



## Community Update Thursday 14 May 2020

Kia ora koutou katoa

We are excited to return to school on Monday 18th May, and all staff are very much looking forward to seeing our students in 3D!

We would like to acknowledge all of the time, effort and love you as parents/guardians have put into your children over the past few weeks in lockdown. We know (from our own experiences as well!) that it has not been easy balancing work, parenting and children learning from home. THANK YOU!

We have also appreciated your willingness to respond to our questions and surveys. If you have not yet let us know whether or not your child is returning to school on Monday 18th May, [please click here](#).

**We have one more form for you to complete** to enable us to finalise planning, by helping us to streamline drop off and pick ups, and to give teachers your perspective on how the home learning experience has been for your children, and some insights into your child's wellbeing. PLEASE can this be completed by 5pm tomorrow (Friday) if at all possible.

[The form link can be found here](#) - but please read the information below before you complete it, to put our requests in context.

This update includes a lot of important information that we hope will both inform and reassure you and your children.

As we prepare to open to all children on Monday, we are confident we can operate relatively normally, due to our ability to contact trace. **However for the next fortnight we are taking extra precautions** in the interests of child and staff safety, and to ensure our contact tracing processes are running smoothly. We will review these practices at the end of two weeks.

**Pick up and drop off** times are times when we are needing to be especially careful. We want to minimise the potential for people, adults in particular, to gather. Please respect these requirements as we transition back to school life on site

- There will be **no entry to the school grounds for students or parents before 8:15 a.m.** (unless your child/children is/are enrolled in before school care with Ultimate Kidz). Gates will remain locked until this time. Please do not drop off your child/ren, or have them walk to school, before this time.

- If your child needs to be at school before 8:15 or to remain after 3:10, please enrol with Ultimate Kiz - Lisa 021916677
- We expect that the vast majority of our children will be able to be dropped off at a school gate and make their way into their hubs independently.
- Staff will be at all gates in the morning and afternoon to support drop off and pick up and ensure we don't get crowds of people congregating.
- We are asking (via the attached survey) for parents to nominate the gate they would like their child/children to enter and exit by - whether walking or being collected. Please note, not all entry and exit points will be open.
- If you must pick up your child/children, we encourage you to meet your child/children at a designated space away from the gate you nominate, to ensure we don't have crowding at the gates.
- We need to spread our foot traffic between all our gates to ensure we don't have crowding at any one particular gate.
- We are reserving the drop zone for our youngest and newest children, our students in the Kiwi team. Kiwi team parents, if you are parking and coming into the school, please park in the visitor parking side of the drop zone. If you are just dropping your child, then stop on the left 'drop' side. *You may not leave your car if stopping on the left hand side.* Children with siblings in Kiwi Team may also enter and exit from the gate at the drop off zone.
- Any parent who enters the school at any time will need to sign in and out for contact tracing purposes, so we are asking you to only come into the school if absolutely necessary. See the suggestions below for minimising the need to come on site
- When at school or outside of school collecting or dropping off, please maintain a 2m distance from others.
- Please ensure your child arrives at school before 9am to avoid the need to go through the office to sign in late.
- If your child/children is/are not walking home, please collect them promptly. We do not want anyone lingering on the school site or surrounding streets, past 3:10pm
- Please pass this information on to caregivers/family members who may be picking up/dropping off on your behalf.

### **Minimising coming on to the school site:**

- Please contact the office via phone or email, rather than coming in to have a query answered.
- Please use Kindo or online banking for making payments.
- If you are called to collect a sick child, please call from your car when you arrive. Office staff will sign your child out on your behalf, then walk your child out to you.
- A reminder that you enter the office (even just to drop something off or ask a question) you will need to complete a written form for contract tracing purposes
- Please organise lunch for your child in the morning to avoid the need to drop lunch off during the day.

- Please email your child's teacher with any questions or concerns relating to your child/our child's learning.

### **If your child is unwell**

- If your child is unwell for any reason, you MUST keep them at home.
- If your child presents as being unwell at school, you will be contacted to urgently collect them.
- If you are called to collect a sick child, please call from your car when you arrive, Office staff will sign your child out in your behalf, then walk your child out to you.
- If you or your child is showing any of the symptoms of COVID-19 please get tested (we may require you to share your child's test results with us).

### **School will be a bit different - Please chat to your child/children about this**

School will mostly look the same; we can use all the equipment, we can play on the playgrounds. Classrooms will mostly look the same and best of all, all the teachers will be there! What's different is we will be washing our hands and sanitising our hands a lot! We will be encouraging children to give each other space, staying out of each other's moist breath zone and of course, not hugging!

**The international research is clear - after events like this, the focus needs to be on transitioning children back into school, on ensuring they feel safe, on wellbeing, rather than 'catching up on missed learning' or on literacy and numeracy.**

Learning happens in a range of ways and of course children have been learning throughout this time (we've been blown away by the amazing learning going on). We are going to follow best teaching practice, acknowledging that re-engaging in learning at school will take time.

To get to the learning in the most effective way, we need to focus first on wellbeing and relationships. The Ministry of Education and other organisations (such as universities) have provided wonderful resources for teachers to use in the coming weeks.



Wash your hands with soap and water often (for at least 20 seconds). Then dry.



Cough or sneeze into your elbow or by covering your mouth and nose with tissues.



Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.



Put used tissues in the bin or a bag immediately.

Please help us by talking to your child about school in Alert Level 2, explaining that school is a safe place for them to be and we are keeping school and them safe by:

- Reinforcing the importance of hygiene - washing hands, coughing and sneezing into elbows.
- Before and after they play on the playground, they will wash their hands.
- Before and after playing with a ball/lego etc, they will wash their hands.
- They won't be able to hug their friends and teachers, they will need to give each other space.

- [Here is a song](#) created by another NZ principal that might be useful.
- Explain how arriving at and leaving school will be different (specific drop off and collection points)
- Please let your child's kaitiaki teacher know via email, of anything we need to be aware of for your child, to ensure their transition back to school is smooth and happy.

**Look out for a video for our students on our school Facebook page over the weekend**

### **Other useful information**

- The staff car park will be closed to anyone who is not staff
- Students are to bring their own food and a named drink bottle, which is to go home every day.
- Children are not to share food.
- Lunch orders will be available (via EZlunch/kindo on Wednesday-Friday)
- Children are to wear school uniform
- If you need to try on uniform for size, please call the office to arrange a time.
- **Our scheduled Teacher Only Day on Tuesday June 2nd is still going ahead.** To minimise disruption for families, we are in discussion with Ultimate Kidz to provide some care for those children who require it.

And a reminder - [please complete this form](#) by tomorrow (Friday) at 5p.m. to help us get everyone to and from school safely, and to let us know about your child's learning and wellbeing.

Thanks again for your amazing support!

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# THINGS THAT MAY HELP YOUR CHILD TRANSITION BACK TO SCHOOL



This information is provided by Sparklers, a wellbeing toolkit developed after the Canterbury earthquakes. They know a thing or two about what can help during tricky and worrying times, when our children may need some extra support.

1. While it may not feel like it, the best place for our children to be (if they can) is school! It'll be wonderfully social, normalise their experiences and while there might be initial worry, going to school will totally help. Psychologists call this 'exposure' – if we expose ourselves to the things we're frightened of, we become less frightened.
2. The Ministry of Education will continue to set guidelines over the coming weeks, and they are specialists who know what they're doing. We've been listening to them so far, and that's worked out well!
3. Teachers are cool – and are awesome supports for tamariki. Teachers know there'll be lots of different emotions in a room, and that kids might range from fine, right through to super scared. They will respond with aroha and empathy.
4. Kindness is an antidote to worry. Isn't that amazing? When we focus on fear, we tend to be driven by worries (hence all the toilet paper buying!). Focusing on kindness shifts our thinking to others – helping us act in caring ways, notice similarities and look for the good, all of which boost our wellbeing!

5. Your kids will be watching you bloomin' closely right now. If you're displaying worry, they'll be worried too. Sometimes we just have to pretend to be brave or calm, for them. A good mantra is: If I'm okay, then they're okay, even if I have to pretend sometimes.

If your child is super worried:

- Try not to over-reassure, as they'll think there really is something to worry about.
- Think about your emotions too – see our number 5 note above!
- Head to [Worries 101](#) and learn some strategies to help.

Finally, start talking (gently) about all the cool things about going back to school. If we show we're okay with this and highlight the positives, we can help them to see these too.

