

15/11/21

Dear parents,

We are preparing at pace for the opening on Wednesday. We are very excited to have the children back on site. The teachers will be onsite over the next two days to prepare the classrooms and to plan a fun and engaging face to face learning programme for the last few weeks. Maeke is also working hard to make sure the cleaning is completed and the school looks great for our returning tamariki.

On Friday I sent you some information about the structure of the reopening, with the part time format. I didn't want to send an email that was too long, so today I am going to provide some information on some more of the logistics. All of the plans are to ensure we mitigate as many risks as we can to your children and to the staff as well. Our plan has been developed using various Ministry of Education instructions and guidelines.

Symptoms

If your child has symptoms associated with Covid-19 please DO NOT send them to school! Please get the child and your family tested if you have any concerns over symptoms. If a child shows Covid-19 symptoms at school we will call you and ask you to pick them up immediately.

Masks

The children in years 4-6 MUST be in a mask to enter the classroom. This is a Ministry of Education instruction to us. The children may remove the mask to go outside for fitness or for their breaks. Please send a spare mask in your child's school bag. All adults onsite will also be wearing a mask inside or when at the gate. We ask parents collecting and dropping off children to also wear a mask and socially distant.

Arriving at School

Our arrival routine remains as we are used to. The nature of the arrival from 8.30 in the morning means there is a natural stagger. We will continue to have the car drop off, but ask parents to please stay in the car, and if you do need to get out, to please wear a mask. For the 12.30pm drop off on Wednesday, we ask that no one is waiting prior to 12.20pm, so we can ensure the site is clear and the teachers have been able to change over from the morning to afternoon cohorts. The gates will open at 12.20pm with the same routines.

Leaving school

Please ensure, if you are waiting for your child, you are wearing a mask and are socially distant from other parents and children. If you are in a car in the Sunnyview Carpark, please remain in or by your vehicle. Please note the gate that your child will be leaving from:

- Year 1 students will be taken down to bottom carpark (Sunnyview Rd) by class teacher by 2.50pm and 11:30 (Wednesday)
- Year 2 students will be taken to side car park/ Greenhithe Rd by class teacher at 3pm
- Year 3 students will be taken to the Year 3 playground car park by class teacher at 3pm
- Year 4, 5 and 6 leave via bottom car park (Sunnyview Rd), at 3pm
- On Wednesday half day the students will still be picked up at the designated gate

- Bubble Class Rm 28 - 8.50am drop off and 2.50pm pick up from Year 3 playground gate

Sunhats

Since we were last at school we have entered term 4, so school sun hats are now a requirement. Please ensure your children bring theirs with them. Please ensure it is named!

Ventilation

In each classroom we will have windows and the door open and a fan running to ensure airflow through the rooms. This may mean on some days the classroom is cool, so it is worth having the school fleece in the school bag.

Water

The water fountains are closed. Please ensure your child brings a full water bottle. These can be refilled at the classroom sinks.

Classroom

With the model for reopening we have created each class will have a double classroom to work in, allowing us to space the children where practicable. Children will be regularly either washing or sanitising their hands when entering or leaving the classroom. The children will remain in their classroom 'bubble' at all times. This means that they will play together in separated areas, eat as a group and there is no mixing with other classes.

Visitors to our site

At this alert level we are not allowing general visitors onto the site during the school day. This is to protect your children. At this level there is no before or after school care, no after school activities such as mandarin or art classes and no music lessons during school time.

Contacting the School

The office is closed. If you need to drop anything to your child, please ring the school and we will collect the item from you. If you need to contact the office please send an email (office@greenhithe.school.nz) or phone (09-413 9838).

We have thoroughly appreciated all the supportive emails and comments over the lockdown. The videos, photos and messages from the children have certainly helped me to get through this extended time away from our school.

See you on Wednesday!

Ngā mihi

Stephen Grady
Principal
Greenhithe School