



## Newsletter #9—Te Pānui o te kura o Rāwhiti: 12 May 2020

### *E ara ake ana i te uruhi Rising Above The Ordinary*

#### From The Principal—Te Pu kāea a te Tumuaki

Kia ora koutou. We are delighted with the announcement that school will reopen on Monday 18th May under Alert Level 2. Throughout this week we will provide you with details about how school will resume, but we are really looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday! There is so much that we are looking forward to about being back at school - and so we have made this special video message for you all so that you know just what we have been missing. Check out our version of Ain't No Mountain High Enough on Youtube via this link. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMcPKVbDPxI>

Moving from Level 3 to Level 2 is a big shift and understandably will take some time to fully achieve. Initially, some things will need to operate differently at school during Level 2 and so following here are some of the key things that you will need to know.



#### Back to School on Monday

If you have not already done so, please take a moment to fill in this short survey <https://forms.gle/zJHvi7HT4GWvG4Yy6> to let us know if your child/ren will be returning to school at Alert Level 2. If you have already done this via our Facebook page or the HERO app there is **no need to fill it in again**.

#### Contact Tracing At School

At Level 2, the key Public Health approach is to minimise the risk that someone gets infected in the first place, and second to ensure we can identify and contact anyone who has been in close contact with a person, if someone in a school is infected. As we have done in Alert Level 3, we will need to know exactly who enters our school grounds, and who our staff and students have been in close contact with.

This means that we must record any visitors to the school site, **including parents**. Therefore, the following procedures will be in place until further notice.

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### ***Morning Procedures***

- Children are to arrive at school between 8.30am and 9.00am. Please ensure that your child is not dropped at school any earlier than this as children are not to be on the school site before 8.30am.
- From 8.30am there will be staff members at the gates to welcome children to school.
- Parents are not to enter the school grounds at drop off time unless it is absolutely essential. If, for some reason, you think you do need to enter the grounds, then you will need to speak to a staff member at the gate to have your details recorded in the Contact Tracing Register, including time in and time out of the school grounds.
- Parents are asked not to enter the Learning Studios.
- The barrier arm to the Staff Car Park will remain closed.

### ***Afternoon Procedures***

- Parents are asked not to enter the school grounds at the end of the day but to remain in your vehicle if possible, and outside the school gate if not.
- At 2.50pm children who walk or bike home from school on their own will be released from the Learning Studios to make their way home.
- At the same time, the eldest child in each family will be released from their Learning Studio to go and gather up their siblings and take them to the school gate to meet whoever is collecting them.
- At 3.00pm all remaining children will be released from their Learning Studio.

### **Accessing the school during the day**

If, for any reason, you need to come to school during the day you must sign in and out at the school office using the VisTab system. It is a public health requirement that we record every person who enters the school site. Where possible, please phone or email the office to pass on information or to ask questions. Our office staff will respond promptly to your queries.

### **Physical Distancing at School**

Physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease. This means that children and staff must maintain a physical distance so that they are not breathing on or touching each other. There does not need to be a specific measurement but where practicable 1 metre should be used as a guide, particularly between adults.

As described by Dr Payinda in his [NZ Herald article](#), "Covid's not measles or chickenpox, it doesn't hang in the air for hours waiting to infect passers-by. It travels on invisible drops of spit. You don't have to cross the street to avoid anyone. Just avoid getting in their 'moist breath' zone". We all just need to remember to have some breathing space at Alert Level 2! Please explain to your children that although their teachers will be absolutely delighted to see them on Monday, they will not be able to give them a hug – which is what may usually happen.

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### Hygiene

Hand sanitiser will be available for children at the entry to the Learning Studios. Washing hands remains a crucial practice and soap and the ability to dry hands is also available in all toilet cubicles, and within the studio itself. Where practicable, we will ensure that children regularly wash and dry their hands, cough and sneeze into their elbow, and try to avoid touching their faces. Surfaces, including door handles, will be regularly cleaned and disinfected.

### Children Who Are Unwell

Children who are unwell in any way should not be attending school. Under Alert Level 2, we advise any students and staff to stay at home if they are sick, and we will send anyone home immediately if they show any symptoms of illness. We will not be able to hold children in the sick bay for any length of time, therefore if we are unable to get hold of you to collect your child we will be contacting whoever you have listed as an emergency contact for your child.

### Food and Drink At School

Our drinking fountains will remain out of action and so it is important that your child has their own drink bottle at school. Please also ensure that you send your child with plenty of food for the day, and please do not send food that requires preparation or heating at school as we will not be having shared use of the kitchens in the Learning Studios. We do not currently have any of our usual food supplies – Weetbix, milk, toast and the like and so we cannot provide additional food if your child is hungry. Once the Fruit in Schools deliveries commence then the fruit will be washed and made available to children.

### No Google Meets on Thursday and Friday

Teachers now have a lot to do to switch from distance learning mode back to face to face delivery of the curriculum. Teachers will not be holding Google Meets on either Thursday or Friday of this week. They will, of course, ensure there are learning opportunities available to the children via the class learning site.

We will update this information as the week progresses. For more information about the public health measures at Alert Level 2, you can visit the covid19.govt.nz website: <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

Noho ora mai  
**Liz Weir**  
Principal

