



# GREEN BAY SCHOOL

RespectWhakaute PositivityMatika InitiativeAuahatia

28 January 2022

Kia ora GBS families and welcome back to the new school year after what we hope has been a wonderful summer for your whānau.

We are working under the new COVID-19 traffic light framework in 'Red'. All schools are open around NZ, and it is good to know that we can support learning onsite again. Our team is feeling refreshed and ready to go for 2022 and ALL students are welcome back onsite from Thursday 3 February 2022 (under GBS Parent Protocols).

A warm welcome to our new students and their whānau; from new entrants all the way to intermediate, we have many. Unable to do the formal meet and greets with our new enrolments, it is unfortunate, however we are pleased you are with us, and it will be school as normal from next week.

## **Events and activities**

Large gatherings continue to be one of the riskier activities we can undertake at school during this time. We therefore advise that our planned events; new entrant welcome and new student powhiri have now been cancelled.

## **Ventilation**

We have used the Ministry of Education self-assessment tool to review all our ventilation in readiness for the start of the year. However, providing good old fashioned fresh air remains the most important thing we can do in our learning spaces to minimise risk for staff and students (and the same goes for you at home).

## **Omicron and testing**

We have all seen the very large numbers of cases overseas and we will very likely see much larger numbers of cases in Aotearoa than we have previously experienced in the last two years. While Omicron is more transmissible than previous strains, most people who get COVID-19 will have a mild to moderate illness and will fully recover in their own home. So, we all need to continue to play our part to minimise the spread of the virus (good hygiene practices; wear a face mask, regular hand washing/sanitising, cough and sneeze etiquette, doors and windows open, scan using COVID tracer app and most importantly, get tested if you have any [COVID-19 symptoms](#)).

## **Face coverings**

The Government has now confirmed that face masks (not face coverings) will be required at Red for students in Years 4-8 and all staff.

## **Vaccination for five- to 11-year-olds**

Ministry of Health advise that vaccination including a booster shot, remains an important tool to help prevent the most serious harm from the COVID-19 virus. If children and young adults who have been vaccinated do develop COVID-19, they are far less likely to get seriously ill and less likely to transmit the virus to others.

## **Managing cases in our school**

We have a good contact tracing system in place so that if there is a confirmed case who has been at school while infectious, we can quickly identify who was a close contact of that person. We will then quickly advise those contacts of what they need to do.

Only if the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Education advises us to do so, would we consider closing onsite schooling and moving to distance learning for everyone. At Red, we will keep everyone learning onsite for as long as we can.

To follow, please find links to help with any questions, concerns or information that you may require.

Please make sure your contact details we have on file are up to date, so we can get in touch with you if needed.

While this might all feel a little overwhelming at times, we know that all these measures will help our children return to school, reconnect with whānau and friends and do what they enjoy. We are looking forward to our first day back. See you soon!

Ngā mihi



Anand Muthoo  
***Principal***  
**Green Bay School**

## Well-Being and Support (Links)

### Getting ready to return to school

The Ministry of Education has some helpful information on their [Parents and Whānau website](#) to support your tamariki to get back to school. There is also a very important reminder about how you can [take care of yourself](#).

### Vaccination for five- to 11-year-olds

Ministry of Health advise the free five- to 11-year-old vaccination programme is now underway and more than 100,000 children in New Zealand have had their first dose.

There is some helpful information available to support you on the [Unite Against COVID-19 website](#) including [How to book a vaccine for your five – 11 year old](#) and [some great videos](#) on the Kids Health page that can support you to talk to your tamariki about the COVID-19 vaccine.

### Preparing for COVID-19

You can also prepare for COVID-19, making sure you and your household have a plan and know what to do. This will mean your whānau and community can help each other if needed. Find out more here:

- [Be prepared for COVID-19](#)
- [Download the COVID-19 Readiness Checklist \[PDF, 121 KB\]](#)
- [What to expect when self-isolating at home](#)

### Self-isolating at home because of COVID-19

Many people will be able to manage self-isolation with help from friends and whānau, but there is help available if you need it – both with health support and access to food and other essentials.

- [What to expect when self-isolating at home | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](#)
- [Getting extra support if you have COVID-19 or are self-isolating | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](#)
- [COVID-19 positive – managing your symptoms | Health Navigator NZ](#)

If you know anyone in your community affected by COVID-19 and who may need help, such as food and other financial assistance, Work and Income has a range of [supports available for individuals, families, employers and self-employed people affected by COVID-19](#).

### Work and Income support

The beginning of the year can be a tough time for parents who are faced with many costs and it is important you are aware of what assistance you may be able to get from Work and Income. These are available to people on a low income as well as those on a benefit.

[Check what you might get here](#)

- [School costs](#)
- [Out of School Care and Recreation \(OSCAR\) Subsidy](#)
- [Other Childcare Assistance](#)
- [School and Year Start-up Payment \(for people getting Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit\)](#)
- [Help with living costs \(including food and rent/mortgage\)](#)

Use the links above or call 0800 559 009 to find out more, or to apply.

MoneyTalks can assist with [free budgeting and debt help](#)

You can also contact your local community provider. [Please find more information here](#).