

Kia Ora Koutou Katoa
Tuesday 9th June 2020



Kia Ora Koutou

Yesterday the Prime Minister announced that we will move to Alert Level 1 effective from midnight last night. As a country it has been amazing to see the collaboration and commitment to ensuring the health and wellbeing of everyone.

We thank you for the support you have given us as we have navigated the various levels and the challenges each has provided. The initial move to distance learning, followed by bubble school requirements and then alert level 2 restrictions have all provided us with challenges and new ways of working.

I thank the staff for their flexibility and dedication to your children throughout this time. We have an excellent team at Ōhope Beach School, and I am proud of them and their commitment to the profession.

We have been reflecting, reviewing and thinking about the changes that have been implemented throughout the various alert stages.

During Alert Level 3 and Level 2 we have observed increased confidence and independence in the students. Students have been able to prepare themselves for the day and have shown they are able to pack up ready for home each day. We really want to see this continue throughout the school year.

We will see a return to practices that were in place prior to the lockdown. From Wednesday the school entry gate will be opened by 8.00am each morning, students and parents are welcome to come into school to go to classes. One aspect we have enjoyed has been greeting the children as they arrive in the morning. Therefore, I will continue to do this as often as possible.

Just after 8.30am our gates will be locked. This is a health and safety aspect, to maximise the security of our school. If you find yourself still inside the school grounds after 8.30am you will need to exit via the office.

At 2.25pm we will unlock the gates; parents are welcome to come into school and meet their child at their class.

We will no longer be required to keep a contact tracing register but will continue with the usual practice of having a visitor and attendance register.

There will be no requirement for parents and caregivers, who are undertaking morning and afternoon drop off and pickups, to complete the visitor register. However, if you are picking up your child during the day you will need to enter and leave via the office and complete the early pick up register. This is to ensure the health and safety of the students.

The ability to quickly trace close contacts of a confirmed case is a key defence against further transmission of COVID-19. All schools are encouraged to display the QR Code poster for the NZ COVID Tracer App to support contact tracing efforts. We will have the QR Code poster on display for you to access.

We will continue with our health and hygiene practices in class. Hand sanitizer and soap will be available in classrooms. Children will be encouraged to regularly wash and dry their hands, and to sneeze and cough into elbows.

If children or staff are sick, they should stay home. If your child has flu-like symptoms you should phone Healthline or the GP to follow up on whether to get tested.

The town bus service will return to pre-Covid practices. The extra pick up, which was arranged at the Appenzell Shops for 7.45am, will end after Wednesday morning. Your children will be able to catch the town bus at the various stops they were originally catching it from. There are no longer the added restrictions to the number of passengers on the town bus.

Harbour Road Bus:

We are seeing increased numbers of students travelling on this bus, which is causing safety and well-being concerns. There are a number of children who currently ride this bus who are not eligible under the MOE regulations. Previously the numbers were not an issue but with the current increase we will be implementing the regulations related to eligibility. Children who occasionally ride the bus to go to a friend's home will no longer be possible.

The Ministry of Education requirements state that a child needs to be more than 3.2kms from the school to be eligible to catch the bus.

The details from the Ministry of Education are as follows:

- Students who live beyond 162 Ocean Road
- Students who live beyond 133 Harbour Road
- Students who live beyond 10 Eruini Street
- Students who live beyond 17 Eruini Street

A letter will be coming home to the students who will be affected by these requirements tomorrow.

Attached with the newsletter is a matrix for Alert Level 1 at Ōhope Beach School.

Again, thank you for the support and flexibility you have shown throughout this time. We look forward to the rest of the year being more settled.

The end of the term two is Friday 3rd July with term three starting on Monday 20th July.

Ngā mihi

Cathryn Naera - Principal