

Tuesday 21 April 2020

Kia ora koutou

As advised in [yesterday's update](#), and in the media, the Government has announced that we will move into Alert Level 3 on 28 April.

Later this week (hopefully tomorrow), we will be sending out a form for everyone to complete to let us know which children are needing to come to school from next Wednesday 29 April. The key message for you is that **if you can, you should keep your child at home**. You should only physically send your child to school if you need to, that is, if all adults in your home/bubble need to return to work away from home, or your child/ren cannot learn at a distance. Children who are able to, should remain home and learn via distance.

With the allowed slight extension of bubbles, we know many of you will be asking for the help of grandparents or others close to you to assist as caregivers. Many of our staff are also parents, and we are all working out how to return to school and keep ourselves and our own children safe within our extended bubbles.

If your child has a health condition that means they are at a greater risk of a severe illness you must keep them at home. If your child is sick please also ensure you keep them at home.

Please be assured that we will continue to support your child's learning at home. **Children will do the same learning whether they are at home or at school while we are in Level 3.** At home learning will look the same as it has for the last couple of weeks. Teachers will continue to provide online learning opportunities, and maintain 'face-to-face' contact via Google Meets etc.

Those of you who do need to send your child/children to school may be wondering what school will look like, and how we are managing student and staff safety. In order to ensure the safety of those children who do come to school, and the safety of our staff, we will be operating with strict enforcement of health and safety measures.

Level 3 will mean very restricted movement within the school and learning spaces to ensure health and safety. We acknowledge that this will be extremely challenging for our learners - especially our younger ones.

While we are waiting for further direction from the Ministry of Education, we want to let you know what we anticipate onsite 'school' will look like under Level 3, to ensure we are maintaining the highest of health and safety measures that we can.

Please note this information is subject to change:

- Only children on the predetermined Level 3 roll (from the pending survey) will be admitted to school.
- Children will belong to bubbles of 10. We will be keeping families/siblings/home bubbles together, which means bubbles of mixed ages.
- Children at school will continue to access the learning set by their teachers via distance learning, while being supervised at school. They will also have access to the Ministry of Education's TV learning channel, He Papa Kainga.
- Each bubble will be allocated a gate and specific entry times. Depending on numbers we may have to stagger start and finish times. Parents and children will meet a staff member at their allocated gate and at their allocated time each day. Children must be signed in (and out) by an adult from their bubble. Only children will enter the school site, no parents/adults. Children who are unable to walk independent of a parent to class from the gate, will be unable to attend.
- At the end of the school day parents will need to meet the children at a specified time at their allocated gate (children will not be able to walk home on their own).
- There is no before or after school care.
- Hubs will be taped and divided up to provide spaces for each child - each child will get some space for a table, and some floor space.
- We will do our best to enforce social-distancing, but this may be difficult to maintain. Teachers will not be touching the students in any way unless first aid is required.
- Children will need to bring all their own equipment (devices) and limited toys (e.g. they can bring a box of lego to play with in their space). They will not be able to use shared school equipment, or share their own equipment.
- Each child must bring their own food and refillable water bottle. Water fountains will not be available.
- Break times will look different - there won't be 'play time' and bubbles will have their breaks at different times.
- Each bubble will have an allocated outside space for children to get fresh air and exercise (while maintaining a 2 metre social distance)
- Each bubble will be allocated a toilet block to use.
- There will be no access to playground or sports equipment
- Anyone unwell (even a sniffle or headache) will not be able to be at school. if children become unwell during the day they will be required to be collected urgently.

- If children are not complying with adult instructions to keep socially distanced, or are presenting with behaviours which put others' safety at risk, they may be required to be collected from school.
- There will be a high level of cleaning and wiping surfaces and frequent hand-washing for everyone.

We ask that parents of those students returning talk to their children to prepare them for their return under Level 3 conditions, letting them know:

- They may not be in a bubble with their friends
- They won't be able to share equipment with friends
- Students must maintain distance from friends and teacher (no hugging friends etc)
- They will be doing the same learning as they are doing at home

Whilst these measures may appear restrictive, please understand that at the heart of our intent is the safety of all.

As previously mentioned, please be on the lookout for the form to assist us in planning for who to expect at school.

Thanks for your ongoing support.
Stay safe, and be kind.

Julie Cowan
Principal
Learn Grow Succeed