

26 January 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Firstly, I am sorry that this communication is later than we would have liked. We have been in meetings today with the Ministry of Education confirming the requirements of working in Phase One of the Red setting of the traffic light system. We can now let you know the expectations of working under this system. There is a great deal of grey as this is new to us, and the Senior Leadership Team has worked hard to make our stance as clear as possible for our families and students.

Changes to the start of the year:

1. There will be **no powhiri** for our new Year 9 students. Instead, all Year 9 students will be sent a letter containing their House and where they need to meet at the start of the day. This will be sent on Friday 27th January (tomorrow).
2. Please note that parents are not allowed on site. The gates will be shut. Please drop your child off and let them enter school. We will look after them. **Don't forget their mask!**
3. Sadly, we have had to **cancel the fun day** on Friday next week. Classes will run as per the timetable.

Our systems:

1. **There are no non-essential visitors to enter the school.** Essential visitors are emergency including police, fire and ambulance, and any specific trades that are required. This means that parents and caregivers are **not to enter the school at any time**, including dropping students off. We will still meet parents, but this will be via phone or zoom.
2. **Masks are mandatory for all staff and students indoors.** This must be a mask and does not include pulling a shirt over your face or wearing a bandanna. Students must supply their own masks.
3. As we cannot reliably form a vaccine register for all students, we will assume students are not vaccinated. **You have a right to education whether you are vaccinated or not.** All students should attend school unless feeling unwell or have been instructed to isolate.
4. Our greatest barrier for Covid-19 is for students and staff to **stay at home if you feel unwell.** Please get tested and stay at home until you receive a negative test result.
5. **Non-curriculum events can still go ahead.** These include sports practice, clubs and cultural activities. They must be held outside. At the moment it looks likely that there will be no inter-school activities, however this may change as we move through the phases of red.
6. If a student comes to school and is unwell, we will call the parents and ask them to be picked up as soon as possible. That student will be placed in isolation while they wait for their caregiver to come and get them. They will not be able to bus home.
7. We will offer a **hybrid teaching and learning model once we see the effect of cases in school.** When, or if, our school is affected we will offer a model of both on-line learning and on-site learning. The MOE is standing firm on not closing schools, especially for those students under the age of 14, as they cannot be left at home alone.

This is a fast-changing landscape, and we will no doubt be reviewing these rules as we move along the timeframe.

Our country and our schools are in a great place to deal with this new Covid-19 threat. With vaccination rates high and booster shots moving along at a great pace we should be able to push through this and return to a new normal. We will approach this by being as kind as we can and as supportive as we can. I know that for many of our parents and students anxiety will be high at the moment, yet when I think back to the earthquakes, we had no way of wearing a

mask to reduce our risk, or vaccinating against them to minimise the impact. And we got there.
We can do this, I know we can.
Ma ta aroha ka tutuki
With care and support we can achieve anything

Kind Regards
Bruce Kearney
Principal
