



23/2/22

Dear Parents and Whānau,

As numbers of COVID-19 cases across Auckland rise, we have been preparing for many eventualities. **Later today we will add some documents to our website that will explain:**

- When your child can attend school once they have been in contact with someone who may be either covid positive or a close contact.
- What the stages of learning are at our school as the situation within Greenhithe changes and the timeline for getting information on learning.
- How we will respond to a case of Covid-19 at school.

These documents can be found on a link on the Covid-19 Banner on the homepage of our website. As we send out more communications regarding Covid-19, this doc can then be found in our Covid-19 Page under the Info drop down menu.

The situations that we will be dealing with are different from previous home learning situations. The likelihood is that multiple children will be absent from class as close contacts, at different times. This makes the teacher's job very difficult! The learning that will come home when a child is isolating, where possible, will be the same or similar learning to the classroom.

Please look on the website for these documents. They will guide you on whether your child should be attending school or not. We are here to help and if you are unsure, please call the office or email us.

The stages of learning will give you a general idea of how the learning will look. Each year level may look different as the children's ability to access online activities and participate in online teaching changes with age! However, each class will be adhering to the same plan in the year group, to give a consistent learning experience and enable your child to rejoin their peers as seamlessly as possible. As more children isolate, then our plan adjusts, increasing the online teaching component. Your classroom teacher will provide more information if your child or the class require this.

If there is a case in my child's class

The advice regarding who is a close contact and how to identify them is constantly being adjusted by the Ministry of Health. As we stand, the main mitigation of being a close contact is wearing a mask indoors. It is unlikely that your child will be identified as a close contact of a case, as long as they wear a mask.

In years 0-3, this means most children **will** be identified as a close contact if another child is identified as having Omicron in their class area. However in years 4-6, it is unlikely that, even with a case in the class, that your child will be identified as a close contact and therefore have to be isolated. However, if your child is NOT showing any symptoms and is not identified as a close contact they can continue coming to school.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

- Wearing a mask is a major mitigation on your child being identified as a close contact.
- IF your child shows any symptoms at any time please keep them at home and get them tested.
- Please talk to your child about not sharing food or water bottles!
- If your child is identified as a close contact by the Ministry of Health, not related to school exposure, please let us know. We can then arrange suitable learning for them at home.

While these are uncertain times, with the situation and advice we receive is constantly changing, within school we continue to try to have a 'normal' school experience. The children are swimming, playing outside and learning with their class. Our teachers are utilising the shaded outdoor spaces for learning to give them time in the fresh air. It is so important that our children are settled, engaged in learning and enjoying being a child at our school.

Kia Kaha,

Ngā mihi

Stephen Grady
Principal
Greenhithe School