

School Reopening Indication



Kia ora Whatawhata School families,

Over the past few days we have been working towards a solution of reopening our school and welcoming our students back in a capacity that will maintain a safe environment and allow our students to reconnect.

Firstly I would like to acknowledge our school community for the positive, open and understanding approach you have all had to the last 4 weeks of lockdown and Bubble School. I also appreciate the acknowledgement that the reopening of our kura is not as easy as it sounds.

I would also like to acknowledge our teachers and staff. Like many of you, they have been working tirelessly across multiple platforms. For the last week all our teachers have been onsite looking after the children at Bubble School, while also working with the rest of their students at home across multiple platforms. I am proud of the positive approach they have taken towards these challenging times and I know that our community appreciates this as well.

Below we have covered preliminary plans for (sorry for the overload);

- School Reopening
- Learning Expectations
- Health and Safety
- What we need from parents

School Reopening

I'd like to give you an indication of what our plans are, which are still being finalised at this stage.

What we have tried to achieve, in line with MOE guidelines is;

- A cautious and common sense approach with an focus on student and staff wellbeing
- Small groups of children that meet our space requirements and the realities of school
- Children with their own teachers and groups (classes) do not mix
- Groups having their own outdoor space
- Avoid congestion and congregations around our school site
- Consistency for parents with families coming to school on the same days.

Due to the enthusiasm for students to return to school **we are unable to open up our whole school to everyone** at this stage.

We have had to take a part time approach. This means that:

- Our **current Bubble School families will attend every day** as they have been but the **children will be with their own teachers**. No extra students will be added to bubble school unless approved by Matua Rob.
- The rest of the school has been split into two groups (A and B) and will attend half the week each e.g.

Week 5	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			A	B	B
	Bubble kids				

Week 6	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	A	A	B	B	B
	Bubble kids	Bubble kids	Bubble kids	Bubble kids	Bubble kids
Week 7	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	A	A	A	B	B
	Bubble kids	Bubble kids	Bubble kids	Bubble kids	Bubble kids

- This format will be regularly reviewed. Due to the slowly increasing number of COVID cases in the Waikato we want to ensure that if a COVID case is connected to our school that the least number of our school students are affected.
- Any children who are at school on the wrong day will be sent home.

Learning Focuses:

- When children are at home they will be supported by smaller hard packs that follow on from learning that is being done at school. Students who are not coming to school at all will be supported through the smaller hard packs and online resources provided by MOE.
- No daily zooms for students moving forward

Health and Safety Information for Whaanau.

- **All staff will have had at least one vaccination and have returned a negative covid test**
- **All teachers, staff and students Year 4 and above will be required to wear a face mask while inside.** In this instance our school must follow the Public Health Order. Only legal exemptions provided can be accepted. The School Board has no discretion in this.
 - **A face covering is defined as “a covering of any type that covers the nose and mouth of a person”.**
 - If you are concerned please seek the help of your GP to discuss any uncertainties or specific needs.
- All classes will be well ventilated, students will be outside as much as possible in their own areas, hand washing, sanitising will remain a priority.
- **Classes will not be interacting with other classes.**
- Buses will be operating. We will follow up with all bus families to see if you require this service on Monday. All students on the bus will be required to wear a mask
- Parents must follow Alert Level 3 guidelines and not congregate outside school entrances.
- **No non-essential visitors can come on school grounds.**
- If a parent is approved to come on school grounds a mask must be worn and classrooms must not be entered.
- **If your child is sick or displaying any flu-like symptoms they need to remain at home. If they arrive at school parents will be called to pick them up.**

So what do we need from Parents?

- We want to finalise our class groupings. We understand that parents will have work commitments on certain days. We want to coordinate the groups as best as we can for those who have limited flexibility in parent work arrangements. Please let us know if you have certain days **that you have to be at work and therefore a preferred grouping (e.g. Group A Monday / Tuesday or Group B Thursday / Friday)**.
 - **Please email Mrs Benn on laurelb@whatawhata.school.nz by 9am Monday morning so we can send out to parents.** We cannot guarantee but will do our best to take into consideration this request when finalising our Group A and Group B.
- One zoom will be had with kids on Monday to talk with their teachers about coming back to school and how it will be a bit different. Please make time for them to be on this. Teachers will have communicated the time through class comms channels.
- We also need you to talk to your students about what is happening and that school will be different. This will help support them through this time of change and reduce any anxieties felt.

Final Details

Further details such as which groups families are in, entry points etc will be sent out **Monday morning**. We apologise for the lateness but there has been a lot to consider and organise.

And the last bit from us at the moment. If you have had enough of 2021 and your children will not be returning for the rest of the school year, we understand but ask that you let us know. You can email me on principal@whatawhata.school.nz

Thank you for your understanding and patience,

Matua Rob