

Dear parents and carers

Welcome to a new school year at Fairfield West PS as our students start or return to their school journey. We want to share how we are building on our experiences of the last 2 years and continuing to safeguard our school community while keeping our school open.

FWPS will start 2022 with a layered approach to COVID-smart measures that have been developed by the Department of Education (DoE) in partnership with NSW Health, to help to minimise transmissions at school. The health and wellbeing of our students and staff remain a priority and these measures are designed to help keep our school open and our students learning in the classroom.

These key measures include:

- Rapid antigen test (RAT) kits which will be provided to all students to help monitor your child's health and minimise transmission of COVID-19 across our school.
- Wearing of surgical masks indoors (no cloth masks) is required for all staff and is strongly recommended for all primary students. Masks will be provided by the school if required and will be available in every classroom for the students.
- Only fully vaccinated visitors essential to delivering and supporting learning or wellbeing can come on a school site.
- Two parents or carers are allowed to accompany their child into school on their first day of Kindergarten or for new students starting at Fairfield West PS. Each parent and carer of a Kindergarten student will be contacted on Friday 28 January and given further details. Social distancing will be required, and a surgical mask must be worn on the school site.
- Students will be kept in their year groups on school grounds, and they will go straight to class on arrival after 8:30am (with the exception of day 1), have staggered pick-ups times, staggered recess and lunch times, allocated playground and canteen access only through ordering in advance, to minimise the spread of COVID-19 across cohorts.
- FWPS will continue to use good hygiene, enhanced cleaning, good air flow and ventilation in learning spaces, as well as physical distancing practices.

While this is not going to be a normal start to the school year, we know that being together in the classroom is the most effective way for students to learn and grow. Your child's relationship with their teacher is important, but as we manage potential disruptions to staffing due to COVID-19, they may get to meet more teachers than usual.



Fairfield West Public School
1-41 Palmerston Road
Fairfield West NSW 2165

Tel. 9604 5568
Fax 9725 5379
✉ fairfieldw-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Rapid antigen testing

FWPS will distribute packs of rapid antigen test (RAT) kits for all students and staff on Friday 28 January and Monday 31 January.

The use of RAT kits is an important step to support the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. They are a quick and easy screening tool to help detect COVID-19. It is a simple process of placing a nose or throat swab in a chemical solution, which is put onto a scanning device. Results can be ready within 10 minutes. Use of RAT kits is highly recommended but not mandatory.

Instructions are included in the kits detailing how to use the tests, check the results and dispose of the tests safely. FWPS can provide this translation in Arabic. 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.

How and when do I pick up the RAT kits?

RAT kits will be distributed by House Groups which are Savage (green), O'Neill (yellow), Freeman (red) and Thorpe (blue).

Parents and carers are to enter the school via Hamilton Road Gate 5 (the gate closest to the basketball court) and will be guided as to where to pick up the required number of RAT kits. In order to keep COVID smart, we request that only one person comes to pick up the RAT kit. Once the kits are collected parents will need to immediately exit the school via Gate 4.

- SAVAGE: Friday 28 January: 10:30am -12:30pm
- O'NEILL: Friday 28 January: 12:30pm - 2:30pm
- FREEMAN: Monday 31 January: 10:30am -12:30pm
- THORPE: Monday 31 January: 12:30pm - 2:30pm

Support Unit

Parents/carers of students in the Support Unit will pick up their tests on Friday 28 January from the Driveway Gate on the Cumberland Highway. If you also have children in the mainstream their RAT kits will be supplied to you at the same time.

Distribution of rapid antigen tests for support unit students and their siblings will be on Friday 28 January from 11:00am through to 2:00pm, please look at the time your child's class from last year is scheduled to receive their tests below:



11:00am- 12:00pm K/6C (Mr Carr), K/6G (Mr Grujic) & K/6M (Mr Mah Chut)

12:00pm-1:00pm K/6P (Ms Ponnann), K/6T (Mr Trieu) & K/6A (Ms Meza)

1:00pm-2:00pm K/6B (Mr Bugge) & K/6D (Ms Denny)

If your child is just starting in our Support Unit this year, please come anytime between 11:00am and 2:00pm on Friday 28 January to pick up your rapid antigen tests.

Kindergarten Support Unit parents/carers will be called on Friday 28 January by the school to organise uniform collection if required.

Kindergarten 2022

Parents and carers will be able to collect their RAT kit on Monday 31 January and purchase uniforms at the same time. The school will be contacting parents and carers by phone on Friday 28 January with further details.

Additional information

- School staff will not be administering the rapid antigen tests to students.
- RAT kits should be collected from school by a parent or carer and the tests completed at home in the morning before attending school.
- Each student will receive an initial supply of 2 RATs to be used twice a week in the morning before attending school. We encourage tests to be done on a Monday and a Wednesday. During week 2 there will be organisation and communication on how the extra RAT kits will be provided.
- If a student or staff member receives a **positive** RAT result, they need to:
 - record the positive RAT result through the [Service NSW website External link](#) or [Service NSW app External link](#)
 - notify the school of the positive RAT or PCR result as soon as possible
 - follow [NSW Health advice External link](#) to isolate for 7 days.

Negative results **do not** need to be reported to Service NSW or to the school.

Support Unit Students

All students in the support unit will be provided with a kit containing 5 days' worth of RATs to be used every school day and will be provided with additional RATs during week 2.



Unwell at school

Any student or staff member who is unwell and/or displays symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to go home and stay until they can complete a RAT or PCR test.

- If symptoms continue, they should stay at home and take another RAT in 24 hours or have a PCR test.
- If the second RAT or initial PCR test result is negative and they are displaying no symptoms OR they are diagnosed with another condition such as hayfever, the student or staff member can return to school.

What happens when a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19

Under the new close contact rules, schools are no longer included in contact tracing. The school community will be informed when there is a positive case at FWPS school and provide families with public health advice, including monitoring for symptoms.

Use of surgical masks

All primary school staff will be required to wear masks indoors. If required, surgical masks will be available at schools.

No vented or cloth masks should be worn. If required, surgical masks will be available at schools.

Primary school students are strongly recommended to wear well-fitted masks indoors, these will be available in each classroom.

Masks are also strongly encouraged in outdoor settings where you cannot physically distance. Your child can remove their mask when eating, exercising or playing a musical instrument.

For more information, refer to [Face masks in NSW External link](#).

Visitors on school sites and vaccinations

No parents, carers or visitors will be allowed on school site until further notice with the following exceptions:

- Two parents or carers are allowed to accompany their child into school on their first day of Kindergarten or for new students starting at FWPS.
- Staff operating uniform shops and canteens must be fully vaccinated.
- Visitors supporting school operations and curriculum delivery must be fully vaccinated.
- Allied health partners for the wellbeing of students must be fully vaccinated.



All staff on school sites are required to be fully vaccinated, including having their booster when eligible.

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

Other key measures

Ventilation

FWPS will continue to follow NSW Health ventilation guidelines that natural ventilation is the most effective measure so we will maximise fresh air flow in learning spaces through opening doors and windows.

This approach is strongly supported by expert advice. Where natural ventilation is not sufficient, mechanical ventilation and/or air purification will be used and we will continue to use outdoor settings where possible.

An air purifier has been provided to the school, and the school is in the process of securing additional air purifiers as a supplementary measure to support common areas in school.

Cleaning

FWPS continues to have enhanced cleaning focusing on high-touch and high-traffic areas.

Physical distancing

FWPS will continue to follow physical distancing guidelines and maintain 1.5 metres distance wherever possible.

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



Genelle Goldfinch
Principal
Fairfield West PS

