

Bayview Primary School

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Wednesday 20th October 2021

Kia Ora Bayview whānau,

Welcome back to Term 4, albeit in hybrid form!

We recognise that the announcement this afternoon that there is still uncertainty around when primary school's will return to onsite learning, might not be what you were hoping for. We know this decision has been made with the children's best interests at heart. Our primary aged children are vulnerable because they are not able to be vaccinated and it is extremely important that we are careful to ensure their continued safety.

To clarify what Minister Hipkins has announced:

1. Year 11,12, and 13 learners will return to onsite learning on Tuesday 26th October as NCEA exams are going ahead as planned.
2. A decision will be announced on Tuesday 26th October around potentially when Year 0-10 learners may be able to return.
3. The Government is considering things such as rostered attendance or outdoors learning as factors that may be used to offset risks for Y0-10 learners.

You may be aware of the government's mandate that all persons having contact with children onsite in schools must be fully vaccinated by 1st January 2022. Before this time all staff must return a negative covid test to be allowed back onsite, and any staff who are not fully vaccinated must have a weekly covid test which must return a negative for that person to be allowed onsite. These rules apply under alert level 3.

At this stage we are hosting a group of children at school whose parents must go to work and who do not have anyone at home who can supervise them. These children are in bubbles of 10 with 2 staff members. As a result of Minister Hipkins announcement today we will continue these bubbles until we move alert levels and all our learners are able to come back onsite. If you need to send your child to school during alert level 3 it is extremely important that you email Shelley - shelleym@bayview.school.nz to book a spot in a bubble. This is to ensure we maintain our 10 person limit and have the correct number of staff onsite each day to cater for these children.

All other learners will learn from home and teachers will continue to provide a range of learning opportunities through Seesaw. Our staff are trying to touch base with you to check how the children are going and to ask if there is anything specific we can do to assist you.

We want to continue to reinforce that there are many different places for you to access food or any support for your whanau if needed. We do not want any whanau to be struggling so please ask us and we can support you.

If this moment in time feels hard, it is because this IS really hard! Most of us have done so well sticking to the rules, making sacrifices to keep ourselves and our kids safe! Together we can get through this. It is very important that we all remain calm as our children are watching how we deal with all of this and they will mimic our reactions. If we want to develop their resilience then we will need to show them how we are being resilient by determining what we can change for the better and changing it, and accepting the things we cannot change.

You are all doing an amazing job and we recognise that juggling all the different demands can be really difficult. Our message is and always will be whānau first.

If we can help in any way please email dianer@bayview.school.nz , shelleym@bayview.school.nz or jacoba@bayview.school.nz or contact your child's class teacher.

Ngā manaakitanga

Di Raynes, Shelley Matuku, Jacob Allison
Executive Leadership Team

