

Reopening School under Alert Level 2- Important information for parents

As you will know Waterlea School is preparing to reopen for all children and staff under Alert Level 2. Thank you for letting us know your intentions regarding your child returning to school on Monday 18 May. If you haven't done so, please complete the survey emailed to you to help us with our planning. As you can imagine, school will look different to what we're all used to. This information sheet will hopefully prepare you and your child for these differences so that school can continue to be a fun and safe space for learning. All our classrooms will be reopening with all our teachers back at school. The first day will be really important for your child to attend school and be on time. They will be setting up how they will work and learn in their classroom together.

Dropping off your children in the morning

In our first week back we need to manage the number of adults on the school site at any one time and we can all play our part in doing this successfully. Even though we haven't seen each other for a long time, it is important that adults aren't congregating on the playground before/after school. Adults need to observe social distancing practises at all times. In the first week students can arrive from 8.30am and no earlier leaving promptly at 3pm. SKIDS is available before and after school to help with this.

The following is our whole school plan for the first week at school:

- All parents/caregivers of Year 4-6 students stay off the school site at drop off times to help keep numbers of adults manageable
- If your child usually walks to school independently and is confident doing so, we suggest that this routine continues
- If your child usually walks to school with an adult, we suggest you do this, saying your goodbyes at the school gate
- If you usually use the fast drop off car area to drop your child off, we suggest this routine continues
- The only adults who should come onto the school site are those parents/caregivers who need to give their child additional support when dropping off e.g. our youngest Year 1-2 students
- With regards to our Year 3 students, we need to carefully consider the needs of the children and this is something that can be negotiated with the teacher through email/seesaw
- Teachers will greet students outside the classroom from 8.30am and direct them to go inside and hang up their bags; playgrounds will not be available before/after school
- No adults are to enter classrooms at pick up or drop off time; we will reintroduce this at some stage after the first week; it would be helpful if adults exited the school quickly having dropped their child off
- Any adult on the school site will need to make sure the teacher is aware of them so a record can be taken for contact tracing purposes
- The Walking School Buses will not be operating in the first week back but we intend to reintroduce them as soon as possible
- We won't have children on bikes, scooters or skateboards in the first week of school and we will reintroduce them at a later time

Picking up your children from school in the afternoon

The following is our whole school plan for the first week at school:

- All parents/caregivers of Year 4-6 students stay off the school site at pick up times to help keep numbers of adults manageable
- If your child usually walks home independently and is confident doing so, we suggest that this routine continues
- If your child usually walks home with an adult, we suggest you organise to meet them at the school gate or another pre organised meeting place outside the school
- If your child usually meets you at the car, we suggest that this continues
- If your Year 1 or 2 child waits for you outside their classroom you are welcome to collect them from 2.30pm onwards; this only applies to families who do not have older siblings in other areas of the school;

- Teachers will be looking out for adults as they arrive and will support children to exit one at a time; no adults are to enter/wait in classrooms for the first week
- Staggered drop off times from 8.30am-9am and pick up times from 2.30pm-3pm will help us monitor the amount of adults on the school site at one time

These procedures around dropping off and picking up children will be in place for the first week as part of our focus on settling students back into a school routine. They will be reviewed at the end of the week and if necessary refinements will be made.

At any other time of the day, adults will need to go to the office and sign in. A new QR Code system will be in place for the purposes of contact tracing. If they need to contact their child and we will organise what needs to be done from there.

What to Bring to School

- Pack morning tea and lunch for your child as usual
- Ensure your child has a drink bottle because drinking fountains will not be used in the first week and we will look at reintroducing them overtime
- They might be some specific requirements from your classroom teacher but these will be communicated separately
- Don't forget to remind your child to come with stories, reflections and memories of their time in their bubbles

Illness and Social Distancing

- If your child is unwell in any way they must be kept at home. Call or email the school as you would normally to report an absence
- If your child arrives at school with cold/flu symptoms they will be isolated at the sick-bay and we will phone you to pick them up.
- We will be monitoring this very closely and this policy will be strictly applied
- No adults are permitted to come onto the school site with cold/flu symptoms
- Physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease and in a school environment, this means children and staff maintaining a physical distance so that they are not breathing on or touching each other

Other Public Health Measures

- Social distancing, as described above, coupled with good hygiene practices (coughing into your elbow, handwashing and drying) and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.
- There are situations where physical distancing is not possible, such as some sporting activities. In these situations, extra emphasis on handwashing and drying (or cleansing with hand sanitiser) before and after activities and regular cleaning of equipment is very important.
- Hand sanitiser at entry/exit to class rooms and in shared spaces.
- Soap, water and the ability to dry hands must be provided in bathrooms.
- Where practicable ensure that children and young people regularly wash and dry hands, cough and sneeze into their elbow, and try to avoid touching their face.
- Physical education classes and break time activities can include access to sports equipment including playgrounds but hygiene practice should be observed after playing with equipment.
- Playgrounds will have class rosters to avoid high numbers at one time
- Disinfect and clean all surfaces daily.
- Contact tracing registers must be set up and identify which children and adults are on site, in each teaching space, including recording if there is a different composition of children and adults during the day. This includes recording visitors to the site, including parents
- The Public Health Service have specified that PPE or masks are not required or recommended as necessary in any educational facility.

The first week back at Waterlea School will be a stripped back version of the bustling school as we know it. For the first week children will eat inside their classrooms overseen by their teachers. We won't be holding clubs, Kapa Haka, choir, the library or buddy reading etc. Paring everything back will give teachers and students the time to reconnect with a focus on Hauora/Wellbeing and our Waterlea MANA values. It will also give time for us to establish the routines we need around developing good hygiene practises.

We can't wait to have everyone back at school and we can celebrate as a community how well we have done over the past weeks at home.

If you need any additional support from us regarding the successful transition of your children back to school please contact myself, Andy Jones or Therese Bakker because we are here to help and support in any way we can. Please find contact details below.

Kind regards,

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