



Friday 15 May

TERM 2 – UPDATE 6

Kia Ora Koutou

We are looking forward to welcoming all of our Merrilands School tamariki back to school on Monday.

With this in mind there are a number of things that will be slightly different while we are operating in Alert Level 2. These operating protocols have been developed based on Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education guidelines, with our priority being to ensure the health and safety of students and staff while at our school.

Please talk through these changes with your child before coming to school on Monday to help them to understand expectations and feel as comfortable as possible about their return to school.

- **All children need to be dropped off/collected from outside the school gates.** (*exception being new entrants where a parent is settling a new child to school - contact tracing processes will be shared directly with these families*)
- **Any adults** waiting to collect children or who are catching up with each other at drop off or pick up time need to **maintain 2 metre physical distancing** - talk with your child about where you will expect to be to meet them that is away from the school gates
- **We strongly encourage walking, biking, scootering** to school to minimise congestion
- **Drinking fountains remain off** - please **send along a named drink bottle** for your child each day or leave at school for refill in the classroom
- **Hand sanitizer will be used on entry to every classroom**
- **Children will also be washing hands frequently throughout the day**
- **Cough into elbow and don't touch your face** messages will be promoted through the day
- **Not touching each other** and **staying out of the moist breath zone** are important expectations for children to know about before coming to school on Monday.
- **School office will be operating 1 in 1 out.** Please be patient or alternatively email the school office if you have a query that doesn't need an immediate response.

Contract tracing is required for any person coming into the office or on site in any capacity.

We therefore ask that phone and email become the preferred communication tool at this time. Should you need to come into the office there will be hand sanitiser to use as you come in, then a contact tracing register to fill in. Crosses mark safe physical distancing that we respectfully ask you to use.

A sign in function of the school app is being developed. When this becomes available I will update you all with how to use it.

We understand that for some children, and for some parents, this may be an anxious time. Promoting and supporting the well-being of your child, and our staff, is our priority and we will be taking extra care to ensure those needing a little extra look out will be cared for.

We look forward to seeing you on Monday with a friendly smile or wave as you drop your child to school and thank you in advance for supporting our school to stay safe. If you'd like to check out our full 'Alert Level 2 Principles and Protocols' see the attached doc or link in the notices section of the app.

Ngā manaakitanga
Michelle Cronin
Principal