

22/2/21

Dear parents and caregivers,

Last week involved many changes to routines as we went through the different Covid Alert Levels. I would like to thank you all for your support in ensuring we can adhere to our requirements and keep our children and community safe. I hope this move to Covid Level One lasts through the rest of the year, so we can host all our usual school events.

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. I know this is a long message, but please read it carefully to ensure a smooth transition back to Level One at our school, starting on Tuesday 23rd February.

### **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.

**If your child is ill, showing cold type symptoms, please keep your child at home.** If your child displays these symptoms at school, we will call you to collect your child. Hand washing and hygiene routines in classrooms will remain in place. It is important that you continue to use the Covid-19 tracer app if you come on site. Posters are located on the office door, hall door and on classroom windows, as well as the bottom gate. Additional posters and signage will also be available for you to sign in with.

These changes will be enacted from **Tuesday 23rd February**.

### **Start of the day**

- Gates will open at 8.30am. Before school care ([martinvr@xtra.co.nz](mailto:martinvr@xtra.co.nz)) is available for those children who will need to be here before 8.20am.
- 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.
- The routines for the bottom car park continue as they have done. This has been a major success. 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 onto the site by themselves.
- If you do need to come into school to talk to the teacher 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, but continue to drop anything to the office.*** 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 your child out, then we will call your 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. **There are NO ASSIGNED GATES FOR YEAR GROUPS AT LEVEL ONE. Please arrange with your child which gate they are leaving through to meet you.**
- 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.
- All children finish school at 3pm and will be released from their classrooms as usual.
- The bottom playground is closed until all children have been collected.
- 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 encourage you to meet them in our pedestrian area in the bottom car park.

### **Other Changes**

- Water fountains reopen.

### **Meet The Teacher**

As we are moving into Covid Alert Level One, the Meet the teacher evening can continue as planned on **Wednesday 24th February**. There will be two identical sessions from **4pm-5pm and 5.30-6.30pm**. We will be selling sausages and juices during the break. This is an opportunity to hear from the team your child's class is part of, discover some of the learning opportunities your child will get and you will have the opportunity to ask any general questions about the classroom. The leadership team will be available by the BBQ by the back of the library, so come and say hello and ask any questions about our school. The office will also be open later, until 5.30pm, to allow donations and activity fees to be paid.

### **Swim sports**

**The swim sports have been moved to Thursday 25th February.** At level One parents will be able to come and watch, however you will be asked to scan into the school with the Covid App.

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. We hope that the change back to Level One lasts, and our school year and events can continue as planned.

Ngā mihi

Stephen Grady

Principal

Greenhithe School