



HOMENOTE

Respect. Responsibility. Ready To Learn.

T: 02 4341 3655 F: 4343 1517

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

E: ettalong-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Term 1 Week 2

1 February 2022

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 2 Feb	Kindergarten 2022 Best Start Assessments continue Competitors only Swimming Carnival - Ages 8 and above
Thurs 3 Feb	First day of Kindergarten 2022

Hello Parents and Carers

A huge welcome to our new and returning students, community and staff! We are very excited to be welcoming you all back to school in 2022! The schooling journey is an exciting one and We are hoping that our students in Years 1-6 will move into their 2022 classes as I type. These classes are subject to change until all our students return and our final numbers are accounted for.

Tomorrow we will be holding our competitors only swimming carnival for students 8 years and older. The permission notes and payment were completed at the end of 2021 due to time constraints. Sadly, we will not be able to have volunteers at the carnival due to Covid restrictions. We wish all competitors the very best of luck and thanks Mrs Jager for all her organisation. There have been various plans established in order for the carnival to go ahead.

There is a lot of information contained in our Homenote this week around the current guidelines for returning to school this year. We will continue to support and safeguard our students and school community. We sincerely appreciate your support as we navigate through these tricky times. We will start 2022 with a layered approach to COVID-smart measures that have been developed in partnership with NSW Health to help to minimise transmissions at school. The health and wellbeing of our students and staff remain our priority, and these measures are designed to help to keep our school open and our students learning in the classroom.

These key measures include:

- Rapid antigen test (RAT) kits 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 is required for all staff and students in Year 7 and above and strongly recommended for all primary students. Masks will be provided by the school if required.
- Only fully vaccinated visitors essential to delivering and supporting learning or wellbeing can come on a school site.
- Up to two parents or carers are allowed to accompany their child into school on their first day of Kindergarten or Year 7 or students starting at a new school.
- Students will be kept in their year groups on school grounds, with staggered drop-off and pick-ups, break times, playground and canteen access to minimise the spread of COVID-19 across cohorts.
- We 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. Further information around the COVID-19 guidelines are include below.

Yesterday our staff were kept busy handing out the DoE supplied RATs. If you were unable to collect these yesterday, please contact our office. Please be reassured, no students will be tested by staff at school.

Our school canteen will be offering a full menu thanks to the huge efforts by Mrs Lynch and our volunteers. All orders need to be online at this time please. Also, our uniform shop continues to be operational at this time. Huge that's to Bec and the merry band of volunteers.

Arrival and departure information for each grade was sent home today and is also available on the back page of this week's HomeNote. These arrangements come into effect from tomorrow morning (2 February) and will remain in place until further notice in the interest of keeping our students and staff safe.

Our principal, Mrs Balfour will be taking some more leave throughout this year. Mr Penberthy and I will continue to relieve as Deputy Principal and Principal respectively. We are hoping to have a full list of staff in next week's Homenote, as there have been quite a few changes. We also have a new Relieving Director in Educational Leadership this year. We welcome Kylee Owen who will relieve in Chris Bice's absence. We are sure that Kylee will enjoy her role and we look forward to welcoming her to the Central Coast.

Stay safe!

Jodie Campbell

Rel. Principal

Additional Information

Rapid antigen testing

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 15 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. 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.

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 4 RATs to be used twice a week in the morning before attending school.
- If a student or staff member receives a **positive** RAT result, they need to:
- record the positive RAT result through the [Service NSW websiteExternal link](#) or [Service NSW appExternal link](#)
- notify the school of the positive RAT or PCR result as soon as possible
- follow [NSW Health adviceExternal link](#) to isolate for 7 days.
- It is recommended that staff and students that return to school after recovering from COVID-19 do not participate in rapid antigen test surveillance for 28 days (four weeks after recovery) following release from self-isolation. This is due to NSW Health advice that people who have recovered from COVID-19 have a low risk of contracting it again in the following 28 days. After 28 days (from week five after recovery) staff and students may resume participation in RAT surveillance.

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

Information for Support Unit families and students.

All students and staff in mainstream schools with support units will be provided with a kit containing 10 days' worth of RATs to be used every school day for an initial 2-week period.

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 as another condition such as hayfever, the student or staff member can return to school.
- In NSW, positive COVID-19 cases are provided a Medical Clearance Notice after 7 days and allowed to leave self-isolation as long as they do not have COVID-19 symptoms.

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. I will inform the school community when there is a positive case in our school and advise families on public health advice, including monitoring for symptoms.

Use of surgical masks

All primary and secondary school staff will be required to wear masks indoors.

Primary school students are strongly recommended to wear well-fitted masks indoors.

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.

Visitors on school sites and vaccinations

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

- Up to two parents or carers are allowed to accompany their child into school on their first day of Kindergarten or Year 7 or students starting at a new school.
- Volunteers or 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.

Other key measures

Ventilation

We 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.

Air purifiers have been provided to schools as a supplementary measure to support common areas in schools and can be deployed at the principal's discretion. These purifiers could be located in areas where high levels of student and staff mixing occurs.

Cleaning

We continue to have enhanced cleaning focusing on high-touch and high-traffic areas.

Physical distancing

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



Arrival and Departure Arrangements for Term 1 2022

	Arrival Time	Finish Time	Arrival & Departure Gate
Kindergarten	9am	2.30pm	Arrival: Karingi Street gate (office) Departure at 2.30pm KH & KT- Karingi Street gate (office). KL & KZ- Uligandi Street gate (hall).
Support classes	9am	2.30pm	Support gate located on Karingi Street, opposite the Support rooms
Year 1	8.45am	2.55pm	Karingi Street main gate (office side)
Year 2	From 8.30am	2.55pm	OSHC gate on Karingi Street, near Year 2 classrooms & K-2 playground
Year 3	From 8.30am	2.55pm	Uligandi Street main gate (hall side)
Year 4	From 8.30am	2.55pm	Uligandi Street bus gate, opposite the 3-6 COLA and 3-6 playground
Year 5	From 8.30am	2.55pm	Basketball court gate off lane way
Year 6	From 8.30am	2.55pm	Karingi Street bus gate, near the Year 6 classrooms & St 3 eating area



Families are able to arrive and depart together using the Uligandi Street gate (hall side).

The use of the Kiss and Drop zone is strongly encouraged.

These arrangements will remain in place until further notice.
Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding.