

Parents guide to Whatawhata school under Alert Level 2

We've created this guide to explain what school will look like at Level 2 for your children, what we will be doing, and what we need you to do. Please take time to read this carefully.

We can't wait to see you all again next week!

Ngaa mihi

Matt Stockton

The basics

School dates and times

- School starts on Monday 18th May. School times remain the same, from 8.30am to 2.30pm

Who can come to school

- Almost every child in our school can return straightaway.
- The only exceptions are the very small number of children and staff who have high risk health needs or are in isolation. If you think this applies to your child you must [contact Christine](#) before Monday. Children in this category will be supported with ongoing home learning.
- Any children and staff who are sick need to stay at home until they have recovered (see more below).
- We will let all our existing children return and settle in school before our new 5 year olds join us. [Rachel](#) is co-ordinating with all these families.

School drop offs and pick ups

- Children should be dropped off at school or walked to the gate.
- We ask you to only enter the school grounds or classrooms if you need to to support your child. If you enter the grounds you need to use the hand sanitiser found at each entrance and record your name on the sign in sheet found at each entrance.
- At the end of the day you should remain outside of the school, maintaining your own social distance. We will have staff at each gate and will bring children to you. It will be helpful for you to decide a place where you will wait, show this to your child and then use this same place each day.
- If your child walks home or already has an after school routine to meet you this will be as normal.
- While the first day back may be a bit hectic we know it will quickly settle down as we all learn the new routines.

Buses

- Buses will start again from the first day. Bus rolls will be taken twice daily
- Hand sanitisers will be available for each student to use as they board the vehicle and vehicles and surfaces will be sanitised after each journey by the transport company
- Seats in close proximity to the driver will be cordoned off

After School Care

- After School Care will start again straightaway - the team are ready and waiting!
- They will follow the same safety and wellbeing practices as the school
- You must [complete the form](#) to let us know if your child is returning to after school care this term.
- If you need after school care this term, complete the form as well and we'll do the rest.
- We will sort out all credits from last term as soon as possible

Returning borrowed equipment

- If you borrowed a digital device, please return it as soon as possible to the office.
- It will then be checked and cleaned before being returned to the classroom



Keeping everyone safe and well - Our four important health principles:

Minimising the risk of people getting sick

- Distancing: We will support our young people and staff to maintain enough distance so that they are not breathing on or touching each other. We know this is hard with younger children. Remind your children that at the moment we don't do hugs and cuddles or climb on each other to keep everyone safe
- Cleanliness: We will clean toilets, surfaces and high touch areas regularly
- Hand hygiene: We will encourage and monitor regular handwashing. Hand sanitiser will be in each learning space and each entrance for children to use. We'll change to using paper towels.
- Reducing sharing: Where practical we will limit the sharing of equipment and digital devices. These will also be cleaned regularly.
- Good hygiene practices: We'll remind children about important practices like coughing into your elbow and trying to avoid touching your face.
- There is no need for staff, children or visitors to wear PPE on site.
- See this great video for the important messages we'll be sharing and talk to your children about it: <https://youtu.be/yZvtoVrykb8>

Ensuring people with who are sick stay away from school

- Children (and staff) must not come to school if they are sick and/or showing any of these symptoms:
 - a cough
 - a high temperature (at least 38°C)
 - shortness of breath
 - sore throat
 - sneezing and runny nose
 - temporary loss of smell
 - diarrhoea, vomiting or sore stomach
- Anyone who is sick must stay away from school until they are well and symptom free.
- See the [COVID website](#) for more useful information. Contact your doctor for any other advice.
- If children are observed to have the above symptoms we will contact parents/guardians for pick up.

Keeping track of people that enter our school

- As stated previously, all parents coming onto the school site must record their name on a contact tracing register located at each gate
- Other visitors coming on site must register at the office and complete a sign-in form
- We will take the roll of children twice daily. If your child will not be attending school you must inform the office before 8.30am via SkoolBag, SMS, email or phone. If your child is late remind them to go to the office before they go to their classroom

If there's a confirmed or probable case

- If a school has a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19, they must close on an individual or group basis for 72 hours, to allow contact tracing, and then potentially for a further 14 days.
- Instruction will revert back to the distance learning model until the school or kura is cleared to open.

School learning and school life - What these first weeks will look like

Your child's wellbeing is our first focus: Returning to school week

- The first week of school is devoted to checking in with everyone, finding out how children have been going and what their experiences have been. We know it's been different for everyone so will take time to understand this
- We will be helping children returning to the daily structure, routine and life at school
- Our values, rewards and expectations will be a really important part of our return. Our values focus this term is "we are kind" which is just perfect.
- Our teachers are all accessible via email. Do get in touch if you have anything you want to share or ask. We encourage you to do this before Monday if it's important. [See here](#) for all their emails

- Teachers will share their class news in the first week, letting you know what they been up to, how they are going and what is coming up in the rest of the term
- Our teachers are supported by our Learners with Additional Needs team (Laurel, Amy, Rochelle) who can provide further information, support and guidance to help children and their families. They will also keep a close eye on our children who have extra needs to help them.

Returning to school learning comes next: Returning to school learning week

- As children and parents settle back in to school we will then shift our focus to re-establishing learning programmes
- Children will quickly be learning right across the curriculum
- We know everyone's learning will have been different these last weeks so will informally start to look at the most important next steps for learning
- We also hope to continue to make the most of some of the new ways of learning we've discovered these last few weeks

Other important parts of the day:

- **Eating:** We'll change it so children eat first then play for a while to make keeping clean hands easier. Lunches are available to order as usual. As per usual, there's no food sharing. Please pack plenty of food for these early days.
- **Drinking:** We'll turn off water fountains for a while so children will need to bring a drink bottle. We'll check they have them during the first week.
- **Play:** Children can play in all our spaces including playground, astro, creative zone, field and more. We'll keep a close eye and encourage no touch play.
- **Sports:** We'll encourage children to play sports and activities. We'll clean sports equipment that we use regularly. Our first focus is cross-country which is a great hands-free way to get fit again!
- **Inter-school events, trips and visits:** We won't have any of these in the first weeks.
- **Assemblies:** We will do these virtually for the first few weeks back, each class taking a turn to host.
- **Mihi whakatau:** We'll need to wait a while longer before we officially welcome our new families.

Need to know more? Want to share anything?

Do get in touch with:

- Christine Foster (christinef@whatawhata.school.nz) or [Matt](#) if you have any general questions
- [Laurel Benn](#) or [Amy Lake](#) if you want to talk about your child if they have additional needs or for advice in supporting your child's return to school
- One of [your child's teachers](#) If you need specific information or to share any concerns

