

## Delta Level 2 Welcome Back to School

Tuesday 7th September 2021

Kia Ora - Welcome back again!

It is wonderful to say "**Haere mai**" once again! We are really looking forward to having all our students back with us again **from this Thursday 9th September**, after our unexpected separation on Wednesday 18th August. We hope you are all excited about this as well. 😊

Things will, once again be a little different, as we comply with **the new Delta Level 2** distancing, ventilation, hygiene, masks and contact tracing rules, but we are very pleased to be returning to physical school.

Thank you so much to you all for your support and efforts over the last three weeks to ensure your children stayed connected with their teachers and also for ensuring our very restrictive Level 3 Bubble School was kept to a whopping 14 children maximum in our two bubble teams! This has made everything so much easier to manage and will ease our transition back into school as well.

As stated by the Government, schools will remain closed until Thursday to allow us to get onsite and prepare classrooms and programmes. We want to ensure our students are feeling happy and well supported and to keep everyone as safe as possible with our new practices in place.

Only our already registered Bubble Students can come on to the school grounds tomorrow. However we look forward to seeing all of our students smiling faces back with us from 8:15am on Thursday 9th September 2021.

### Delta Level 2 September 2021 - WHAT IS IT GOING TO LOOK LIKE AT OUR SCHOOL?

#### ★ Health & Hygiene:

- We will endeavour to **increase ventilation** throughout all of our classrooms while still maintaining a temperature of **18 degrees** celsius.
- We will **increase the cleaning** of communal hard surfaces, door handles, desks etc frequently. Play equipment will also be cleaned more regularly.
- Every staff member will have their own spray and wipe and cloth to clean communal surfaces.
- There will be **one entry door per class**, which will have a hand sanitisation station on entry - for use at every entry.
- Teachers will be **reinforcing and teaching** about handwashing, coughing into elbows - isolating at home and getting tested if you are sick in any way!

- Students will be given time to **wash their hands** thoroughly with soap and warm water before each break time.
- **Soap and hand towels** will be regularly replenished in all toilet and class areas, with signs and reminders about the importance of handwashing.
- Any staff member or child with symptoms of a sore throat, raised temperature, coughing & sneezing will be sent **home to isolate and be tested**.

#### ★ **Social Distancing & Contact Tracing:**

- **Only children come through the gates into the school grounds.** Parents please drop your children and collect them from the gate that you have chosen for your family. You may want to practice this tomorrow with a bubble walk, to make sure everyone is comfortable with their gate and the number. We will be limiting the numbers on our school site.
- **Choose your gate** so your children know where you will be meeting them after school. At the end of the day teachers will bring students to the gates and help everyone to leave in a spaced out way. **Please keep yourselves spaced at least 2 metres apart.**
- It may be helpful for our younger students to **write the gate number on their hand** on Thursday so teachers, especially in Taupiri Syndicate, know where to take your child at the end of the day.
- As we are in Term 3 this time, we feel all classes including our youngest ones in **Horopito 20 & Horoeke 21** will be able to enter the school grounds happily from the chosen family gate. Miss Dunn or Mrs Paladin will be at Gate 2 to make this transition easier, for this week. Older siblings may be able to help with this also.
- **Arriving at school** - Students need to go **straight to their own classrooms** when they arrive at school rather than having everyone mixing outside. We ask that students start arriving **from 8:15am** so they don't have such a long time waiting in their classrooms.
- A very few parents, whose **children have specific extra needs** and who have already been contacted, may enter the school. These **parents need to be wearing a mask and scan in** as well as hand sanitise and record your contact details and time of arrival and departure on the form outside the classroom door. Please take your child to the classroom door to be met by your teacher or Teacher Aide.
- **Gates:** All gates will be open and available for students to access their classrooms to allow greater spread around our site.
- **Please stay in cars** if the area is too congested and students can stay on the inside until you are ready.

- **Afternoon Bus:** This will be operating as normal with our usual register being taken. Hand sanitisation will be happening before entering the bus and children will be spaced as best practicable.
- **Morning Bus:** The usual morning bus run will still include students from a variety of schools. Our students do not need to wear masks on this bus but hygiene and distancing will be up to families to try and coordinate or you may choose not to use this service initially.
- **Our office will be online:** Please continue to **ring or email the office** with requests and pay directly into our bank account - students will become the couriers. Please ring or email first, and If you are invited in, please ensure you wear a mask, enter through Gate 3, completing the contact register and hand sanitisation station, along with keeping a minimum 2m distance from others. We are trying to keep our site Covid free and numbers as low as possible.
- **No Sports teams will be practising** in our first week back.
- **Singing** cannot happen inside at this stage, and students need to be spaced far apart to sing outside.
- **Masks:** Children may wear masks if they want to. Mask wearing is not mandatory for staff and students in school settings and for children under 12 years old.
- **Tamahere Tupu:** On Friday our nine new students may join us in the Library for their usual visits. Parents will need to follow the above mask wearing, scanning in and distancing to drop off with Mrs Bradding.
- **Hillcrest High School & Berkley Normal Middle School students**, along with any other students not in family bubbles enrolled at our school or in After School Care, must stay out of our site and walk around the outside of the fence. They may wait under the cover of the TCC entranceway. We have left our bike rack by the TCC to make this easier for senior students.

❖ **Onsite - staying out of moist air zones** (Old language but it helps to make sense of what is happening again) :

- **Three mini schools will be operating on site:** Taupiri, Pirongia and Maungatautari.
- To avoid unnecessary mixing of big numbers, we will be **organising different areas of the school for the different syndicates to play in and socialise in.**
- We will also be operating **three staffrooms** to allow staff to mix with their Syndicate bubbles only, rather than have all staff together in the same air space.
- As per usual there will be **no sharing of food.**
- All children to please bring their **own water bottles** to school.

- Children will have their **own table/desk space** and **floor space** denoted by their special number on the carpet to help keep a reasonable spacing.
- **Cross grouping** will only occur **within** syndicates and tables and desks will be wiped between any changes of students.
- **Games will be limited**, initially to those where students do not get too close. e.g. Basketball, Soccer, Handball, Gutterball.
- **Library books and readers** are allowed to be changed and re issued under the new guidelines.

★ **Moist Air Zone Reminder:** If you haven't previously watched the two video clips as a family - please do, as they are a great way to help your children understand what things will be like at school under Level 2 and what is meant by the moist air zone. [Please click here](#) to view the basics and then this [link](#) for the Moist Breath Zone song. We know the Delta variant spreads by aerosol droplets and is much more contagious than the original Covid 19 variant.

★ **Absences/Health:**

- **If your child is unwell in any way please isolate and get them tested** as per Government guidelines. Any child looking unwell will be sent home for that to happen.
- **Absences:** As per usual please let us know what is happening for your child/children if they are not attending school.
- **If you are late:** your child needs to go straight to their class and sanitisation station. Please text **022 140 3689** once you have dropped your child off.
- **Early pick up:** If you are picking your child/ren up early for some reason please ring ahead so the school office knows or use the above number, and we will arrange that your child is sent out to your family gate.
- **Special Medical Issues:** If your child has special medical issues that we need to be aware of, please let the school know and share a doctors certificate if needed.

★ **Itinerant Teachers:**

- **Music Tuition** and other extracurricular activities will resume once each provider is checked for their plans and systems. Singing tuition may become individual or held outside, as singing is not presently allowed inside.

★ **Before & After School Care:**

- Please text or ring in advance if you will be dropping your children in at the gate for Before School Care.
- After School Care will look a little different as well, with **three different areas being used**. Taupiri students will be based in the main Koromiko Tahi building.

Pirongia students will head to Koromiko Toru and Maungatautari Students will be based in Kawakawa 3.

- **Playtimes** will again be staggered or spaced out in different areas.
- **Food preparation** will be completely separate and staff will **serve** pre-prepared sandwiches and fruit to each individual child, who has washed their hands and are **seated** and **spaced** out.
- **Seniors** - will be allowed to use their devices at this time on specific programs only. e.g. Matific, Minecraft, Seesaw, Epic, Code.org, KiwiKids News.
- **Pick Up** - Please ring or text and your child will be signed out and join you at the usual gate.
- **Booking in Advance** - Due to the changes, we have instigated at After School Care the following **3 S's Rule** - To be Seated, Separated and Served with food, we need to know numbers in advance, so please ensure you have booked your child/children into our After School Care service by 12 noon each day at the latest.

★ **Tamahere Community Centre:** The guidelines from the Waikato District Council state that users must keep a minimum of 2 metre distance from others, with no more than 50 people per gathering/booking (this means 50 people per booking within the entire hall). All attendees must be recorded to ensure contact tracing can be conducted if necessary. This includes all hall users (contractors, committee members, teachers, classes.) Anyone who enters the TCC must record their visit to the hall on the template provided in the foyer or check in using the Tamahere Community Centre QR code.

★ **School Devices:-** If your family borrowed a school device over the lockdown can you please bring them back to school on Thursday and each child to take them back to their classroom teacher with the charging cable ready for use please.

So that we can all move happily into Delta Level 2 at school, **please ensure you understand our new Delta Level 2 procedures before arriving at school on Thursday morning** and have helped your children to understand the reasons you will be dropping them at the gate etc. Thank you again for your support here.

We do understand that changing Levels can be an anxious time for some and will endeavour to make the transition back to school as relaxed and easy as possible while keeping us all safe with these new systems in place.

I am sorry this is another long newsletter full of rules and new systems but we are complying with the Ministry of Health and Education guidelines and we want to keep everyone as safe as possible so we can all remain healthy and be able to get back to Level 1 again before the

summer! 😊

We look forward to welcoming you back to school! Various activities will be rescheduled as the term progresses and we will keep you informed of this.

We all adapted so quickly to our last Level 2 guidelines, I am sure it will be easier this time. If you do have any concerns regarding your child/ren please contact your classroom teacher or myself so we are aware and can help ease everyone back into our new normal as happily as possible.

Ngā mihi nui

***Waveney Parker***  
***Principal***

*We apologise for the delay in this newsletter, we were awaiting the Ministry's latest guidelines to come through.*