



Important Dates

TERM 4 WEEK 2 2021

OCT

Mon 18—Kindergarten and Year 1—return to face to face

Mon 25—All students Return

NOV

Tue 30 School Photo Day-Full School Uniform

DEC

Thur 16 Year 6 Farewell—To be advised

Thur 16 Term 4 Ends for all students

FEB 2022

Tue 1 Years students 1-6 Return

Tue 1— Fri 4 Kindergarten Best Start—Via Appointment

Mon 7 Kindergarten Commence

PENRITH PUBLIC SCHOOL'S CORE VALUES

Learning Environment Cooperation Respect

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Carers

We're excited about our return to face-to-face learning and welcoming students and staff back onsite where we know the best learning happens. This is a short summary of what our parents and students can expect.

While we know there is excitement about the return to school it's important that we stick to the staged return to give us time to be ready to welcome back students onsite. Students will return to face-to-face learning in the following order:

- from 18 October – Kindergarten, Year 1
- from 25 October – all remaining year groups.

If your child was loaned a school laptop over the lockdown period it is to be returned to the school office on your child's first day back at school. Please ensure the power cords are returned.

Our COVID-safe return to school plan is NSW Health approved and includes numerous effective practices to support the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. These practices include vaccinations, mask wearing, reduced mingling of student groups and staff, ventilation in classrooms and continued good hygiene and cleaning.

As we return to school students will be kept in their cohorts to minimise opportunities for transmission of COVID-19 and to enable effective contact tracing and containment. This means minimising interaction between students on school grounds and keeping cohorts together where possible.

Masks are required to be worn on school site by staff indoors and outdoors and strongly recommended for students indoors and outdoors unless exercising or eating.

Principal's Message — continued

All staff required on site supporting the return to school will need to be fully vaccinated from 18 October. Then from 8 November all staff, contractors, volunteers and students on student placement on a school site will need to be fully vaccinated, including Outside of School Hours Care staff.

Having open or well-ventilated spaces reduces the risk of transmission of COVID-19 because infectious particles are more quickly diffused in the open air. The department will continue to work with NSW Health to provide us with advice and guidance on maintaining good ventilation in our school and we will make use of our outdoor spaces wherever practical.

During Term 4 many school-based activities will remain on hold until NSW Health advise otherwise. This includes large celebrations like assemblies, presentation days and graduations, arts and sports events.

Parents and students will be notified if a decision is made to close the school due to a confirmed case of COVID-19. During this time we will continue to provide learning from home activities and we will let you know when we can return to face-to-face learning.

Out of school hours care, vacation care settings and preschools operating on school sites will follow the same COVID-safe guidelines as public schools including the requirement to be fully vaccinated from 8 November.

Onsite orientations and transition programs are not currently allowed in person on school sites until we are advised differently by NSW Health. We'll share more information in the coming weeks about our school's virtual orientation and transition program.

More information about Term 4 and the return to school is available at education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families

Warm regards

Chantal Beltran

Principal

Message from the School Office

Reminder

As previously advised last term all payments received for cancelled activities will be transferred to Fees In Advance to be used for activities in 2022.

If you would prefer to receive a refund, please complete the Student Refund Form and return by email to penrith-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au , by post or alternatively dropped in the school mailbox on High Street before 20/10/2021.

Details regarding arrangements for the Year 6 Graduation and Farewell, including refunding any balance of Fees In Advance, will be sent out once finalised.

If you have any queries, please contact the office by email, please include your child's name and class.

Refer to next page or use this link to obtain **Student Refund Form** via school website: [Cancelled Activities/Refunds - Penrith Public School \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

Student refund application

A refund can only be made to the person who made the original payment. Refunds can only be made back to the original card for POP.

Name of the person requesting the refund: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ State: _____ Postcode _____

Student's first name: _____ Student's last name: _____

Class: _____ Scholastic Year: _____

Original payment for: _____

Date: _____ Amount: \$ _____ Receipt number: _____

Original payment method: POP Cash Cheque

Reason for refund: _____

Refund method*: POP EFT

If EFT, Bank: _____ Account name: _____

BSB: _____ Account number: _____

* These are currently the only refund methods available. Use EFT instead of cheque or cash.

Parent/carer signature: _____

Date: _____

SCHOOL OFFICE USE ONLY

Request for refund approval by: (Name) _____ (Title) _____ Date: _____

Approved By Delegated Officer: (Name) _____ (Title) _____ Date: _____

Processed in ebs4 Cash Desk by: (Name) _____ (Title) _____ Date: _____

EBS4 Refund Receipt Number R _____

Quickmatch Refund Receipt No. (if applicable) _____

Learning from home resources K-6



The NSW Environmental and zoo education centres have created a range of websites, digital books and teaching and learning resources to support learning from home and classroom programs.

Visit our teaching and learning hub

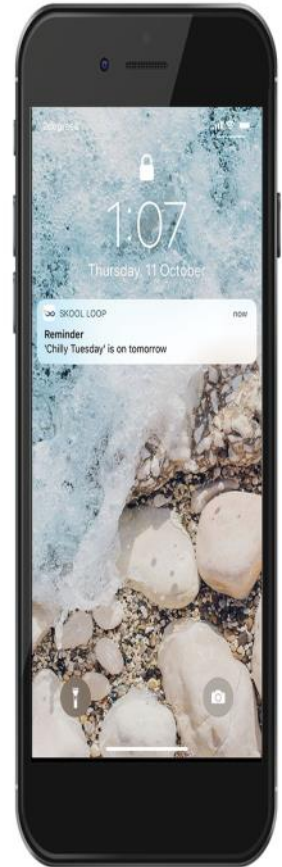
<https://bit.ly/2Zb7FBI>



The Skool Loop App

Here's some tips to ensure you receive notices and push notifications

- When you download the Skool Loop App you will be asked if you would like notifications please **tap yes**. Some devices don't ask this question and automatically tick yes for you. This can be changed in your settings
- If your notifications are turned off in your device settings, some phones apply that to all apps when downloading. In the phone settings please make sure your notifications are turned on
- Check your App Store or Google Play regularly for any outstanding updates
- There are 2 different notices school will send out: **push notification** (banner and ding) or a **notice** (visual alert only)
- You will only receive a push notification if you are not using the app at the time
- If your volume is off you will not hear an alert
- You will see a visual alert if a **notice** has been posted. You will not hear a ding
- You will only hear a ding if the school sends a **push notification**.



Downloading the Skool Loop app - a step by step guide

Once you have downloaded the Skool Loop App, via either your Google Play or App store, please follow the below instructions to select your school -

- Open the Skool Loop App - you will land on a welcome page.
- Click the 'Select your schools' this will bring you to a menu you can either search your school or follow the country/region prompts.
- Once you reach your school, select it with the tick on the righthand side.
- Tap the 'select schools' button in the top right corner.
- Tap the big orange choose button. This will load your school and bring you to the settings page.
- Subscribe to the groups that are relevant to you, then click the 'go back' button on your phone, which will bring you to the main screen of your schools app.



Have you downloaded our school app yet?

Our school app ensures excellent and reliable communication between our school and parents at all times!



Helpful Features:

- > Parent-teacher interviews
- > Push-notifications
- > Absentee reporting
- > Notices

- > Calendar
- > Permission slips
- > Newsletters
- > Contact tracing
- > School contacts



Parent Portal App: Unrivalled access at your fingertips.



- Book all your children at once.
- Book one session or for the whole year.
- Book OSHC and Holiday Club.
- Simple booking calendar overview.
- Track your spend.
- Manage your and your child's details.



Download the state-of-the-art Parent Portal app today and take control of your account with ease.



Updates coming in 2021

- + Refer-a-friend loyalty rewards
- + Offers and discounts
- + In-service photo gallery



The Got It! Team (Child and Youth Mental Health Services) have provided the following tip sheets for families preparing their children to return to school.

Got It!



Preparing to Return

Unsure how to prepare your child to return to school?

Step 1: Get information from your school

- Your child's school will be in touch to explain the various new procedures in place. If you have not received information or are unsure of anything, you should contact the school.



Step 2: Talk to your child about returning

- Talk to your child about the changes the school has let you know about and tell them the teachers will be there to help if they are unsure about anything.
- Reassure them with calm words and actions that going to school will be safe and fun.

Step 3: Talk to your child about their feelings

- Encourage your child to share their feelings and any concerns they have before and after returning to school.
- Reassure them that it is normal to have big and sometimes mixed feelings such as excitement or worry.
- Practice some deep triangle breathing together and let them know they can do it on their own at school to help with any big feelings there.

Triangle Breathing



Use your index finger to trace a triangle on the palm of your hand as you take deep breaths.

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Re-establishing routines

Will your child and family need some adjustment to get back into school learning?

Getting your child and family into a regular routine in the weeks leading up to returning to school will help make the transition and change easier to manage.

The week before:

- Return to usual school day wake up, morning and bedtime routines.
- Ensure they are getting enough sleep.
- Practice having breakfast, lunch and snack times that coincide with typical school breaks.
- Create a calendar that counts down the days until their return.
- Practice getting ready to go to school e.g. finding their uniform and packing their bag.



The day before:

- Include your child in packing their school bag and getting their uniform ready.
- Talk with them about the plans for the next day including the morning routine, what to expect when they arrive at school and afternoon pick up plans.



The morning of:

- Allow extra time to get ready.
- Keep yourself calm to help your child remain calm.
- Repeat all the information you discussed with them the previous night about what their day will look like.



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Saying Goodbye at the Gate

Are you worried about how the first back to school drop off will go?

School drop offs might look different when school resumes, some children and parents might find saying goodbye difficult. We can prepare our children for this by:

Planning ahead:

- Talk about whatever details you already know – who will be where to drop and pick them up. Reassure them the teachers will help them if any changes are made.
- Create a quick goodbye 'ritual' for each child e.g. a secret handshake, special wave or triple kiss just for this occasion.
- Organise for a buddy to walk into school with them or for them to keep a special item that helps them feel "brave".



Practice, Practice, Practice!

- Practice small periods of separation prior to school starting e.g. hanging out the washing while your child stays inside or leaving them with a friend while you go to the shops.
- Practice your goodbye ritual so your child knows what to expect.



At the gate:

- Remain calm, confident and be consistent.
- Give your child your full attention.
- Say a proper goodbye (but keep it brief) and tell them when you'll be back e.g. "I'll be back later today after school". Do not sneak away when your child is distracted and don't linger.
- Perform your goodbye ritual once only.
- Reassure them that their teacher and school staff will be there to help.

