



Kia tiki ake te pai
ACCENTUATING THE POSITIVE



14 May 2020

Kia ora e te whānau. Greetings families

We hope you have had an enjoyable week so far. I know anticipation has been building about returning to school. Our staff are certainly excited and looking forward to it. Most teachers came in today to begin preparing their classrooms.

This letter will outline the health and safety procedures we will be following at school. These procedures are in line with advice we have received from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education.

Wellness and Attendance

- Please only send your child to school if they are well. It is recommended that your child does not come to school even with a cold. We realise that typically we would still attend school and work with a mild cold, but these are not typical times. Our staff will also be following these guidelines as well.
- If your child is unwell and/or will not be attending school for any reason, please text the school cellphone 022 324 3942 or phone 834 5467 and leave a message. We need to code attendance accurately for contact tracing and this will save time contacting you for your child's absence.

Hand Hygiene

- Children will be required to clean their hands on arrival at school in the morning. They will sanitise their hands on entry to the classroom. The teacher will be there to support them with this. At this time, the teacher will also carry out a wellness check.
- Children will regularly clean their hands throughout the day. They wash or sanitise their hands at all the following times; before and after learning outside, before and after break times and outside play, before and after any sports lessons outside, before eating, after going to the toilet and before and after handling any shared equipment, such as devices, shared toys and crayons etc.

Physical Distancing

There are no specific requirements in school for physical distancing. The recommendation is that children stay out of people's moist breath zone. We will be teaching children the following strategies;

- Instead of hugging or high-fiving to greet others - try an elbow bump, a foot five, a smile or a wave.
- Maintain a personal bubble around yourself and don't go into other people's bubbles

Lunch ordering

- Lunch ordering will be available. All local businesses we work with are practicing suitable Alert Level 2 procedures.
- Children will order at the office as usual, but will not fill in the form themselves. A staff member will help them with that.
- For younger children please write a note describing what your child would like to order, and put it in a bag along with the payment.
- Lunches will be delivered to classes
- Some businesses have had to increase their costs slightly. Sushi on Mondays and Thursdays is now \$6.00.

Arriving late to school

- If children arrive late to school, they must report to the office.
- Michelle or Diane in the office will record their name and the time they arrive.

Classroom comfort

- We will be aiming to keep our classrooms warm, however as we move into winter, we recommend children come prepared.

- Please make sure your children have warm clothes with them, including jumpers and socks and shoes.
- It is a good idea for younger children to have a change of clothes at school. Providing emergency clothing at Alert Level 2 is more difficult.

Water bottles

All water fountains will be turned off at Alert Level 2.

- Please send your child to school with a named water bottle.

If you have any questions, please contact me at amandab@rutherfordprimary.school.nz

Kia kaha - He waka eke noa

Nga mihi nui
Amanda Bennett
Acting Principal