

Wednesday 13th October 2021

Kia ora to our Tamahere Whānau

Following today's announcement, we are making new arrangements and rearranging others to try and accommodate the new Level 3 COVID restrictions, Government mandates and Health and Safety Guidelines. We had hoped, as I am sure you did as well, that we would be returning to school in Term 4, under Level 2 restrictions. Sadly, this is not the case. We wanted to get some information out to you earlier than our first newsletter so that families are not left half prepared for events that are not able to go ahead.

At this stage, we will be running a limited **Bubble School** on Monday and Tuesday. All other classes will be starting their Online Supported Learning from Monday. The Ministry Criterion for Bubble School is:

**“At Alert Level 3, children should only go to school if their parents are required to work and there is no other care option available at home. Ultimately, schools, for the most part, do remain closed except for those workers where there are no other options available for the care of their children.”**

We will be following the same sort of restrictions as we sent out last time and have most of the students already registered for this limited service. There are extra precautions set up with this, such as; all staff now needing to gain a negative COVID test result before being involved. If you feel you will be needing to use this service again or if you no longer qualify or have made other arrangements, please email [reception@tamahere.school.nz](mailto:reception@tamahere.school.nz) before 3.00pm this Friday.

Sadly, we won't be able to hold our **whakatau and welcome our newest cohort of five-year-olds** to our school on Monday. We will, if the weather is kind to us, try and hold this on our first day back (whenever this may be) as previously arranged. The school will be well spaced outside Manuka 16 in the fresh air with our new parents joining us at the back - now, just outside the fence so that those attending don't exceed gathering numbers.

**Ag Day** has been postponed and we hope we will be able to have the animal side of this event on Wednesday 27th October - originally the day we had set aside for Group Day.

We know so many of you have been involved in this event and supporting your children with animals is a significant commitment. We certainly don't want to disappoint our children any more than they are already being impacted by all of these restrictions.

**Group Day** will no longer be running as this inter-school event poses a number of challenges with numbers and mixing of school Bubbles.

**Vegetable Garden Competition:** The onsite judging visits have been cancelled and the committee's intention is to move the judging online. This will involve garden photos, electronic diaries (or photos of handwritten diaries), videos etc to be uploaded online. More information will be sent out soon.

**Horticultural Happenings:** May look very different this year with no parents able to join us on site. We are keen to hear your feedback on this. We may even stagger the days and tweak activities. If you have ideas/comments to share on this, please email [rhedley@tamahere.school.nz](mailto:rhedley@tamahere.school.nz). E.g. Is it too much work for you when you are already juggling schooling from home? Or is it something your children would be really sad about losing?

Under the present Level 2 guidelines, many other interschool events may also be postponed or cancelled for this year.

The **Year 6 Leaders Amazing Race** has been cancelled under Level 2.

**T Ball** interschool competitions are also looking unlikely.

**Cambridge Kapa Haka Festival** is not able to happen unless we are in Level 1.

**Mandatory Vaccinations for all adults involved in Education:** This announcement on Monday was a significant one and comes with it mandatory registers to record vaccinations and the possible weekly Covid testing results of staff. More details are still to be given to us on this but it goes as far as to say, that parent volunteers on-site will also be part of the negative result or vaccination check process along with contractors and those accompanying us on trips and Camps. This is a change that will be added to our Health and Safety Procedures etc. as we go forward.

We really want to keep your children as safe as possible and will be implementing the restrictions required and complying with the guidelines. Sadly, singing is still not allowed to happen unless we are well spaced outside in the fresh air.

For your peace of mind though, at this stage, all of our teachers have been fully vaccinated or are in the process of completing their vaccination requirements.

I am sorry - what a heavy email to get in the holidays. I hope you have been able to enjoy this L3 lockdown time with your children and are feeling refreshed and ready for what lies ahead. We will let you know more, as we are informed ourselves. However, at this stage, as from Monday our School will be closed and students' learning will be available online. There will be a Bubble School operating with significant restrictions while we are in Level 3.

**Photolife** - Last call for sports photos! Just a reminder that the free postage period for ordering Photolife Sports photo's ends at midnight this Sunday 17th October.

Nga mihi Nui,

Kia Kaha - We can do this!

Waveney