

Friday 12 November 2021



Tēnā koutou katoa

On Wednesday the Minister of Education announced that schools would reopen on Wednesday, 17 November. Bailey Road School will be opening on this date. While being given some degree of freedom in how we design our reopening, we will be following certain protocols that the Ministry of education has stipulated. For example, the return to school for students should be 'part time', bubble classes should remain in place where necessary, and distance learning options should remain for those whānau who do not wish their tamariki to return to school at this time.

Bailey Road School has surveyed our community, seeking an indication of numbers we can expect to return to school so that we can plan for free lunches, consider numbers in relation to health and safety requirements, and to ensure we are sufficiently resourced for those not choosing to have their children return at this time.

Students will return to school in two distinct and separate groups - Years 1 and 2, and Years 7 and 8 will be able to physically attend school on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. These students will attend on our first day, Wednesday 17 November. Years 3 and 4, and Years 5 and 6 will be able to physically attend school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. These groups will operate as separate groupings in school, with staff specifically assigned only to them. Playgrounds and toilets will be separate. Usual school activities like assemblies or combined PE events will not take place until the school is notified that restrictions may ease.

On the days that the year groups do not attend school their teachers will deliver the distance learning programme you are now very familiar with. Those families who make the choice not to have their tamariki return to school may, of course, engage in the distance learning programme on the days it is available. Whānau are also welcome to come into the school office and collect learning packs to provide even more learning support. Please let us know by contacting your child's teacher that you wish to collect a learning pack, so that we can make certain the pack reflects your child's current level of learning.

Whānau who elect to keep their children in bubbles - which operate five days per week - are welcome to do so.

Please be aware that one of the most important goals we have for our students' return to school is that they have the opportunity to reestablish relationships with friends and teachers. However the five day per-week bubble option requires us to keep those children as a separate group that is not allowed to interact with any of the other children during their time at school. The five day per week bubble class is an option, but we suggest only if it is absolutely necessary.

The Minister of Education requires all children from Year 4 up to wear a mask in class. We request that whānau supply a mask that their tamariki can wear at school. Because our classes are combined, so year 3s work with year 4s, we will also require our year 3s to wear a mask in class.

School gates will not be open until 8:30 in the morning. Only the parents of Year 1 & 2 students may enter the school grounds, through the junior school gate. No other parents may enter the school grounds when dropping off or picking up their children. The junior school gate will also be the entry point for Year 3 and 4 students on their attendance days.

The main car park gate will be the entry point for Year 7 and 8 students and Year 5 and 6 students on their respective days. The entrance next to the church will not be accessible until further notice. The Cotswold Rd entrance will be manned and opened from 8:30 until 8:45 and will then be locked. It will be opened at 2:35 and locked at 2:55.

Junior school parents must wear a mask when they enter school grounds. There is an assembly point (coned area) beside Room 9 where we request junior school parents say goodbye to their children. This is also the location to assemble to pick them up in the afternoon.

At the end of their assigned days Year 7-8 students will be released at 2:35pm. They must leave the school grounds immediately after the bell. Those senior students who wait for their younger siblings must wait at the front entrance to the carpark for the Year 1-2s to be released at 2:45pm.

At the end of their assigned days Year 5-6 students will be released at 2:35pm. They must leave the school grounds immediately after the bell. Those Year 5-6 students who wait for their younger siblings must wait at the front entrance to the carpark for the Year 3-4s to be released at 2:45pm.

Before and After School Care is not able to operate at this time

Adults may not enter the school grounds, besides the junior school parents to pick up and drop off, until further notice.

Ngā mihi nui

Ray Kelly

Principal of Bailey Road School