



GREEN BAY SCHOOL

RespectWhakaute PositivityMatika InitiativeAuahatia

11 November 2021

Kia ora koutou

I hope this letter finds you and your whānau safe and well.

We are delighted to be able to welcome more tamariki back on-site under Alert Level 3 from next Wednesday 17 November.

We know learning kanohi ki te kanohi (face to face) is the best option for children and young people. It's important for them to connect with their friends and teachers and it helps their social, physical, and emotional wellbeing.

For our children returning, we are likely to need to manage the numbers of students attending each day to keep everyone safe. Therefore, dependant on the number of students returning (based on the survey results sent out this morning to all families and closing at 1.00pm tomorrow), we will be able to work out staggered days and start times for your child to attend school. We anticipate having classroom bubbles of 20, again dependant on numbers returning.

Your child's Whanau Leader or classroom teacher will then be in touch with a timetable which will cover the days your child is required to be at school, more than likely two days per week but again, these number of days will be based on the survey results.

Let us get back to school, as noted recently by Dr Caroline McElnay, Director of Public Health:

Our experience in New Zealand and overseas with COVID-19 shows that it does not affect children and teens in the same way it does adults. Children and teens don't become as unwell if they do get infected, and they don't tend to pass the virus on so much as adults when in a classroom setting.

Compared to other places, schools and early learning services are not environments where we have seen significant spread of COVID-19. Household members and work colleagues who are in close contact with people with COVID-19, are the most common sources of transmission.

Inevitably, however, when there are cases in the community, they will also appear in schools and early learning services.

Even with the Delta variant, the risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools is low because of all the public health measures we will have in place. What these will look like for us:

- we may need to limit the number of tamariki and staff on-site each day
- we will keep those on-site in separate groups
- there will be staggered lunchtimes and morning tea times
- we'll ensure our classrooms are well ventilated and all surfaces cleaned daily
- hand-sanitiser in every classroom and paper-towels in all toilets
- we'll continue to practice physical distancing where possible.

In addition to this, all staff and children in Years 4 and above are required to wear face coverings indoors (unless they have an exemption, which you will need to provide), and we will ensure all staff (and external contractors) who are on site are fully vaccinated or will have had had at least one dose of the vaccine and return a negative weekly test.

What you can do to help:

- stay at home if you or your child is sick
- avoid catching up with other parents, children and whānau at the gates
- wear a face covering and maintain a two-metre distance from people not in your household bubble
- get advice from your doctor if you or your child has complex medical needs (and please get in touch so that we can support your child to return on-site, wherever possible)
- avoid having playdates inside with children from other families at Alert Level 3

Level 3 Parent Protocols are attached for your perusal. We would like you to talk to your child/children about these protocols, explaining to them the situation around staggered start times, finish times, lunch times and morning tea breaks; the reason behind staying within their classroom bubble, listening to instructions from their teacher regarding the bubbles and how this is keeping us all safe. Also please speak to the older sibling (Y4-8) on the plans in place if they are leaving the school grounds, or if they are to meet in the junior area at the end of the school day. *These protocols are subject to change as we get further information.*

Please note, we will continue to support learning from home for those tamariki who will not be attending on-site.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher by email.

Please complete the [survey](#) sent earlier today by 1:00pm tomorrow.

We look forward to seeing you back at school next week.

Ngā mihi



Anand Muthoo
Principal
Green Bay School