



Dear whānau

Wednesday 12 August 2020

Following on from my message last night here are our protocols for Covid Level 2: This starts at midday today and continues until midnight on Friday. We will do our best to keep you informed with any new information as and when we get this both from the Ministry of Education and from the Ministry of Health.

We are all in this together and as a community we will work together to stay as safe as possible.

Ministry Guidelines:

- **At Alert Level 2 it is safe for all students, children and staff to attend school. There will be appropriate precautions in place.**
- **Children and staff who are at higher-risk of severe illness are encouraged to take additional precautions when leaving home.**
- **Please be alert to illness and ask anyone who is presenting as unwell to go home, or ask parents and caregivers to come and pick the child up.**
- **Soap and water is very appropriate for washing hands, particularly if hand sanitiser stocks are low.**
- **For schools, children, young people and staff should be far enough away from each other so that they are not breathing on or touching each other, coupled with good hygiene practices and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces. There does not need to be a specific measurement but where practicable and reasonable 1 metre can be used as a guide, particularly between adults.**
- **Physical distancing of 2 metres is recommended for parents and caregivers, from people they don't know (to align with public health measures outside the school grounds).**
- **Support your community by displaying the QR code posters for the NZ COVID Tracer App.**

Masks are not required at schools and early learning services at Alert levels 2 and 3.

Our Covid level 2 response updates:

Access in school:

- **Access to the school site will be restricted to Birchville staff and whānau needing to drop off and collect tamariki.**
- **Where possible we ask that any adults on site, due to pick-ups and drop offs, remain at a minimum for 2 meters social distance of all others**
- **Any adults on site will be required to sign in at the office at all times.**
- **There will be adults on the gates with hand sanitiser to greet children from 8.30am**

- We will revert back to each block using their own gate before and after school to cut down on congestion in corridors and access points
 - Emerald from the front gate
 - Moonstone from the side gate at the end of the car park
 - Sapphire from the bike gate in front of the hall.
- Teachers will park in front of the hall so that the car park is clear and will be available as a pick up area again. Please do not drive any vehicles into the car park before or after school.
- Children will be brought out to these gates at 3pm for collection.
- School gates will be secured through the school day from and access into the school between 9am and 3pm will be through the side gate at the top of the car parking area. The bell will be reactivated at this gate to notify us if anyone needs to be given access. The back gates on Rata Street and next to the kindy will remain locked throughout the day
- Please make use of the contact tracing QR codes at the gates and please let us know if they are not working.
- School gates will be locked from 3.15pm until 8.30am and we ask that the school grounds are not used until the weekend when we hope the restrictions may be lifted.

In classrooms and across the school:

- We will continue to use hand sanitiser – if you have not already, please inform the staff member at the gate or email teachers if you do not want your tamariki to use sanitiser
- Gates will open at 8.30am – please do not leave children alone in the car park before gates open in the morning
- Children will be able to play on the playground before school and our PALs will be out with a teacher (8.30–9.00am)
- Teachers will now release all children at the end of the day once the bell has rung. Please ensure your children know your whānau pick-up arrangements
- Children will be reminded of good hygiene methods for coughing and sneezing and handwashing will continue to be used before eating and if children are not able to use hand sanitiser.
- Lessons will continue as normal in school for all children
- All bathrooms will be sanitised after morning tea and then at the end of the school day again.

What's being cancelled:

- Our whole school assembly will not happen this Friday but children will still receive their certificates
- The Y5/6 STEM challenge session today was cancelled this morning
- Netball practices this week are cancelled

Please help us by:

- Please keep tamariki at home if they are showing any cold or flu symptoms
- Please contact the school before 9am if you are keeping your tamariki at home due to illness
- Please talk to your child about the fact that there is no stigma regarding Covid-19 – If people get sick, they have done nothing wrong and we will support our community wherever possible.

Aroha nui koutou
Robyn Brown

