



## **STUDENTS RETURNING TO SCHOOL FOR ALERT LEVEL 2**

13 May 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

We are very pleased to hear that schools **are safe to open onsite at Alert Level 2 to all learners.**

**The key message is that It is important that we **play it safe** and continue to take sensible health and safety precautions.**

- Good hygiene practices - regular washing and drying of hands and good cough and sneeze etiquette remain fundamental to preventing spread of illness such as colds, flu and COVID-19.
- Ensuring all people with COVID-19 symptoms stay away from school.
- Maintaining physical distancing where practical - in schools at Alert Level 2 this means children, young people, and staff maintaining a physical distance so that they are not breathing on or touching each other, (there is no minimum distance requirement for schools at this level).
- Keeping track of people who enter the school - through the attendance register and Vistab.

We have updated our procedures and planning for Alert level 2. Here are some key points.

### **Parents / Whanau**

- Parents are to notify the Principal in writing if their child is not returning for Alert Level 2.
- Sick students are to stay at home and children sick at school will be sent home.
- If visitors /parents need to come onto the school site they will be required to sign in at the office. This is asked for by the Health Ministry for possible contact tracing.

### **At Drop Off and Pick Up**

- Under Alert Level 2 parents and caregivers will be discouraged from coming on site unless absolutely necessary. Parents are asked to “drop off and pick up” at the front of the school. Please stay in your car.
- In the mornings students enter through the wide middle gates and go straight to sit outside their classrooms. At 9.00am the concrete area above steps

outside the office will be taped off to keep visitors separate from students and teachers.

- At the end of the day children stay in the classroom and listen for names to be called for them to come down to the "pick up" area.
- SKIDs children to be released 5 mins early to clear congestion.

### Classrooms

- Hand sanitiser will be provided in every classroom. Students and Staff will be encouraged to use the hand sanitiser and wash hands as often as possible.
- Additional disinfectant/cloths will be available in classrooms for children and teachers to sanitise spaces throughout the school day as required. These cloths will be washed daily and returned to the classrooms.
- Many students have their own stationery, supplies and devices and will be encouraged not to share this.
- Keeping doors & windows open at all times to increase air flow.

### In the Playground

- Playgrounds will be open during morning tea and lunchtime - students to wash hands after using.
- Physical education classes and break time activities can include access to sports equipment but hygiene practice should be observed before and after playing with the equipment.
- Drinking fountains will remain closed. Students bring a named water bottle to school.

### Physical Distancing

- There is no bubble concept at Alert Level 2 so there are no restrictions on groups of students mixing with others on site.
- Physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease and will be encouraged.

### Cleaning and Hygiene

- The toilet blocks will be sanitised during the day. Soap and tubs are in each classroom for easy access, as well as wall mounted sanitisers.
- At Alert Level 2 we will continue to model good hygiene practices (coughing into your elbow, hand washing and drying) and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.
- Cleaners will complete daily cleans in line with the Ministry of Health guidelines.

### Movement in and out of School

- We have chosen to continue to limit all non-essential curriculum activity both in and outside of school.
- No school Masses/Assemblies for the remainder of Term 2.
- After school Care will be able to operate under Alert Level 2.

### School Loan Devices:

If you have borrowed a school device, this MUST be brought to the office before school on Monday for cleaning before being returned for classroom use. Please advise us early if there are any repairs needed, so children in classes do not miss out on using a device because we discover there is a problem.

School devices will be shared out with a fixed group of students to limit the potential spread of germs and the devices will be wiped regularly with sanitiser.

Students in Rooms 3,4,8,9,10,and 12 are encouraged to bring their own device to school to limit the amount of sharing.

If you or your child are anxious about returning to school, please contact me by email or phone.

Thank you for your support as parents over this challenging time. Thank you to the small number of our teachers, learning assistants, office staff and caretaker who were onsite to care for the small number of students who came to school during Alert Level 3. Thank you to the teachers who have worked from home preparing the online learning, organising zoom class meetings and supporting students in their learning and office staff working from home with administration matters.

‘Growing in faith together’ has been very important during this time when we need to continue to be supportive, caring and patient with each other.

God will protect and bless you all.

*Mā te Atua koutou katoa e tiaki, e manaaki.*

Kind Regards

**Gina Benade**

Principal

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