

Parent Information concerning our school entering Covid 19 Alert Level 2

Tuesday 12 May 2020

Kia ora koutou

Yesterday the Prime Minister announced that our country would be moving from Covid Alert Level 3 to Covid Alert Level 2 at Midnight on Wednesday 13 May. Schools, however, would not be open to all students until Monday, 18 May.

Bailey Road School staff are extremely happy to be able to welcome our tamariki back to their classrooms on Monday. Of course our school is a learning environment first and foremost, however over this difficult time we have all come to realise the importance of social contact in our lives. School, for our children, is an essential environment where they can meet their friends, interact, play and learn about the importance of cooperation and collaboration.

Restarting a school is a very labour intensive job our staff will, this week, be attending meetings, professional development sessions [wherever possible via Zoom], and setting up their classrooms and resources so that they are ready to begin on Monday morning. With this in mind please excuse any interruptions to the regular schedules of contact that our marvelous teachers have shared with you - as they are now focusing on making sure we are ready for the return to normal school on Monday 18 May.

Bailey Road School staff wish to provide the open, friendly, nurturing environment that existed before the lockdown as quickly as we are able. In saying this, we are aware of the great responsibility that we all are charged with to ensure that the excellent work done by our 'Team of Five Million' is not forgotten by imagining everything is now completely fine. New Zealand, by our actions, is now one of the very safest places on earth as far as taking steps to resume our usual lives are concerned. We intend to operate our school in the knowledge that we are safe, while at the same time taking every precaution we are able, to not suffer any outbreaks of Covid 19 in our school.

With the wellbeing of our tamariki, whānau, staff and country in mind the following steps will be in place until further notice.

- 1]** School gates will not be open before 8:00 am because we cannot adequately monitor student interactions before then. Gates will be locked from 9:00 until 2:45. Gates will be monitored by staff. Parents are asked to assemble by gates, careful not to infringe on parking spaces, to drop off students and to collect them at the end of the day - if they normally do this. Children can still travel home by whatever means parents choose.
- 2]** All parents, except junior school parents whose children are in Rooms 1-9, are requested to leave their children at our gates and not come onto school grounds at Alert Level 2 as this allows us to manage interactions on our grounds. Parents with Years 0-2 children [Rooms 1-9] may accompany their children to an assembly area to drop them off and pick them up. The assembly area will be beside the junior climbing playground in line with the back of Room 9.
- 3]** Before and after school care will be operating from the morning of Monday, May 18 and those children may enter the school through the gate by the office block in the morning from 7:00 am. For afternoon pick ups parents must park outside the school hall gate and text that they have arrived so that their children can be brought to them.
- 4]** Any child that exhibits coughing, runny noses, sore throats or sneezing - cold or flu symptoms will have parents contacted to take them home from school until better. Please do not send your child to school with cold or flu symptoms.
- 5]** Hand washing and surface cleaning protocols have been put in place in classrooms so that students' hands are washed as school begins and after each scheduled break. The work teachers currently carry out on safe coughing and sneezing practice will be increased in frequency and all incidents of incorrect practice will be redirected. Parents please reinforce coughing and sneezing into elbows only - keeping hands clean. Please send your child along with their own hand towel in their bag, if possible, as we may not be able to keep up with the greatly increased demand for paper towels.
- 6]** Until further notice the school will operate as three distinct units with Rooms 1-9 occupying the lower part of the school during their breaks; Our Year 7 and 8s will occupy the middle level of the school during their breaks [they will also have a different break time schedule as some of their spaces are shared]; Rooms 13, 16-21 will occupy the highest level of the school during breaks - also using the adventure playground and fields at different times to our Year 7 and 8s.



7] Visiting the school for any reason will require adults to come to the office and inform office staff about the reason for the visit.

8] Assemblies and similar gatherings will be suspended until further notice.

These are very unusual and challenging times. Bailey Road Board of Trustees and staff appreciates the wonderful support and cooperation we have received from our community and all working together, I am certain we can safely transition to Lockdown Level 2 and, eventually, onto our usual settled school experience.

Ray Kelly
Principal
Bailey Road School