



BIRKDALE NORTH SCHOOL

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7th March 2021

Kia ora koutou

As from today (Sunday 7th March) we are now in alert level 2. This means that we are pleased to welcome our children back into school again. Thank you again for your amazing support. As well as the extra stress it puts on our teachers making sure we can cater for all our children, I am also aware of how very difficult it is for all our parents and caregivers, juggling online learning, lockdown restrictions and working from home. It is so true, there is no I in team and that's exactly what we are - one big team working towards a common goal! Your support definitely makes an enormous difference to me personally, it is very much appreciated.

At level 2 we are unable to have social gatherings over 100 therefore we are still unable to have our meet the teacher and Powhiri. And of course level two also impacts on swimming sports:

- Our meet the teacher's evening seems a little redundant now as we are now in week 6 and most of you will have met your child's teacher at school or online! We will cancel the Meet the Teacher evening but you are more than welcome to make an appointment at any time should you wish to talk to your child's teacher.
- We will go ahead with our Powhiri to welcome our new children, whanau and staff to Birkdale North. Everyone is invited to join us when a new date has been established.
- Due to the practicalities of distancing we will postpone our **swimming sports** until next week, **Tuesday 16th March** (Save day 17th March). However we will go ahead and organise heats to establish a swimming team for the inter school swimming, due in two weeks time. This will be done according to the level 2 restrictions. Brenda Vosper and myself will organise this during lunch times and any year 4, 5 and 6 children who would like to have an opportunity to try for the team will be able to. If your child is keen, please make sure they bring their togs. This is the only time children will be in the pool this week.

Just a reminder that while everyone is onsite at Alert Level 2, we must adhere to key health measures including:

- Good hand hygiene and cough and sneeze etiquette
- Staying away if sick
- Keeping the appropriate physical distance from others
- Cleaning and disinfecting our high touch surfaces daily
- Displaying QR code posters at our entrances and encouraging all of our community to download the NZ COVID Tracer App and use it if they come onsite
- Keeping a visitor register for anyone who cannot use the app and for other visitors who come onsite for a period of time.

We know all these things will help to keep our community as safe as possible. As a result of these measures, your child does not need to wear a face covering while at school. We will of course support them should they choose to do so.

All protocols will be adhered to as per our school procedures at level two - I have attached level two procedures should you wish to read them.

To help us transition as smoothly as possible the school will be welcoming the children from 8:30 am to 9:00am (no earlier as teachers need to be in classes but also need time to prepare for their day) until we are back at level 1. The procedures for drop off and pick up are the same as our last level 2:

The procedure for Arrival:

- **1 adult per family** who will say goodbye at the drop off point.
- Parents can drop children off from the car if preferred.
- No parents on the school grounds with the exception of new children (a register will be set up for them)
- **8:30 - 9:00am - children to arrive anytime within this timeframe please.**

- There will be a barrier set up just outside the caretaker's shed. The students will line up (safe distancing), they will be welcomed and go straight to class and sanitise hands on entry.

Children walking to school

- There will be an adult supervising road crossing and children will be directed to join the queue to enter school and go through the same process as above.

Before school care

- A SKIDs staff member will pick up any children arriving for before school care from the drop off point. Arrangements will be made in advance for any families using this facility.

Wairau Valley Special School

- Wairau Valley school vehicles will be allowed access to drop off students. WVSS will keep their own Register of children and drivers entering and exiting their site.

End of day pick up:

- The school will close at 3pm. We will bring classes to the pick up point one class at a time. We will start with our youngest children and move to our older classes last. This process will take a little time and it means you might have to hang on for a few minutes if you have siblings in other classes, please be patient (we are anticipating level 2 will only be for a few days).

Children walking home after school

- Any students who are walking home will leave promptly at 3:00pm and an adult will supervise any students as they cross Birkdale Road.

After school care

- At 2:50pm a SKIDs staff member will pick up any children who will be attending SKIDs that day directly from their classes. Parents collecting children from Skids will sign a register.

Wairau Valley Special School

- Wairau Valley school vehicles will be allowed access to pick up students.

In addition to the above:

- Please do not hang around outside the school when dropping off and picking up.
- The playground and school grounds will be closed before and after school so you will not be able to hangout and play with your children and other families here onsite.
- If your child is sick, even a little bit, keep them home.
- Pack your child's lunch and explain they need to eat only their lunches not share or trade with anyone else.
- Ensure your child has a water bottle clearly named. The water fountains will not be in use.
- Continue good hygiene practices at home.
- Know where you have been and who you have seen – this will be critical if BNS were to have a confirmed case – being able to contact trace can save lives and stop the spread.
- Most importantly, please be kind to the staff as they transition again to come back to school and to your children.

If you do not intend to send your child under Alert Level 2, as they are vulnerable to serious illness please contact the office as soon as possible to discuss arrangements.

We look forward to seeing all the students in person tomorrow.

Regards,
Jan McDonald
PRINCIPAL