

Nau mai, haere mai!

Welcome back everyone to Term 1 2022

We are excited to be welcoming all of our students back to school for our 2022 school year. With the **Red Light System** in place, sadly, again due to health restrictions and to keep our students as safe as possible, we are not able to welcome parents and caregivers onto our site. With our large numbers on-site, only essential adults wearing masks may come onto school grounds. All adults involved with our students will be double vaccinated and as soon as possible, boosted as well.

As we are starting a new school year, and the levels of excitement and anxieties will be heightened, on Day One we are allowing a bit of extra support to ease our students in, and support some special groups.

Day 1 - Wednesday 2nd February arrangements:

- All students will need to enter school from the family's **chosen gate** with their siblings or by themselves. Please make sure your **child knows which gate they will be being picked up from** at the end of the day. Writing the number on their hand can be a good idea for our younger students and teachers will record these.
- **Parents** need to remain outside, spaced and in masks, please. Our QR code is available for scanning at each gate.
- All children to go directly to their new classroom. **Stationery packs** can be very heavy for some, so please just divide up the supplies and send them in over Week 1. If it is easier to manage, you may like to divide the supplies into different bags rather than struggling with the boxes.
- Entering between **8:10 and 8:25 am** would be ideal, when the road patrol is operating.
- **New enrollments** from all levels across our school; one parent per child may bring your child into school and drop them off at the classroom door. Please make sure you have scanned in at the gate with the COVID app and then sign-in on the register at the classroom door.
- Some of our students who we know have **special needs and may need support with anxieties** can be met at Gate 3 (under the covered roof way) by Mrs Boyd, to take them in further and help them to settle. Lee will contact your family about the need for this.
- Our youngest Year 1 students in **Mrs Paladin and Mrs Metcalfe's** classrooms - Totara 10 and Tawa 19, can meet at Gate 2 and they will be brought in together. These teachers will be contacting you about these arrangements.
- Our **brand new five year olds** who are starting school for the very first time:- We will be welcoming you in through Gate 1 (by the swimming pool) at

9:00am with a **mini - whakatau welcome** and ceremony involving a few of our Junior classes.

- Sadly there is no singing allowed, unless we are outside and everyone is separated by 2 metres.
- We are also having to restrict numbers in our groupings; Taupiri, Pirongia and Maungatautari.
- We will be keeping syndicates separate, so older siblings won't be able to come into the Junior area etc.
- We will however, be having a school-wide **Google Meet**, instead of a full **assembly** and **whakatau**, to welcome our other new enrollments during the school day.

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.
- 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 and you won't need to leave a new message each day.
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- Road Safety and consideration:** If you are dropping off along Devine Road please continue to use the patrolled road crossing. Our **new Year 6 students** will be a bit unsure and nervous to begin with, so please give them plenty of time. We have a number of disabled parents and caregivers, so please leave the **disability parks free** for these families.
 - Please bring **all students to the gate**, so they are safely across the car park etc.
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- Anyone who is sick in any way must stay away from school. Isolate and get tested.** *Please let us know what is happening.*
 - Any child showing any sign of illness will be sent home immediately.
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- Before and After School Care** will be operating as normal, starting from 7.00 am on Wednesday 2nd February. We will continue to keep students in three separate groups.
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- Bus:** The bus will be running but for the first time **Go Bus** will be operating this service and there could be a little settling in period as they find and accept all bus stops for safety. Please remember to wear a mask.
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- Update all contact and health details:** If you think we have not got all your latest details: address, phone, email & emergency contact details, and health information, please email Lisa at reception@tamahere.school.nz.
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- Office** - Please only come to the office physically if you really need to. The information is on the gate to ring first. Then please scan in, register on the Ipad and wait until you are asked to come into the inner foyer.
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- More details and Information:** There are so many details and arrangements that have been reorganised under the new Red Light System. We will send out another newsletter early this week, rather than bombard you with

everything before your child/ren have even stepped foot inside school for 2022.

This is not the start of the year that any of us want but we will do our best to make sure everyone is as happy and safe as possible. We have been lucky to enjoy a lovely summer holiday and can at least join back together again.

Kia kaha

Nga mihi nui

Waveney