

Tuesday 25 August 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers of Opaheke School

Kia ora koutou,

Thanks for Your Support

Although it was as we anticipated, it was still a relief to hear yesterday afternoon that we are moving back to Alert Level 2 at the beginning of next week. At Opaheke School, staff began preparations for Level 2 last week.

Thank you, once more, to our parents and caregivers for the support and resilience you have shown through Alert Level 3. I must also mention our wonderful teachers and teacher aides who have been preparing online learning for students, video calling, and some have been taking care of the students in our bubbles at school.

School Opens for all Staff and Students

Monday 31 August sees the school reopen at Level 2 for all staff and students. Once again, for this first day back students will go directly to class and not line up on the courts or the dragon. Parents and caregivers did a fantastic job last time of allowing their children to build their independence by saying goodbye to them at the school entrance. As before, we would like to keep the number of parents in the school to an absolute minimum. We do understand that for our newest students, parents will want to accompany their child and say goodbye to them outside the class. We will detail procedures in our next update.

Download the App

In preparation for the return to school I would encourage you to download the [NZ COVID Tracer App](#). At Alert Level 2 this will be available at the school entrance gates and parents wishing to enter the school site can use the app to scan the QR code instead of signing the register. For those without the app a signing book will be available. Hand sanitiser will be available at the signing sites as before.

Hygiene and face coverings

We have a large supply of hand sanitiser. Students will be required to use this when entering and exiting the class. We will also keep liquid soap topped up in the bathrooms. Children may also bring and use their own personal hand sanitiser. Children continue to be taught good cough and sneeze etiquette and parents must keep their children home if they are sick. If students present signs of illness while at school, parents and caregivers will be contacted to collect their child(ren). We know that all the measures we have put in place will help to keep our community as safe as possible. Because of these measures, your child does not need to wear a face covering while at school. We will of course support them should they choose to do so. Bandanas, however, are not to be worn.

Further Updates

We have one or two questions we are awaiting answers to, such as face covering on the school bus etc so I will be sending out comprehensive guidelines with details about all the measures the school is implementing before the end of the week. I will also have more details about school events which may or may not be going ahead.

Be smart, stay safe and continue to be kind to yourself and others while we see out the remainder of Level 3.

Nga Mihi,



Sean Valvoi