

Bayview Primary School

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Letter for parents and whānau about returning to school 17 November 2021

11th November 2021

Kia ora koutou,

I hope this letter finds you and your whānau safe and well.

We are delighted to be able to welcome more tamariki back onsite part time under Alert Level 3 from next Wednesday 17 November. If your child is already attending in a bubble they will continue to attend. For other children returning we need to manage the numbers of students attending each day to keep everyone safe.

We know learning kanohi ki te kanohi (face to face) is the best option for children and young people. It's important for them to connect with their friends and teachers and it helps their social, physical and emotional wellbeing. However the decision to return is totally yours and we continue to reinforce our message to do what is best for your whanau.

Even with the Delta variant, the risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools is low because of all the public health measures we will have in place. What this will look like:

- we will limit the number of tamariki and staff onsite each day
- we will not hold any gatherings such as assemblies, singing, kapa haka, etc.
- we will keep those children and staff onsite in separate groups
- we will ensure our classrooms are well ventilated
- we will continue to practice physical distancing where possible.

In addition to this, all staff and children in Years 4 and above are required to wear face coverings indoors (unless they have an exemption), and we'll ensure all staff (and external contractors) who are on site are fully vaccinated or will have had at least one dose of the vaccine and return a negative weekly test.

What you can do to help:

- keep your child at home if you or your child is sick
- avoid catching up with other parents, children and whānau at the gates, you must maintain a 2m distance
- wear a face covering and maintain a two-metre distance from people not in your household bubble
- get advice from your doctor if you or your child has complex medical needs (and please get in touch so that we can support your child to return onsite, wherever possible)
- avoid having playdates inside with children from other families at Alert Level 3.

As we must keep the children 1m apart whilst inside we can only accommodate half the class at any one time so we ask that you please fill in the following Google form to tell us: (<https://forms.gle/Zey3yehwXyqqGDn2A>)

- a) If you are intending/not intending to send your child back from 17th November
- b) Whether you would prefer to be in Group A (attends school on Monday and Tuesday); or Group B (attends school on Wednesday and Thursday). NB Friday will only be for the children who have been attending bubble school prior to 17th November and a day for Year 6's.

Once we have gathered this information we will let you know what group your child falls into so you can make plans.

The rules for children returning onsite are quite strict so please read these as it may help you make your decision to allow them to return or not. The decision to return is totally yours and you will not be pressured into any decisions:

1. All children in Years 4-6 (and the Year 3's in H14, H5H and H5F must wear a face mask while at school). If this face mask is fabric, it must be washed each day. If the face mask is disposable, a fresh mask must be worn each day. It is the parents responsibility to provide the masks.
2. No parents will be allowed onsite. Drop off will be at one of the gates. Parents must wear a mask and stay 2m away from others. Please do not congregate outside the gates but rather have a pick up place away from the gate e.g dairy, down the back of Simon Ellice entrance.
3. Every child will be able to wear mufti unless you specifically want them to wear their school uniform. The children must bring a hat to school whether that be the school hat or their own personal hat. Please name all clothing!
4. Please put sunscreen on your child before school each day.
5. The drinking fountains will not be available so please ensure you send your child with a refillable drink bottle and enough food to get them through the day.
6. Please practise regular hand washing with your child. Your child will be required to use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day at school. If your child is sensitive to this please provide a hand sanitiser that they are able to use (they will keep this in their possession).
7. If you need to contact the office please phone 09 4442222. Please do not come into the office or the school grounds.

Please note for those children not returning onsite, learning from home activities will still be provided through Seesaw.

We would encourage you to talk to your child about what our plans are and why this is happening. We also ask that you ensure any child in Year (3), 4, 5 or 6 has a reusable face mask or enough disposable masks for the rest of the year and that they know how to wear this properly as this is a requirement for returning to onsite learning.

Please note, we'll continue to support learning from home for those tamariki who will not be attending onsite.

We look forward to seeing you back at school next week.

Ngā mihi,

Brad Norman

Board chair

Di Raynes

Principal