

Returning to School
Delta Update Level 3.2
12th November 2021

Nau mai Haere mai! Welcome back! 😊

We are so looking forward to being able to welcome all of our tamariki back on site next week. I hope they are as excited as we are, and I expect most of you will be pleased as well. :)

Right - straight to the information you want to know!

How is staggered, part-time school, with lots of ventilation and enough space going to work at our school?

We are delighted to be able to cater for **three-quarters of our students on a daily basis**. Thanks to the fact that we now have our two new classrooms and recent new windows and doors put into many areas, we are in a much better place to cater for our students than we would have been last year.

Taupiri Syndicate: Year 0-2 students. **All of our Taupiri tamariki** will be able to return to school **from Wednesday 17th** November onwards under Level 3.2. We have small class numbers, well-ventilated classrooms, three sets of toilets and numerous play areas.

Pirongia Syndicate: Year 3 & 4 students. **All of our Pirongia tamariki** will be able to return to school **from Wednesday 17th** November onwards, under Level 3.2. Pirongia has slightly larger numbers than Taupiri in their classes but all rooms have great ventilation, verandah areas and extra withdrawal spaces that they can use. Their much smaller Syndicate cohort also has two sets of toilets and numerous play areas that they are able to use.

Maungatautari Syndicate: Year 5 & 6 students. Our senior school will be operating an **alternative day programme** for attendance, due to larger class numbers.

- **Year 5** students will attend every **Monday** and **Wednesday**.
- **Year 6** students will attend every **Tuesday** and **Thursday**.

Our seniors have 30 - 32 students in every class and sadly we can not achieve bringing them all back together under the present guidelines.

An online programme will be provided to complement what they are learning at school. To make the most of our time at school together, we do require the students to complete the home learning tasks. Their online work will continue to be loaded to the google classroom on Sunday evening at 7:00pm, this includes next week despite the students (Year 5's) not returning to school until Wednesday. We will host our

usual google meet on Monday 15th November at 9:30am, to explain the learning. There will be no daily google meets from then on.

Fridays will see a flexible programme being run, with bubble school operating in all senior rooms and other students rostered in, on an invitation basis, to support learning.

Outline for the school:

Syndicates	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Taupiri	Yr 0-2	Yr 0-2	Yr 0-2	Yr 0-2	Yr 0-2
Pirongia	Year 3 & 4	Year 3 & 4	Year 3 & 4	Year 3 & 4	Year 3 & 4
Maungatautari	Year 5	Year 6	Year 5	Year 6	Flexi Friday Bubble students continue with invited others.

Please note: There will be no online learning happening for Monday & Tuesday, for Taupiri & Pirongia Syndicates. To allow teachers time to set up their classrooms and organise new teaching & learning systems, for face to face group work.

We have spent many hours creating and redesigning our systems and practices to accommodate as many students on site, as safely as possible. We are lucky to have significant grounds and for once, our separate prefabs actually allow us more flexibility.

Please send your children to school with their sweatshirts, as they will no longer be seated in hot and stuffy classrooms. The windows and doors will open and fresh air will be abundant. Many will be working just outside their classes under verandahs. This generation will learn why their Great and Great Great Grandparents had beautifully crafted objects in their homes called paperweights! 😊

Once again, in case you have missed it **all of our teachers have been double vaccinated.** All Teacher Aides and Administration staff have been vaccinated at least once. We will all be wearing masks inside, except our Taupiri teachers who are allowed to teach without masks, to make it easier for our Junior students.

Mask Wearing:

It has been mandated that **all Year 4 - 6 students must wear a mask at school.** The Ministry has said it is the same as adults and only those with a medical exemption can be excused from this. Everyone will be allowed to take them off when they are outside at break times. We know this is going to be very hard for our

tamariki. Apparently, any sensible masks are acceptable. Comfort is the key and it would be a good idea to pack a few for the day to keep things fresh. Younger children may wear their masks as well, if they feel more comfortable doing this. Any Year 0-3 travelling on the **school bus** will also need to be wearing a mask.

Other Organisation:

- **No extra adults can come on-site:** All children will need to be dropped at the gate. If you have concerns with this please mention it to your teachers, so we can pick these children up at the gate. Our children have become amazingly good at this.
- **Drop offs and Pick ups:** Some gates are busier than others. You may wish to choose a quieter gate for your family. Juniors will head out to their gates at 2:20pm, Pirongia 2:25pm and Seniors at 2:30pm.
 - Please arrive at school between **8:15am and 8:30am**. All children need to go directly to their own classrooms and hand sanitise in.
 - The Ministry has said that the biggest risk to our tamariki is from adults carrying the virus. Please do not come too close - keep to the **2 metre rule** and wear a mask when near our school. Thank you.
- **Sanitising:** We will continue with all our previous rules of sanitising in and washing your hands before going out.
- **Break times:** Will again be staggered to allow more space in the playground. Each bubble will have a different play area.
- **Swimming:** We will be enjoying our pool facilities over this time, in a well spaced way. (When it is warm enough!) We are extremely lucky to have two pools and lots of extra space.
- **Food and Drink:** As normal, no food is to be shared. All children will need to bring their own drink bottles, as no drinking fountains can be used at this time.
- **Sun Hats:** Please remember everyone needs to be wearing a school hat throughout Term 4. Sun cream is also a good idea to have in bags.

Number One: Every child attending school must be healthy! If your child is unwell in any way, keep them at home, isolate and get tested. Please do not send a child to school who could spread any illness to others.

Ministry Guidelines - in case you missed them yesterday, here are some of the guidelines we will be following.

Public Health Measures at Alert Level 3 for Years 0 to 13

In addition to keeping students and staff in Years 0 to 8 who are onsite in stable and separate groups (see above), the following public health measures must be applied for **all** year levels at Alert Level 3.

Public health measures required at all alert levels:

If a child or staff member is sick, they should stay home (phone Healthline or their GP and get tested if a doctor or health professional recommends them to do so):

- staff are to observe students/children on arrival checking for symptoms and ask those presenting as unwell to go home or arrange for parents and caregivers to come and pick up. Please note, **this does not mean** that temperatures are to be taken
- principals at state and state-integrated schools have authority to preclude a student from attending if they believe on reasonable grounds they may have a communicable disease under section 77 of the Education and Training Act 2020. See [Guide to Legal Powers](#)
- contact your Director of Education for support, if there are any concerns about someone believed on reasonable grounds to be ill, refusing to stay away.

In addition, use [basic hygiene](#):

- regularly wash and dry hands, cough and sneeze into your elbow, don't touch your face (use hand sanitiser at entrances to classrooms for Alert Levels 2 and 3)
- [schools connected to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19](#) will be contacted by the Ministry of Education regional office (usually the Director of Education) or local public health unit to agree a plan. If you hear of a case before the Ministry of Health officials get in touch, please contact your regional Director of Education for advice and support
- stringent [self-isolation is needed](#) for those who display relevant symptoms of COVID-19, test positive for COVID-19, or have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19.

Other measures:

- schools are required to display QR Code posters for the NZ COVID Tracer App (and to have other contact tracing systems in place including an attendance register and visitor register)
- it is recommended to keep classroom temperatures to 18 degrees. 18-20 degrees is a comfortable temperature, below that there is increased risk – from a cold household, workplace or school
- at any level, indoor spaces should be well-ventilated for example by opening windows, doors and any vents. Good practice would include fully opening all windows during breaks and after school for as long as possible. At Alert Level 3, outdoor learning is encouraged wherever possible.

Ventilation:

- The easiest way to reduce transmission risks and achieve good ventilation is by opening windows, doors and vents
- Getting as much fresh air in the classroom as you can has been endorsed as the best way to ventilate New Zealand schools by the Ministry of Health and NIWA, and generally as the best approach for schools by the World Health Organization, Centre for Disease Control

- Ventilation is one of many considerations in reducing transmission, however simple actions like opening windows can be all it takes to have this protective layer playing its part

❖ **There will be no Before and After School care operating under Level 3.2**

Thank you all, once again, for your incredible staying power with online learning, your support and your resilience. We hope this return to school will ease your loads and produce happier bubbles for everyone.

Have a great weekend.

Ngā mihi nui

Waveney, the Board and our Team.