

Thursday 27 August 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers of Opaheke School

Kia ora koutou,

## Preparations Underway

We are well ahead in our preparations for the full reopening of school on Monday next week. I met with all staff online this morning to go over the measures we, as a community, will take to ensure students, parents and staff are safe. It is all about being safe and sensible and this is the approach that goes through our guidance to parents. Physical distancing will remain an important component of staying safe.

The Ministry of Health has advised that the key principles for Alert level 2 are:

- reducing the risk of someone getting infected in the first place
- ensuring we can identify and contact anyone who becomes infected

## Arrival to, and Departure from, School

- Gates will open from 7.45am so we ask that students arrive between then and when the final bell goes at 8.25am. We ask that students do not arrive before 7.45am to avoid congregating.
- Students may enter through any of the 3 gates: Main gate beside Room 1, the gate by the pool and the back gate via Short Street.
- On the first day only, students go straight to class on arrival. They do not line up on the courts or dragon at 8.10am.
- Parents are encouraged to say goodbye to their children at the school gates and avoid entering. This reduces the risk to all students and staff, reduces the need to distance and encourages independence and resilience in students.
- Parents who absolutely must enter, may enter through the Main Gate by Room 1 or the Back Gate. They will be required to either scan the QR code using the Covid-19 tracer App or sign the register. The QR code is preferred as it is quicker, cleaner, and more effective if tracing is required.
- Parents and caregivers must maintain a 2-metre distance from others when on school grounds. We ask you to be mindful of this.
- Entry into classrooms, corridors and other buildings is not permitted.
- Parents should depart school by 8.30am when the gates are locked.
- The gates will be unlocked at the end of the day after the bus bell goes at 2.20pm. The guidelines above apply when picking up students.

## Hygiene Measures

- Students remain home if they are unwell. If students present symptoms of being unwell while at school parents and caregivers will be contacted to collect them.
- Students will be educated on correct hand washing, safe coughing/sneezing and encouraged not to touch their face.
- Students will sanitise on entry to class and exit from class. Students may bring and use their own personal sanitisers. Soap will be available in all bathrooms.

Ph: 09 298 5410

Email: [office@opaheke.school.nz](mailto:office@opaheke.school.nz)

Tasman Drive, Papakura 2113

[www.opaheke.school.nz](http://www.opaheke.school.nz)

- When in class students need to be far enough from each other so they are not in the 'moist breathing zone'. Our message to students will be an 'arms-length' away. Students must be 1 metre from staff.
- Students will wash their hands/sanitise before and after using shared equipment.
- Doors will be hooked back, and surfaces wiped daily.
- There will be restricted numbers at clubs during break times.
- There will be no assemblies and suchlike until further notice.
- Group parent meetings are postponed until further notice.
- Face masks are not required in a school or early learning centre, but staff and students are welcome to use these. In line with our dress policy bandanas are not permitted in school and students who arrive at school wearing a bandana will be provided with a disposable mask. In line with the Public Health advice, parents coming on site may wear a face covering if they are uncertain of being able to maintain the 2 metre distancing.
- The drinking fountains will not be operating so we ask that students bring their own water bottle to school each day. Provision has been made to ensure that they can access refilling of bottles safely. Disposable cups will be available if required.

## Tech and School Buses

- Tech will resume on Monday next week. Rosehill Intermediate have their own safety protocol which students will adhere to while on site.
- We have organised an additional bus run for each group to and from Rosehill Intermediate during Level 2.
- The Ponga Road School bus will run at the usual times starting Monday and a morning and afternoon register will be kept at Level 2. Students are to use sanitiser on entry to the bus. Vehicles will be sanitised after each school run and drivers have been asked to wear face masks.
- Announced by the Minister of Health today, masks are not required on school buses. That includes both the Ponga Road bus and the Tech bus. If there are any children over 12 who catch a public bus, they do need to wear a face mask.

## Staff Measures

Staff are also taking measures to ensure they are keeping distanced from each other. Examples are an additional temporary staffroom in the maker space during break times, staff briefings are done via video feed and larger spaces are used for professional learning workshops.

We look forward to welcoming you back to school next week.

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

Nga Mihi,



Sean Valvoi

Ph: 09 298 5410  
Email: [office@opaheke.school.nz](mailto:office@opaheke.school.nz)  
Tasman Drive, Papakura 2113