



12/11/21

Dear parents and caregivers,

We are absolutely delighted to be welcoming our tamariki back onsite on Wednesday 17th November. Our school site is a very strange place to be without them. We have had to put a plan in place to ensure the health and safety of our children, staff and community, so school will look different when they return.

The Ministry of Education has placed the responsibility on each school to develop their own safety plan that assures adult and student safety. School size, number of potential students returning, number of students of essential workers who will also require full time supervision, physical layout of classrooms, playgrounds and grounds, as well as staff available are all factors that will vary in every school. In our own Kahui Ako (Community of learning) school cluster there are significant differences in the way our primary schools manage this return to school as we balance these factors.

In order to meet the requirements and guidelines on spacing and keeping each class as a separate entity we have split the school in half. This means each child will be onsite for 2.5 days and at home for 2.5 days, with learning tasks provided.

Group A

Onsite- 8.30-3pm on Mondays and Tuesdays and Wednesdays 8.30-11.30am (lunch at home on Wednesdays)

Offsite from 11.30am Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

ROOMS

Junior Syndicate Rooms: 2,4,6,7

Middle Syndicate Rooms: 25,14,16

Senior Syndicate Rooms:17,20,22,23

Group B

Onsite- Wednesdays 12.30-3pm. 8.30-3pm on Thursdays and Fridays (lunch at home on Wednesdays)

Offsite Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning, (Arrive at 12.30 on Wednesdays)

Rooms

Junior Syndicate Rooms:1,3,5,8,9

Middle Syndicate Rooms: 26,27,13,15

Senior Syndicate Rooms:19,21,24

This means each class will have extra space to work in, we can accommodate all our children having suitable breaks and time outside within defined areas and we keep the class together.

On the offsite days the children will be given learning to complete, which will be set up in class and be completed or followed up with at home. There will be an opportunity for your child to have an online check in with their teacher on one of the offsite days, this is to check in with the assigned work, to answer any questions about the tasks they have been set. As we are now back at school, no additional online learning will be set up for those choosing not to come back, however those children may choose to join the weekly google catch up.

We will send out an additional letter on Monday, containing some more logistical details such as which gates for which year group etc. For now, here are a few points to consider with your child as they prepare to return!

- ALL children in year 4-6 will be required to wear a mask indoors at all times (please send a spare in their bag).
- The class will operate as a separate bubble, meaning no assemblies, inter class sports or mixing with other classes (including breaks and lunch).
- Within the bubble we will do our best to space the children where practicable, allowing additional space for each class.
- Children will be regularly washing and sanitizing hands after handling any shared equipment.
- No parents will be allowed onto the school site, please drop your child off and collect them from a gate. When collecting your child please wear a mask and ensure social distance is kept from other parents collecting their child.
- Water fountains will remain closed so please ensure your child brings a full water bottle each day.
- Your child may bring in their own pencil cases, chromebook in year 5 and 6 (or the school owned device they have been using, if one was loaned).
- Children must be in uniform and please remember hats! We will be trying to get the kids outside as much as possible.
- Please pack their fleece as well! The classrooms will be well ventilated with doors and windows open as we have been instructed to do. On less sunny days, some of the rooms can be a bit cool!
- The year zero/one children will leave from the bottom gate at 2.50pm, to allow us to minimise the congestion at the gate and Isobel Rd is problematic for parents to wait in a large group. All other children will leave at 3pm.

While the changes will allow us to keep your child safe onsite and mitigate as many risks as we can, our teachers are ready to welcome back your children. Within the classroom we will be ensuring the children are made to feel safe, welcomed back and instill a normality through the learning. With the very short time we have left in 2021, bringing the children back allows them to reconnect with their class and their teacher and finish the year in school.

We have met and discussed options at Board level and after much discussion this was considered to be the best model for our school. We are confident that we can mitigate risks while also giving the children the chance to reconnect with their classmates and our school. Thank you for the support of our school over this lockdown period, while we are still at Alert Level 3 and restricted under those conditions, we are very pleased we are able to welcome back some children, even if it is under somewhat different conditions.

Ngā mihi

Stephen Grady
Principal

Kathy Frame
Presiding Member-Greenhithe Board