



Wednesday 2nd February, 2022

Kia ora Koutou e te Whanau,

Welcome to our 2022 year. With this notice comes lots and lots of love, and support from your whanau here at Te Kura o Wairau. We are facing very different times ahead, however together we will figure out, navigate and support one another as we journey towards the best possible way forward. The landscape will change on us, and we will need to adapt in order to be able to continue learning and growing alongside one another. It will be more important than ever now to be the best version of ourselves, because it will be through our kindness, through our care and through our understanding that we will grow and improve, as well as prosper as a team and a whanau.

I wish everyone the very best this term and throughout the year. We have a lot to be excited about.

My beautiful teachers have been preparing classroom environments, and planning lessons and learning that will motivate and excite the students.

Our school environment is looking clean and tidy.

Our Bicycle Education Programme will begin this term. We will be having an opening before we begin teaching our students how to ride safely in our community. Unfortunately as part of the Red setting we will not be inviting you to this event however we will record the occasion.

Swimming also begins this term. I am so very proud of all my students and whanau who are now so positive about their children learning how to be safe in a swimming pool. Named togs and a towel should be brought to school every day.

This is also the term that hats have to be worn, and we would really appreciate it if you could get your children to apply sunblock every morning before they come to school.

Our new school uniforms are here. They look awesome. Please pop into the office to buy these, alternatively you can purchase them at Academy Apparel in town.

We won't be having a powhiri or mihi whakatau on our first day like we usually would. Instead we are going to wait until we are at a safer setting and then proceed with our tikanga. I will on Wednesday 2nd February at 10am go to Room 6 and Whaea Ayla (our new teacher) and welcome her to our kura 'via zoom'. I will then go to find Whaea Jahnae (our new Teacher Aide) and welcome her to our school. I will then welcome all our new students and whanau to Te Kura o Wairau and open the 2022 year via zoom.

We will not be holding our annual 'Meet and Greet' under the Red setting either. We'll have to save the sausages and ice blocks for another time.

I ask that all my community listen to and respect the guidelines and rules that we are putting in place to be the safest environment for your children. We have worked very hard over the holidays to prepare our school for everyone's return. All staff will go through our rules and processes with their students at the Red setting, and over time once we have practiced these regulations and safe practices we will become accustomed to them. Please always seek any advice or guidance from your child's teacher in the first instance if you have any questions otherwise feel free to make contact with us via phone (06 3543274/0800 454444)

Schools across Aotearoa are open at all settings. We are open and begin the 2022 year on **Wednesday 2nd February from 8:55am to 2:55pm**. We will be ready to welcome all students and staff back onto our school site.

As you read the information below please know that the practices and strategies we have decided to employ at our school during the Red Traffic Light System, are to support the guidelines and instructions we have been given by the Ministry of Education and Health Board so that we continue to keep safe.

### **Drop off and pick up**

All students need to be dropped off, or enter school on Somerset Crescent **between 8:30 - 8:55am**. Mrs A or Mrs Johnson will be at the front gate to welcome everyone.

We would prefer that all our parents/adults remain outside the school grounds please when dropping off and picking up children. Thank you for supporting us with this.

If you must enter our school grounds you will need to scan in, and fill in the 'Tracing Register' in the classroom or office area that you entered into.

Any students who arrive at school **after 8:55am** need to come to the office and sign in before going to their classrooms.

We will continue to have the door closest to my office as the 'Entrance' into the Administration Area and the door closest to Mrs A's office as the 'Exit'. This 'Exit' door will always be locked.

### **Good Hygiene, Cleaning, Ventilation**

Continue using and encouraging good hygiene practices including:

1. Regular washing and drying of hands,
2. Sanitizing hands regularly,
3. Coughing and sneezing into elbows

Te Kura o Wairau is regularly cleaned on a daily basis. We have our own hygiene products and resources that support keeping our environments and equipment as clean as possible.

All of our environments have good ventilation systems in place. We will be using these as well as opening windows and doors to promote fresh air moving through the environment.

### **Masks and face coverings**

Masks are to be worn indoors by all students in Kahikatea (Rooms 1, 4 & 6), and all students in Rooms 8 & 9 in the Rata Team.

Students in NE - Year 3 are more than welcome to also wear a mask. It is just not a legal requirement for them as it is for our Year 4, 5 & 6 students, however we support all our children and whanau who are trying to look after everyone.

Masks are not required to be worn outside.

Masks will be worn indoors by all adults at our kura.

Please send a 'named' mask to school that your child can wear daily, and keep at school. A bandana, scarf or t-shirt is **not** considered an appropriate face covering.

If you have an exemption stating that your child does not have to wear a mask at school then I need to have written confirmation of this from the appropriate health professional. I will then inform the student's teacher, and keep this exemption on file.

### **Distancing, Groupings & Staggered Breaks**

We want to prevent interacting with people/groups of people at our kura that we do not know while at the Red setting. Doing this will support our school bubble to be as safe as possible, however when we do need to meet and greet unknown people maintaining a physical distance of up to 1 metre is recommended.

There is no need for any physical distancing between class members in their classrooms.

We will however, not be allowing classes to mix/mingle together during learning time or break times while at the Red setting. This includes no buddy swimming, no buddy classes (Tuakana/Teina), no Pasifika Pride or He Haupihi ki Hine roopu, and no normal/daily interactions like we are used to.

We will be introducing staggered break times to also ensure our students don't mingle between classrooms during this time. This is a new system and process in our kura so some improvements may be made after we have tried out our ideas.

We will also be sanitizing our sports equipment and all high use areas in our school frequently.

### **Health and safety**

Students and staff are to stay at home if they are sick. Any child showing signs of sickness must be kept home. If they are at school and are unwell we will send them home.

### **Events/Activities & Singing**

No Team or Whole School Assemblies/Gatherings will take place during the Red Setting, unless the gathering is outside and there is appropriate physical distancing. Singing will only occur outside while maintaining physical distancing.

### **Libelle Lunches, Water Only School & Fruit in Schools**

Our kura will continue receiving lunch from Libelle however the process around this will look slightly different too. We will also still receive fruit in schools and this usually gets delivered in week 2 or week 3 of Term 1. We are a 'Water Only School' so please support your child in bringing a water bottle to school every day.

We've been doing so well together over the past 2 years during these Covid times, please continue being kind and caring towards each other.

***Nga mihi nui***

***Teena Johnson***

***Tumuaki/Principal***