



# Tirimoana School Newsletter

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Friday 12 November 2021

## He aha te aha? What's on top? - with Mr Kaiser.



### Returning to school on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November

#### Dear Parents – Kia ora e te Whānau

As I am sure you will be aware the government has decided children in Years 0 – 10 may return to school from Wednesday 17 November onwards till the end of the school year. For Primary schools, the Minister of Education has decided that each school needs to consider how best to safely provide on site schooling for children whose parents want them to return to school.

I have spent several days considering the situation for our school. I have considered the health and safety requirements that the Director General of Health has advised schools, and I have thought about our own systems and school layout. I considered what is best for children, what will make teachers and other staff feel safe, and what would be the most helpful for parents, especially working parents.

I have therefore recommended to our school board that we open for all children whose parents wish them to attend school on site, with minimal disruption to regular hours so that parents can get on with their lives too. Tirimoana School will open for all children from 8.30 in the morning and will close for Juniors (Year 0-3) at 2.15pm and close for seniors (Year 4-6) at 2.30pm each day. We will have staggered break times so that our playgrounds are not too congested. Closing early allows our staff to thoroughly clean their classrooms and to prepare for the next day.



### Health and Safety Measures (designed to mitigate spread of COVID at school):

- All staff on site at Tirimoana School will be fully vaccinated from 17 November onwards.
- Staff will be encouraged to wear masks. Teachers and students in Year 4, 5 and 6 classes are required to wear masks indoors. Please supply your child with a fresh mask each day. School also has supplies for children who forget to bring their mask or break or lose their mask.
- In Junior classes, it is not required that children or teachers wear a mask, but school will support anyone who wishes to.
- Children will be in their own class bubble with their own teacher. Classes will not mix indoors.
- At play breaks children may play freely in the playground and are not required to wear their masks. Health advice is that free play in the fresh air presents low risk of spreading the virus.
- Play times will be staggered and where children play will be carefully monitored to prevent overcrowding.
- All classrooms will be thoroughly cleaned daily, and will be always well ventilated, even on windy or wet days. Bring a warm jacket to school if it is windy or cool.
- Staff will practice social distancing.

- Parents and all visitors are requested to stay off site unless you have an appointment or a specific need. If parents come on site they must wear a mask, practice safe distancing, and scan the QR code. No parents or visitors may enter any classroom.

## Dropping off and Picking up Children

Parents should drop children off at the school gates or further up the road and let them walk by themselves for the last 100 metres or so. We ask that parents do not congregate at our gates because the biggest risk is adult to adult transmission of the virus. Please always wear a mask. Staff, wearing masks, will monitor all entrances and exits to school and will prevent visitors entering school unless they wear a mask and need to go to the office.

In the office, please wait at the door until invited in to reduce over-crowding indoors. Always scan and wear a mask.

## Feeling Anxious

I know that many parents may be feeling anxious about their children returning to school. Recent studies from Sweden, Israel and New South Wales indicate that child to child and child to adult transmission is a low risk. These studies also show that 98-99% of young children will only get mild symptoms of COVID if infected. These studies indicate that the biggest risk in primary schools is adult to adult transmission. In our school all our staff on site will be fully vaccinated.

It is our view that we can safely provide learning on site at school for children. We know it is important for children's emotional wellbeing that they get back to school. We have been teaching children in bubbles at school for several weeks, and we are experienced in keeping them safe and happy.

Our school is built with single cell classrooms and has single year level classes. This is very helpful when planning for each class to learn as a separate bubble. More modern schools with multiple year groups in very big open learning spaces will find it much more difficult to have many children back at school. We also have spacious grounds and two big open air canopy-covered courts which will be ideal for learning safely outdoors.

Teachers will focus in the first few days on making children feel safe at school. They will teach children about mask wearing, social distancing, basic hygiene and where they may go safely around the school. We will do our best to make them feel welcome and safe.



## Children Currently in Bubbles

This week we have had 50 children at school in bubbles. If you could see how happy they have been at school then it would surely convince you that in the interest of your child's happiness and social connections, it will be good for them to be at school. Children want to see their teacher, their friends, and they need to get back into regular routines.

Children currently in bubbles will be re-assigned to their regular class and teacher from Wednesday onwards. They will be supervised until their parents arrive to collect them at the end of the school day.

## Always Stay Home if Unwell

Please monitor your child's health daily and always keep them home if they feel unwell or present any symptoms. Even without COVID, children always seem to catch minor colds, viruses, and tummy bugs.



**We look forward to welcoming your children back to school on Wednesday!**





*Ngā mihi Peter Kaiser Principal*

## Complete the Returning to School from Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November

If you have not already done so, please indicate the plan for your child's attendance for the rest of the school year by clicking on the link below (Ctrl+Click)

## [Returning to school from Wednesday 17th November](#)

If you have more than one child enrolled at Tirimoana School, **please complete the form for each child.**

<i>Summary of School Information</i>	
<b>School Hours</b> 	School is open each day for all children Children can come to school from 8.30am Learning starts at 8.50am  <b>Partial opening</b> School finishes for Year 0-3 at 2.15 pm School finishes for Years 4-6 at 2.30 pm
<b>Essential Workers</b>	Essential workers children are able to stay till 3.00pm.
<b>Picking up more than one child at school</b>	Your older child can leave their class at 2.15pm to collect their younger sibling to go home.
<b>Class Bubbles</b>	Your child will be in their class bubbles. Class bubbles do not mix.
<b>School uniforms and Sunhats</b>	Children are to wear school uniform. Sunhats are to be worn; this is important as children will be spending more time outside in the fresh air.  Please supply a named sunhat for your child to wear everyday if they do not have a school sunhat. 
<b>Uniform sales</b> 	We are currently waiting for stock to arrive. We have no size 4 & 6 available, and have very limited stock of all other sizes. We have no sunhats to sell.  We will advise via the app and school newsletter once new stock arrives. If you are wanting to purchase school uniform we can do this from Wednesday 17th November after 3.15 pm each day.
<b>Masks</b> 	Children and Teachers in Years 4-6 are required to wear masks. Please supply a mask each day for your child.  <b>Years 0-3:</b> If your child wishes to wear a mask we will support them to do this with
<b>Parents on School Grounds</b>	Parents are <b>not</b> permitted on the school grounds. Please ring the office on 838 9737 and we will ask your child to come to the office. Wear a mask and socially distance from other parents outside the school gates.
<b>Not attending school this year</b>	Children whose parents opt not to send them to school will receive some distance learning support from non-class based teachers (not from their regular teacher) but not in the same ways as previously. This will primarily be with learning packs and online check-ins. We will contact you when the Year level learning packs can be picked up from school.
<b>Before and After School Care</b>	There is no Before or After School Care operating at Level 3.

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