



21 April, 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

When we are looking at what is happening around the world, it is very frightening as to what could happen.

The government announced on 20 April that schools are open from the 29 April for those who cannot find alternative care and are working outside the home.

Our school is open, **but the school your child is going back to will not be the same as when they left.**

- This is due to expectation of a metre social distancing when inside classes and two metres outside classrooms
- Some teachers will need to work from home due to being health compromised
- Schools will not be able to be meeting places between classes, within classes and for friends

When we are in Alert Level 3

- Students can enter the grounds at a time that is set by the school (staggered start)
- Parents will not be allowed in the classrooms (social distancing) and will have to drop their child at their class door and then leave the grounds for safety sake (immediately due to cross contamination)
- All contact with teachers should be by digital contact through email, class dojo or see saw and the office by email or phone call
- School will finish at 2.30 at the latest (this will be staggered and you will be told your child's entry to school site and collection time) as children will have been mainly in classes and not free in breaktimes and teachers will have had no real breaks away at all
- **Road patrols will not** operate during Level 3, to ensure social distancing at the actual crossing.
- **There will be NO Before school or After school** programme operating during Level 3, due to creating and crossing school class bubbles.
- The school site will be closed to all visitors during the school day.
- School gates will be locked once school starts to ensure that school grounds are not used as a throughfare and will be open for collection
- Siblings of our current children who do not attend our school and are not in a caregiver role, should not enter school grounds unless they can be strapped in their prams at all times while at school
- The **SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS** are not open for use

When children are in classrooms

- They will be allocated a table and chair and only basic equipment to use
- There will be no moving between spaces or tables
- At morning tea and lunchtime, they will eat in their classrooms and then have a short break outside within their own class bubble (staggered throughout the school)
- All equipment that was shared will now not be available for use, this includes PE equipment and playground equipment- as we cannot disinfect between the school bubble groups using it. It would be unfair for only one group to use it

During Alert Level 3, the teachers will still be continuing with their online learning programmes as will the Ministry of Education programmes on television.

It is important to note

Years 1 -2 whilst at Alert Level 3 in school will have a paper based programme and no access to on line learning

Years 3-6 whilst at level 3 in school will be following the on-line learning assigned to their class

There will be little interaction with their teacher or friends due to social distancing regulations. This is in order to ensure the safety of those children and our staff who do come to school, we will be operating with strict enforcement of health and safety measures.

The Prime Minister was very clear in her message - "if you can keep your children at home do so". Schools will be a place for children whose parents/caregivers cannot work from home or find other alternative

- **arrangements.**
- **OUR SCHOOL** will be open for those who need it, (a maximum limit of 10 in a class and this includes the teacher)
- We believe that the best place for all children at the present time is at home, safe in their bubble, where there is less risk of infection and transfer of virus.
- You should only physically send your child to school if you need to.
- If your child has a health condition that means they are at a greater risk of a severe illness you must keep them at home.
- If you are sick or your child is sick, please stay away from school, just in case so we do not endanger others. This includes headaches, coughs, colds, sore throats, vomiting and stomach issues, runny nose.

To help us to prepare, students must be registered to attend at this time.

Casual attendance will not be permitted.

Can you please let your child's teacher know as soon as possible your answer, by either seesaw or clasdojo, so we can plan for re-opening? Please can you confirm your intention by Wednesday 23 April at 3.00pm

Question for Parents

1. Who is intending to send back their child/ren under Level 3 of lockdown, as they have no alternative?

Child's Name:

Room Number:

Parents latest phone contact details:

Please also note that once the class bubble has been confirmed on Wednesday 23rd, at 3.00pm then no alterations can occur, until we reach Alert Level 2. This ensures that the class bubble is safe, and no cross contamination occurs.

As new information arrives from the Ministry of Health and/or Education I will update if it affects our plans in anyway.

'We continue to operate under a state of emergency and under instruction from the government. Principals and Boards will not be held liable for any COVID-19 illness experienced at school' (New Zealand Principal's Federation)

Yours

Sue Buckley
Principal

Together in Learning