

23 March 2022

Dear parents and caregivers,

After today's announcement from the Prime Minister I thought we should have a quick update for our community. To be honest, the decision today really only impacts our school in two ways:

1. We can be a little more relaxed with sporting events, including the amount of people we have inside watching a game. This also follows the removal of a mandate on vaccinations for students playing sport.
2. Teachers are no longer required to be vaccinated.

Masks are still a key element for our protection against COVID at school. I am sad to say that over the last week mask wearing has dropped off a little and it would be helpful if you had a word with your children. We are still not aware of any students that have passed on COVID in class and we would like to keep it this way.

In my earlier newsletter I mentioned that we are focused on keeping school as normal as we can. Our teachers are working hard to teach classes and support your children. We still do not feel a need to roster home or run hybrid learning like many Christchurch schools, however, a number of students have approached me with a concern. They feel that it is difficult to catch up on any missed subject matter whilst still learning new work. This is a tension that I would like to address, and so we have decided to enable this over the next three weeks. For the next three weeks we will:

- Every Friday senior students (Yr 11-13) will be rostered home until the end of the term.
- This begins this **Friday 25th March**
- Staff will be available, when not teaching juniors, to provide tutorials for those senior students who wish to come in for support.
- **Junior classes will run as normal**
- Buses will run as normal
- Senior students should only come into school to attend a tutorial, or make use of the study rooms. (*I say this, so they do not come in and disturb our juniors*)
- Both uniform and masks will be required

We would have liked to have made this a day that was not Friday, but Friday is the only day we do not have double periods for seniors. This means that a class will only lose one period rather than two. I am going to review this after this Friday. If we have no students seeking support, then we may go back to a normal teaching day. I hope this does not happen.

Our current COVID or household contacts situation:

- Staff: 7
- Students 125

Ma te aroha ka tutuki
Bruce

