



School Update 2021

7 September 2021

Kia ora koutou,

As we move into Level 2, the expectation is that every student returns to school. The disease is contained but there is still a risk of community transmission. It is safe for children and staff to attend schools as there will be appropriate measures in place. However we do understand that some parents still have uncertainties about their child's health during this current time.

Let me also reassure you that as a school we are putting in place health and safety measures so that Forest Lake School is a safe place for your children. I believe that the key message is, it is **NOT** back to normal, there will still be restrictions around how we operate from the time you and your child arrive at school until you collect them at the end of the school day.

Decisions we have made to comply with health and safety at Level 2:

- **Schools are not classified as gatherings and so the gathering rules do not apply. Under the Covid-19 Public Health Response Order, schools are exempted from physical distancing requirements when people are there to receive, provide, or support education services.** All staff and students are covered by this order. As soon as other people are on site, including parents and caregivers the rules for gatherings apply. Therefore we have made the decision that **NO parents are allowed on the school grounds.** Students walk into the classrooms themselves. For children in Teina Auraki and Rumaki staff will be at the entranceways to support them coming onto the school grounds.

- While physical distancing is not a requirement in schools, we will be doing our best to keep students from congregating in very large numbers and keeping spaces well-ventilated.
- Face coverings are not required to be worn in school. The Director General of Health has recommended that children 12 years+ wear a face covering at school – just as older children are required to wear face coverings in some other places. The decision to wear a face covering is up to you and your whānau, whatever your decision it will be respected. Public health advice for those under six is getting children to cough and sneeze into their elbow and wash and dry hands. The use of masks is permitted but not actively encouraged.
- For students new to our school you will come to the school office to complete enrolment. The class teacher will be called to the office and take the child to their new classroom. Only 1 parent and the new student can be in the office.
- Transition to school for 5 year olds. We will be in contact with these whanau separately
- Please practice social distancing of 2 metres when outside at entry and exit times.
- Point of contact for parents is the school office through the main front double doors. You will be asked to sanitize on entry. You are required to sign in using the Vistab This information must be held for 2 months. QR code is available for your use as well.
- Only 1 person in the office at a time.
- No uniform sales during Level 2 unless you have a pre-order. No trying on uniforms. Please phone ahead if you wish to collect a pre-order.
- Free school lunches will start on Thursday. There is no sharing of food.
- Every child must bring their own named drink bottle. They will be able to refill them.
- All teams have been issued with first aid kits. Any serious injuries will be treated in the first aid room with the staff member wearing gloves and a mask.

- Entry points for students to the school are Storey Ave, from the hall gate to the school office and the back gate on Hinton Ave. These entry points will be staffed.
- **All students must arrive between 8.45 and 9.15am and go to their classrooms.**
- OOSC will be communicating with families enrolled in their procedures. Students will be sent to their classrooms at 8.45am.
- To assist with congestion at the end of the day we will have a staggered dismissal. At 2.30pm students in Matai 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and Kauri 3 will be dismissed. Older siblings can also leave at that time. The rest of the students will be dismissed at 2.45pm. **NO** student is to be left on the school grounds after 3.00pm unless they are under the supervision of OOSC.
- Matai block students enter through the doors facing the field.
- Strict entry and exit times are so that staff can ensure students comply with the health and safety expectations.
- Parents waiting outside of school are asked to comply with social distancing rules.
- Out of school music lessons will continue as distance learning.
- Devices: All devices loaned during lockdown must be returned with the charger in a paper or plastic bag with the child's name on. This will be collected at the classroom, cleaned and checked against the register before returned to classroom use. If your child has their own personal device then they are able to bring it to school whatever the level but it needs to be an ipad for years 1 - 4 and a chromebook for year 5 - 8. Our IT system is not designed to take student laptops due to heightened security breaches. The students must clean their own device before use in the classroom.
- Learning will be onsite with distance learning offered in some circumstances. (If you are required to isolate, those individuals who are waiting for a covid test result or those students vulnerable to illness). Families who have chosen this option will be phoned to discuss their circumstances and distance learning options.
- **InSchool Health and Safety Protocols**

- Each time a student enters or exits the classroom they will sanitise their hands, this includes when they return from the toilets. Sanitizer is provided in every space.
- As we do not have to comply with the gathering rules, breaks will continue as normal.
- Playgrounds will be open for use.
- Sports equipment can be used but will be cleaned afterwards and students will sanitize their hands.
- Cough and sneeze etiquette to be followed.
- All high touch areas (door handles, door frames, working surfaces) will be cleaned regularly during the day.
- Bathroom and toilet areas will be cleaned twice a day.

These protocols are in place to keep everyone safe. We can't do this on our own and ask for your cooperation to implement them.

We look forward to seeing your children back at school on Thursday. If you have concerns, questions please feel free to email me principal@forestlake.school.nz

Ngaa mihi,

Whaea Chris