

Kia ora whanau

On Monday our Prime Minister announced that New Zealand will be moving from Covid Alert Level 3 to Level 2, and that schools can re-open next Monday 18 May. I feel very fortunate to be living in New Zealand.

- “Schools and early learning services are safe environments for children, young people and staff. Additional public health control measures are in place to prevent the spread of disease and to support contact tracing.” Prime Minister
- “Our experience in New Zealand and overseas with COVID-19 over the last four months shows that it does not infect or affect children and teens in the same way it does adults. Children and teens have low infection rates, they don't become that unwell *if they do get infected, and they don't tend to pass the virus on to adults.*” Ministry of Health

We look forward to welcoming learners back next Monday morning. Of course the hygiene protocols – cough and sneeze into elbow; wash and dry our hands often; clean frequent touch surfaces as always; and stay home (and get well) if you are sick – are all still important. Social distancing guidelines at school under Level 2 ask us to stay out of another person's breathing space. Coming back to school is quite a change and we understand that it will be an adjustment, for both staff and learners, after so many weeks of lockdown.

Covid-19 Level 2 General Guidelines

We have had a Covid-19 Lead Team doing excellent work on all this since January. The general guidelines that you will need to be aware of as your children return to studying on-site are:

- Classrooms will have designated entry and exit points. A class must be fully empty before a new class can enter. Staff will ensure that there is a safe entry and exit process and they will open and close doors at the beginning and end of each lesson to ensure there is minimal contact by others. There will be hand sanitiser in each classroom for learners to use as they enter and exit.
- Disinfectant and cloths will be provided for learners to wipe down surfaces that are used when they arrive and leave a classroom.
- Classroom windows and doors will be open for part of each lesson to allow air flow.
- Communal surfaces and handrails will be cleaned regularly throughout the day by staff. Extra protocols and cleaning plan will be adopted by our cleaning contractor.
- Water fountains will not be available. Learners are to bring their own water for the day.
- Kura Kai Café will be operational but only accepting card payments – no cash accepted.
- Learner Accounts will not accept cash, only online or card payments please.
- Basketball courts and communal sports areas will be allowed to be used but appropriate guidelines will need to be followed.
- Personal hygiene must be adhered to by everyone - use appropriate cough and sneeze etiquette as well as use hand sanitiser each time you enter a room, keep your hands away from your face and stay away from school if you're feeling unwell.
- Assemblies and Morning Korero will not be taking place until further notice.

Teaching and Learning

- The key focus as we re-open will be re-connection.
- The 8.40am-3.15pm timetable will be followed.
- Instruction will take place at school, and teachers will not hold 'zoom' meetings or tutorials with learners who are not at school.
- We have about eight immuno-compromised learners and will support their learning on a case-by-case basis, as best suits their needs.

Buses

This comes from Auckland Transport. Only AT Hop cards can be used – no cash accepted. Buses will have sanitiser available so learners should sanitise their hands when getting on and off the bus. Buses will only carry seated passengers and where needed and where possible, an additional bus will be put on. Passengers will enter and exit through the rear door only and the seats immediately behind the driver will be blocked from use to maintain distancing between passengers and drivers.

Extra-curricular

- We will gradually get our extra-curricular programmes started again.
- There will be no sport until we have heard from the various sporting bodies about what the season might look like.

- Information about the start of trainings, meetings and practices will be via the school notices (or in some cases the appropriate Facebook group).

Keep up the good work New Zealand.

We can do this together – even though it will be without hugs and hongi at this stage!

Next Monday 18 May learners will meet with their Kaiarahi in their usual room at 8.40am.

It will be great to see them.

Ka kite ano

James