

Term 1 2022 information and reorganisation due to living with COVID 19 in RED Traffic Light System

What a strange world we are living in at the moment. The only thing for sure is that things will change as the virus mutates and throws new challenges in our way. Hopefully, as history shows, once we are through this pandemic, life will return to a more normal setting, although there may be some things that remain with us. Let's hope these are the positive ones - Kia Kotahi - Together as One - consideration and looking out for others, helping others to get through tough situations, being kind and accepting difference.

After our initial 2 page set-up email for Day One, here is a more comprehensive guide to explain what we will be doing to keep your children at school, and as safe as possible.

I can't sugarcoat this - it is certainly going to be a challenging time for us. With the isolation rules for close and casual contacts it is predicted that $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{3}$ of our staff may be away at certain times. I am not sure how we will continue to staff our school - but we will do our very best. Also, the online learning programmes may be more generic than in the past, with isolating teachers taking responsibility for covering this.

Your children have shown themselves to be incredibly resilient and adaptable. This year will continue to test this, and we will likely be mixing classes together and adding a variety of relievers into our system, to enable us to stay open as requested by the Ministry. Having children at school even though they may not be in their own class with their own teacher at times, still helps with everyone's mental health and general hauora.

What we are doing to keep your children safe:-

- Hygiene** continues to be a very important part of our strategy. Each class will have **hand sanitiser** outside, so children continue to **sanitise in** and **hand wash** before going **out**.
- If anyone is unwell - stay home - get tested and please inform** us of what is happening for you all.
 - Any sick child - will be sent home immediately** to look after everyone else on site. **Please inform us of test outcomes.**
 - We have been given flow charts to follow and once contacted by the Ministries of Health & Education, will let you know what isolating will be needed, based on whether your child may be a **close or casual contact**.

- Please, for the **safety of others** follow Ministry of Health advice and **stay home if asked to**.
- Unfortunately, we have had to start the term with two teachers isolating at home already, but we want to do this to keep all others as safe as possible.

- Keeping surfaces clean:-** All classrooms have extra cleaning supplies and we will be putting extra time into cleaning high use surfaces.

- Mask wearing & attendance:** Information copied from our last newsletter for your information:
 - Masks** must be worn inside by all Year 4's and above and all adults on site. We will be having plenty of fresh air outside, mask free. I am sure you are aware of these new regulations but I will copy and paste information so you have it.
 - The Government has confirmed that masks (not face coverings) will be required at Red for children and staff in **Years 4 to 13 when indoors**.
 - The Government is also now **requiring** that a **face-covering be an actual mask**. That means no more scarves, bandannas, or t-shirts pulled up over the face, for example. This is to ensure that it is a mask designed to cover your nose and mouth properly.
 - Public health advice is that an appropriate mask will **fit snugly, seal well** around the facial contours and attach to the head either through **ear loops or head loops**. This can include single-use, disposable masks (medical masks) and re-usable fabric masks. Parents are asked to take responsibility for supplying their child with a mask.
 - We suggest that each day your child has a couple of zip lock bags with their name on. One for **fresh masks** and one for used masks. Each mask should be **named** so there is no confusion, please. We will try and ensure the fresh masks are put on after each break.
 - Paper medical masks can be **washed** up to **10 times** and remain effective.
 - Helping your **children to understand** how to best put on and take off their mask and how to keep them fresh using new masks during the day would be very helpful for us and for their protection.
 - We **really appreciate your support** with this requirement and look forward to all students being equipped with their own named masks when they attend school on Wednesday.
 - Currently, **public transport** and school transport requires face coverings to be worn for those aged 12 and above at Red, however, there has now been agreement to extend this to **Year 4 and above** so that the requirements are consistent.

- Attendance: Please let us know** where your child/ren is/are.

- This will be **extra important** to help us monitor all students and be able to ensure enough staff to cover bases and fill Ministry sheets for tracing contacts etc.
 - Please follow our **procedures and let us know where** your children are and give reasons if they are not at school.
 - The Office has to know, so they can fill in electronic rolls as swiftly as possible.
 - Please leave a message via the **website** or **text - 022 1403689** to the office. Alternatively, you can **email hwilson@tamahere.school.nz** (please copy your child's teacher into this email)
 - If you expect your child will be away for several days, please give a specific reason so that you won't need to leave a new message each day.
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- Ventilation:** We are lucky to have a big airy open site and all classes have windows that can open and provide ventilation. We will be opening windows and doors and putting heat pumps on to cool and to keep air circulating.
 - We will be **operating in Groups** this time not bubbles - at present we plan to run in 3 Syndicate groups, with each group having their own play areas. We may also break down our groups into smaller teams, to lessen contact if the interaction is not required for quality learning.
 - We will be operating four staffrooms** with an eight-person maximum limit. Again we are very lucky to have some extra space this year with lower numbers to start the year and our new classes Horopito 20 and Horoeke 21, being used to provide extra space for withdrawal and staff. We will also be using our covered decks to spread students and staff out, in this lovely warm weather.
 - Keeping the fun happening:** You will see our event changes later in this newsletter. I know this looks a bit bleak, however there are many other events we will be running and trying to keep things as normal as possible. To start with, we will be allowing music lessons, except for singing. Kids Clubs and Swim School will continue within the guidelines allowed. Some sports will also be operating e.g. cricket.
 - Hybrid Learning:** This is the new terminology being used by the Ministry of Education - it encompasses our teaching at school, while also allowing an online learning component. With our staff being reduced in numbers and stretched to cover two bases, you will find our online home learning will look different from last year but we will try to keep learning happening as seamlessly as possible, whether your child is at home, in their own class or somewhere else within the school. Please be aware, that with these new

flexible learning arrangements, **communication** may be more challenging. Please direct all emails through the office - reception@tamahere.school.nz, so the correct teacher receives it for the day.

- Meeting your new teachers:** Our teachers will be out by gates at the end of each day. If you want to make contact with your classroom teacher face to face - this is an opportunity - in the fresh air and masked up.

Event changes to our Term 1 Timetable so far:

- Wk. 1 - No tabloids** - Mixing of ages is out and group size constraints also prevent this.
- Wk. 2 - Whānau Elections:** The Year 6 speeches will be videoed & we will run Syndicate based Whānau group voting sessions during the week.
- Wk. 2 - Meet The Teacher Evening** - This is not able to happen in person. Instead, we will be sending you an email with Loom, Slide and other presentation links, so that all families have the information they need.
- Wk. 3** - Our Triathlon - has now become a **Duathlon**, as no parents can join us and help with bikes, etc. We will instead have 2 elements - running and swimming and these races and groupings will be in age groups.
- Wk. 4.** - **The Graham Henry** event has been postponed. Thank you to the hard-working committee, who are constantly having to make changes over this.
- Wk. 4 Camp Meeting** - Maybe in person, distanced or via Google Meet, if our camps can go ahead.
- Wk. 5. - Swimming Sports** - We will continue to have our swimming sports but will evolve new organisation to keep group numbers small.
- Wk. 6** - Our **Taupiri Swimming Celebration** will become a video event.
- Wk. 6 - Maungatautari Tui Ridge Camp** - We hope that this can go ahead. The only way that Tui Ridge Camp is able to cater for us is to split us into two pods, with 2 nights each, to keep within health guidelines. We are aware that this could be at the peak of the Omicron outbreak and we may not have the staff, parents or students available to achieve this. We will try and make a call earlier in the term, as we see everything progressing.
- Wk. 7 - No Country Cluster Inter-School Swimming**
- Wk. 8 - No City Cluster Inter-School Swimming**
- Wk. 9 - Pumpkin Night** - No decisions have been made on this yet but it is unlikely to go ahead.

- Wk. 10 - Parent Interviews** - We will develop new protocols and systems to achieve something here, depending on how the country and our community are looking at the time.
- Wk 11- International Grandparents Day** - This event cannot go ahead under present conditions.

We appreciate that every family will have your own unique situation and have your own set of opportunities and challenges. Please let us know if you are struggling - we may be able to help in some way.

We are very lucky that we live in a fantastic community, made up of intelligent, considerate people who value and live our vision. Thank you - this will make all of our lives so much easier.

Kia Kotahi - together as one

Kia Manaaki - considering and respecting others -

Kia Maia - having the confidence to take on new ideas and challenges head-on.

The only thing for certain is that many things will change and we will be adapting and having to make changes on the hop - constantly!

As a staff we know we are in for a rough roller coaster of a ride!

Our aim is to **BREATHE, BE KIND** to ourselves & others and be **FLEXIBLE!** Your children are our top priority.

Tighten your seat belts - Kia Kaha!

Together - Kia Kotahi - we will get through this!



*Thank you for your support.
Ngā mihi nui*

*Waveney Parker
Principal*