



Heriot School

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Monday 11 May 2020

ALERT LEVEL 2 – RETURNING TO SCHOOL

Kia Ora Koutou Parents and Caregivers

Lockdown has been a long road and I trust that most of you are ready to return to the ‘new’ normal as soon as possible.

After the Prime Ministers announcements this afternoon it is clear that we will be returning to school on Monday 18 May 2020. The staff and BOT at Heriot School are eager for us to return but things will not be ‘business as usual’.

[The key to a safe return to school for us all will be to take necessary precautions, such as:](#)

Hand Washing

Everyone will be regularly washing their hands throughout the school day. Hand sanitiser is at the door of every classroom. Please use this if you are visiting (see below).

Sickness

IF YOU OR YOUR CHILD IS UNWELL PLEASE DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL!

If children become unwell at school, or present themselves as unwell when they arrive at school, we will contact you and they will wait in the sickbay until you collect them.

Social Distancing

We are returning to school because it is safe for us to do so. We are expected to attempt social distancing as best we can in and out of the classroom. This is especially important for staff and adults (as they are more likely to be carriers and be infected by the virus). This means no touching or breathing on one another.

Contact Tracing Registers

If you are dropping your child at school you must in the first instance sign in and out of the Contact Register in the school office, and maintain social distance (both in and out of the classroom) at all times. Please use the hand sanitiser provided at the front desk of the office and in the classrooms.

Buses

All bus runs will be operating. There will be Bus User Lists. Hand sanitiser will be used regularly and the seat beside/behind the bus driver will remain empty.

Staffing

The onset of winter traditionally brings illness and staff are impacted by this too. Extra pressure on the availability of relief teachers may mean that we are required to adapt class situations in order for school to remain open. The MOE anticipate this and will be supporting us as much as possible.

Playing

The school playground will be open and children can use sports equipment including the sandpit and the wooden 'sticks'.

Fountains/Food

We encourage your child to bring a drink bottle to school so that we do not have to use the drinking fountains (in the short term). We will be strict (as we usually are) on ensuring children do not share food at school. Please do not send heat ups or food that will need to be handled by others.

Our focus in the first week back will be on 'well-being'. This includes ensuring that everyone feels safe and comfortable with the health and safety guidelines that we have. Your involvement and collaboration in this process (as with your support over the lockdown period) is crucial to the success of your children and of our school.

This has been an extraordinary time in our lives and it will surely go down in history. I am honestly proud of how our school community has handled this extraordinary situation and feel honoured to have been a part of it.

Thank you.

Colin McHutchon
Tumuaki/Principal