



BIRKDALE NORTH SCHOOL

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Friday 29th April 2022

Kia ora koutou,

I hope you have had a great holiday and had time to relax with your whanau and friends. I have enjoyed time with my grandson who flew from Whakatane up to Auckland on his own for the first time. (His first solo flight at 10 years old!) I am now typing this letter sitting in a hotel room in Whitianga where we have enjoyed a week of sunshine!

Just as a reminder school will start on Wednesday 4th May as the teachers will be continuing with their professional development on Monday and Tuesday next week.

You'll be aware that **we have moved to Orange on the Covid Protection Framework** (CPF or traffic lights system).

I wanted to give you an update on what the move to Orange means for our school.

At Orange:

- **Face masks are no longer required at school. However public health advice is that masks continue to be strongly encouraged when indoors.** Wearing a mask is a key health measure that slows the spread of COVID-19 in indoor settings. For that reason, All visitors to the school, including parents and whānau, will be asked to wear a mask whenever they are on school grounds. **Parents will not be allowed inside the classes at this point unless a meeting is set up in advance with the teacher, which will be after school hours when students are not in class.**
- **We ask that your child (if they are Year 4+) continues to bring a mask to school every day.** There may be times that we'll ask them to wear a mask, too – for example, when we are having an assembly in the hall or If there are a high number of cases at school or in the community, we may ask that masks be worn in classrooms for a time.
- **We will continue to keep all the other health measures in place at school that we know slow the spread of COVID-19.** These include ensuring our indoor spaces are well-ventilated, maintaining good hand hygiene and cough and sneeze etiquette, appropriate physical distancing whenever we can and, most importantly, staying home if we are sick.



We are looking forward to a few less restrictions and returning to school life that is a bit closer to normal, this will include:

- **Whanau coming onsite to drop off and pick up their children.** Face masks must be worn and at this point there is **no entry to the classes please.** Social distancing must also be adhered to.
- **Please ensure that you leave immediately after drop off and pick up of your tamariki, at the orange setting the playground will not be an option after school**
- **Our school day starts at 8:55 and finishes at 3pm.** (no staggered times)
- All tamariki have the same lunch and morning tea breaks.



We are happy for you to celebrate your child's birthday with their friends but ask that you refrain from bringing cakes and unwrapped goods at this point. Ice blocks or funsize wrapped chocolate bars are a good solution.

Nga mihi

Jan McDonald
(Principal)

