which can be accessed from our school website at

<https://kentroad-p.schools.nsw.gov.au>

Click on the **Enrolment** tab to find the link to the enrolment form.

## **OC TEST – YEAR FOUR**

The new date for the Year Four Opportunity Class test is 17<sup>th</sup> November. Parents who applied for their child to sit this test will have received notification of this date.

## **CONGRATULATIONS KENT ROAD STAFF**

I would like to give a shout out to Kent Road staff who participated in the Step-tember Challenge, raising over \$10,000 to support people with cerebral palsy and collectively walking more than 800,022 steps in their spare time. Great work everyone!

The arrangements outlined in this newsletter have been planned to keep students, staff and parents safe. There may need to be changes to the organisation as students return or if the government makes further changes. We will communicate any changes as they occur and thank you in anticipation of your support.

Regards,

Denise Minifie, Principal