



Norris Road State School

28 Greenore Street, Bracken Ridge, Qld 4017

Email: admin@norrisroadss.eq.edu.au

Ph. 32610777

Fax. 32610700

August 8 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I share your relief that lockdown will be lifted as of Sunday August 8 2021 at 4 pm! We look forward to welcoming all students back to school tomorrow, Monday August 9, 2021. Thank you for your support to our school community during the latest lockdown.

Whilst this is welcome news, we will need to implement additional restrictions to minimise transmission and further protect the health and safety of our school community. These additional restrictions will include wearing of masks on school sites for all adults and limiting parents, carers and other visitors on school sites unless absolutely necessary.

I realise that having parents and carers on our school site is part of our school routine and this restriction will be challenging, especially for our youngest students. However, these restrictions are necessary so our students can return to their classrooms from Monday in the safest way possible.

Restrictions on having parents/carers and visitors on school sites have been in place in the past, particularly during last year and our school will be reinstating our previous arrangements to ensure students enter and leave schools safely.

To support the drop off and pick up of our students, we will revert to the exit zones arrangement utilised last year:

Our arrangements for drop off and pick up will be as follows:

All students will enter school via one of the 4 gates:

- Area 1: Pritchard Place gate
- Area 2: Norris Road gate
- Area 3: Greenore Street gate
- Area 4: Peggotty Court gate

Please see attached map.

In the morning:

- 2 staff members will be at each gate from 8.10am
- A staff member will therefore be available to escort students into school grounds if required
- Students who arrive before 8.25am will wait in the junior undercover area where there is a greater air circulation
- We appreciate parents **not sending their child to school prior to the first bell at 8.25am** so we can avoid students congregating before school
- Students who do require supervision before 8.20am should be accessing onsite care through YMCA OSHC services.

In the afternoon:

- Prep students will be escorted by a Teacher Aide to one of the 4 exit areas stated above.
- Students from Years 1-6 will independently exit the school grounds via one of the 4 zones.
- Students accessing Outside School Hours Care will use already established procedures.
- Prep – Year 2 parents are asked to email their child's teacher to inform them of the gate their child will be leaving from in the afternoon so we can provide support if a child becomes confused about their exit point.



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We know from experience last year, that our students are very confident and capable of walking into school independently when the need arises, and will get used to this arrangement very quickly. However, should your child feel particularly anxious about walking into, or exiting school alone, we encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher, so they are aware of this and can provide reassurance and support.

We also encourage parents to talk through pick up and drop off arrangements with their child this evening and throughout the week to ensure students are prepared for and familiar with the new drop off and pick up procedures. Please reinforce with your child the gate access point from where you plan to collect your child so this becomes a part of their long-term memory. This will reduce confusion when your child needs to engage in an unfamiliar routine for the first time.

If for any reason a parent or carer must be on school grounds (for example, collecting a sick child), you are reminded that you must wear a mask at all times while visiting the school.

The Department of Education has also asked us to implement the following additional restrictions until otherwise advised:

- Assemblies and other large group activities including instrumental music groups, choirs, performances, extra curricula sporting activities, and dancing will not be permitted
- Interschool sport and excursions will not be permitted.

Our tuckshop and uniform shop will resume services this week, however, parents will need to use online methods of payment, and will be unable to enter the school grounds to select uniforms or personally place tuckshop orders.

I realise the latest developments may create challenges for families, but please be assured these decisions have been taken as a necessary response to the evolving COVID-19 situation.

The Department of Education will continue to keep me and all principals up-to-date with any further required changes to school arrangements over the coming days and I will continue to provide parents with this information as soon as it becomes available.

Further information for parents is available in the [Department of Education's frequently asked questions](#).

I encourage you to stay informed of the latest developments regarding COVID-19 by regularly visiting the [Queensland Government's COVID-19 website](#)

Thank you for your understanding as we continue to work together during these difficult times.

Yours sincerely,

Melissa Burke

Principal