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Whatever is worth doing
is worth doing well

School Community Newsletter



TIRAU SCHOOL 69 Main Road, Tirau Phone 883 1653 Fax 883 1269 Email office@tirau.school.nz



TĪRAU PRIMARY SCHOOL

Te Kura o Tirau

Principal: Siobhan Patterson

69 Main Road

TĪRAU

Phone:(07) 883 1653

(027) 635 4686

Fax: (07) 883 1269

E-mail:principal@tirau.school.nz

12th August 2020

Kia ora whanau

Like me, I am sure you were shocked to hear the announcement from the Prime Minister last night that Auckland is moving to Level 3 until Friday, and the rest of New Zealand to Level 2.

School will remain open for instruction.

There is a lot of important information, and I have attempted to address any frequently asked questions below. Note, this information is based on the Ministries of Health & Education guidelines for schools.

What Health and Safety procedures will be in place?

The key principles for Alert Level 2 are to:

- reduce the risk of someone getting infected in the first place
- ensure we can identify and contact anyone who becomes infected
- understand that Level 2 is not business as usual.

Our school will follow detailed Ministry of Health guidelines to maintain the health and safety of everyone on the school site. This includes regular cleaning, use of sanitiser, handwashing, and reminding and helping children with those important habits such as coughing into their elbows, handwashing and drying.

Can parents and caregivers come on-site at school at Level 2?

By appointment only, and with some conditions. So we ask that if you do come onto the school site...

1. you do not enter the classroom under any circumstance
2. you maintain a safe distance from other people within the school grounds
3. you also follow the necessary hygiene protocols around handwashing and use of sanitiser pre and post being on the school site

Contact Tracing

The contact tracing App QR code will be displayed around the school so that people can trace their own movements.

Contacting School

If you need to have discussions with your child's teacher that you would normally do in person when dropping off or picking up your child from school, we ask you please to make contact with your child's teacher via email instead. You can contact the principal and classroom teachers on the following email addresses during school hours:

Siobhan - principal@tirau.school.nz

Denise - denise@tirau.school.nz

Georgia - georgia@tirau.school.nz

Laura - laura@tirau.school.nz

Margaret - margaret@tirau..school.nz

Whaea Denise - deniset@tirau.school.nz

Megan - megan@tirau.school.nz

Freda - office@tirau.school.nz

Please understand and be patient that teachers may not be able to respond straight away during the school day, however they will get back to you.

Any office queries should be either made via phone during the hours of 8:45am and 2:45pm on 07 883 1653 or email office@tirau.school.nz. Please do not come into the office unless absolutely necessary.

Will students be able to play sports and do PE?

Yes. But at this stage Netball and Football have been cancelled for this weekend.

Will there be School assembly, or large school events?

No. In the short term we will not be holding these, as they would be bringing together large groups of people.

How can I notify the school if my child is going to be absent?

Please use one of the following processes to advise of your child's absence:

- either message Mrs Leonard through Class Dojo
- The absences function on the Skool Loop App
- phone 07 883 1653
- email office@tirau.school.nz

Will there be before and after school care?

Yes, the Kids Rock team is working through their processes at the moment and will come out with their information ASAP.

What time can my child be at school, and what time do they need to be collected or leave?

Students can't enter classrooms until 8.30am (20 min before the bell), and so we suggest that students arrive at school from 8.30am. All students are to be off-site by 3.15pm unless their parents work at school or they are attending Kids Rock after school care.

Physical Distancing

In order to follow health and safety guidelines we will all be practicing physical distancing wherever possible. Please have discussions with your children at home regarding this. There may be times where others may inadvertently enter others personal space. Please exercise patience, understanding and kindness as we all get used to the changes. If a student is unable to consistently comply with the Ministry's expectations of physical distancing, for the safety of themselves and others, we will be required to contact you to collect your child from school.

Students Arriving and Leaving School

To reduce contact on school grounds we ask that you drop and pick up your children in our Drop and Drive zone (Kiss Wave and Go zone) in the carpark at the Senior end of the school off SH 27. This carpark will be closed for parking by anyone other than our staff and families requiring our mobility parking. If you need to bring your child into school please park either on SH1 near the church, over at the BP or on Goodwin St by the Community Pool. If you enter the school grounds you must register your details using the QR code displayed around the school on arrival and also practice physical distancing from others. We ask that you do not enter the classroom unless necessary. Our pick up in the Kiss Wave and Go zone will operate at 3:00pm. Please let your child's teacher know if you are going to use this service so we can have your child out there promptly.

Children Who are Ill

Students are not able to attend school if they are unwell so please keep your children at home if they have any illness that can be passed onto others. Please bear in mind that if there is illness such as the common cold or flu in your household there is a higher risk that your child could become unwell and pass it onto others at school. If any signs of illness are noted at school or your child becomes unwell they will be separated from others and you will be contacted to collect your child immediately. Please ensure that we have your contact details up to date and make sure that either yourself or an emergency contact are available at all times.

Notices and Newsletters

At the present time all notices and newsletters will be forwarded by email and posted on the Skool Loop App and Class Dojo. If you have not already done so please download the Skool Loop App on your phone. If you do not have the Skool Loop App please check your email regularly. If you are not able to use either of these options please let the office know.

School Bus

At this stage the school bus runs will be operating. There should be no change to the time students will be picked up and dropped off. A record of students travelling on the bus will be kept as part of the contact tracing records. Please let us know if your children do not intend to travel on the school bus during Alert Level 2.

Drinking Water

The school water drinking fountains will not be available for use at the present time. Please ensure that your child brings to school their own supply of drinking water in a named bottle.

The Board and staff's endeavour is to maintain a safe place for everyone. There may be other changes returning to school. Please take the opportunity over to discuss with your child some of the different things they can expect. There are likely to be other changes in the way that we manage classroom learning and wellbeing and school procedures as we travel this journey together.

If you have any queries or concerns at all please do not hesitate to contact us.

A final reminder to keep following the advice below:

- Maintain excellent hygiene, washing hands regularly, covering sneezes etc
- Avoiding close contact, including kisses, hugs, handshakes and hongis
- Keeping gatherings small and to a minimum
- Keeping sick or symptomatic children at home and adults away from school

We appreciate your support, and understanding with this in these unique times. What can we do to support the school and our kids? Keep any students who are sick at home until they are well. Keep reminding them about the importance of hygiene and washing their hands. Ask about their school day and stay connected to us via Facebook and email as appropriate. For more detailed information at Alert Level 2, you can visit <https://covid19.govt.nz> If you have any further questions or comments please feel free to email me

Ngā mihi nui
Siobhan Patterson
Principal