

Dear parents and caregivers,

I appreciate the feedback we have received on our entrances, routines and planning during the last few months. I would also like to send my thanks to every member of our school community, who have worked with us to ensure the changing routines and requirements have been successful at our school. The children have settled into our routines very well throughout this crisis and shown their resilience, independence and adaptability.

As a nation we have reached a point now where we can return to a more recognisable normality. At each Covid-19 alert level, we have put time and effort into looking at what the best outcomes for our children could be and gone from there. At Level 2 particularly there have been some changes that have led to improvements for our children in terms of their confidence, resilience and independence, which we will continue to foster. Although the plan below is where we are now, as we get further information from the Ministry of Education and the Government generally, we will make any required changes, but ensure OUR children's needs are at the centre of any changes we make.

I know this is a long message, but please read it carefully to ensure a smooth transition to level one at our school, starting next week.

Level One Changes at Greenhithe School

Both the things we are maintaining and the changes we are making are for the benefit of your child. I know we can count on your support to ensure your child can come in and leave the school, developing the key values of independence and resilience, while remaining safe.

These changes will be enacted from MONDAY 15TH JUNE- we will maintain current practices for this week.

Start of the day

- **Gates will open at 8.30am.** Before school care (martinvr@xtra.co.nz) is available for those children who will need to be here before 8.25am.
- **Bottom Car Park.** Any child arriving just before 8.30am **must** go to the pedestrian waiting area in the bottom car park. A member of the leadership team will be there from 8.20am. This area is off the road and safe for waiting.

A junior school teacher will continue to come down each day to escort our younger children to class, although lots of them are not waiting anymore and are happily heading to class independently! We strongly encourage our parents of younger children to continue letting them walk up to class independently or with the teacher. Those children are showing vast improvements in independence and the ability to self manage themselves, this is now also showing in their learning too.

This area remains a great space to allow your child to develop independence and responsibility, where they will be greeted by staff and can walk to class on their own or with a sibling. This has been a major success and something we strongly encourage you to continue. We hope you take advantage of the gains your child has made by letting them come into the site by themselves. The car park and drop off will continue to be monitored by Maeke and myself to ensure the flow and calmness we have experienced continues.

- **Other gates:** The Isobel Rd, Greenhithe Rd crossing gate and gate by Year 3 playground will be opened at 8.30am. Other gates will remain closed. We hope you

take advantage of the gains your child has made by letting them come into the site by themselves.

- If you do need to come into school between 8.30-8.45am, you are welcome. **However, a bell will ring at 8.45am. This is our settling bell.** At this point parents must leave the classroom and site, to allow the children some time in the rooms with their friends and teacher. No parents will be allowed in the classroom after 8.45am, if you need to speak to the teacher, please ensure you arrive at 8.30am

The teachers have found this undisturbed time before school with the children has helped enormously to build relationships, share information and develop the rapport that makes the learning easier.

During the Day

- For the safety and protection of your child, everyone who enters the site through the Isobel Road gate, which is the only access between 9am and 2.45pm, **MUST** sign in at the office. If you have lunch to drop off etc, please do not go to the classroom. Drop anything to the office and our lovely office staff will drop it to them. If you are picking up early for an appointment, please come to the office first to sign them out, then we will call the child's class and get them sent to meet you.

After School

- Please do not enter the site prior to 2.45pm. Gates, other than Isobel Road, will remain locked until this time. If you do need to come on site, **please do not wait directly outside the classrooms**, especially the year 3 and 4 classrooms. The teachers have noticed a marked improvement in how much learning is occurring in the afternoons. If you are coming onto site, please wait away from the windows and doors.
- Siblings will be allowed to pick up the younger one and come to the bottom gate at 2.50pm, or if they are walking they may leave through the Isobel Rd gate. All other children will leave at 3pm. All playgrounds are closed from 2.45-3pm. The bottom playground is closed until all children have been collected. Children will be expected to be waiting by the gate to help with a speedy pick up.
- **If you are in the drop off zone, please do not leave your car.** Again this has been a major success of the changes. Maeke and a member of the leadership team will be down there, moving traffic along and ensuring the kids are ready to meet you. Children will not be allowed on playgrounds at this time to ensure the flow keeps going. Again, we encourage you to allow your child to walk to meet you, allowing for a safer environment around the school and less cars around.

If you are meeting your child from school, I would encourage you to meet them in our pedestrian area in the bottom car park.

Other Changes

- **Uniform shop- 8.30am- 9.00am (Thursday)
2.45pm- 3.15pm (Tuesday)**
- **Staggered break times will finish.**
- **Children will go straight to classrooms when they arrive in the morning at 8.30am.**

These changes have come from listening to parents, who have given us feedback on the calmness of the start of the day, the success of the car park routines and their child's

developing confidence, and also feedback from the teachers on the effects on learning of the new routines.

I have absolutely loved seeing the children develop the key traits of independence, confidence and resilience, and entering school with smiles and a cheery greeting. While some of these routines may take a little while to embed, we are confident that these will help us to develop our values in the children, continue to develop your child's learning and give us a safe environment.

I am hoping that these routines become business as usual at school. We will always value and appreciate the support that you give to our school. Our community involvement is very important to us, and your presence in and around school is always welcome. These changes are about making your child more resilient and independent, while also ensuring they have a settled start and end to a day, where learning can start and end effectively, which I know you will support us in.

Ngā mihi

Stephen Grady
Principal
Greenhithe School