

Friday 22 August 2022

Kia ora koutou

The end of last term was a challenging time for us all with many staff and students becoming ill as the term came to an end. Hopefully everyone has managed to stay well and away from COVID and the flu over the break.

With the increase in COVID cases and the flu spreading around the country in recent weeks, we have reviewed our health & safety processes for the beginning of Term 3 and have made some changes to how we will work this term. We have based this on recommendations from the Ministry of Health and Education.

We feel that with an increase in the number of reinfections of COVID, with new variants now around the country, we need to make sure we are doing all we can to keep everyone safe at school.

The majority of the processes we had in place in Term 2 will remain. Below we have outlined processes we will follow in Term 3.

Key points

- **Following recommendations from the Ministry of Health and Education, the Board of Trustees in consultation with the staff have decided to reintroduce mask wearing for staff and students in Year 4 -6 classes while they are inside. Staff and children in junior classes (Years 1-3) will be encouraged to do the same but this will not be a requirement. This will be reviewed after 4 weeks (Friday 19 August) in line with the guidance provided to us.**
- For staff and children with respiratory conditions where wearing a mask will make breathing difficult, or where mask wearing will make it difficult for teaching and learning to take place, masks will not be required. We will work with those people to make sure they are keeping themselves and others safe.
- Outside, masks are not required unless in close contact with others.
- We have a good supply of masks at school that the children can use.
- **We ask that parents, whānau and visitors wear a mask whenever they are on school grounds.**
- All children can enter and exit through the main gate on Kairimu Street. The other gates next to the hall and on Montgomery Street can also be used to enter the school in the mornings.

- Children can be picked up at any gate around the school. To avoid congestion at the front gate, children can be picked up from Montgomery Street or the gate next to the hall as they were in Term 1. Please organise with your child which gate they will be picked up from after school.
- We will continue with the following processes
 - Classroom and indoor spaces will be well ventilated during the day. We will continue to monitor air quality with the CO2 monitors provided to us.
 - We have some air purifiers that can be used to help in classrooms where we are finding the air quality is difficult to maintain.
 - Good hand hygiene, cough and sneeze practices will be encouraged and supported.
 - Hand sanitizer will be available in all areas around the school.
 - When and where appropriate, physical distancing will be used, especially when inside in larger groups.
- We are continuing to ask that if children are feeling unwell, they remain at home and parents contact school.
- If children display any signs of illness at school, we will contact parents/caregivers to come and pick them up. If they are displaying COVID-19 symptoms we may ask that siblings go home at this time too.

As we have done throughout the pandemic, we will respond and adapt to any changes in levels or that are required by the Ministry of Education.

Our current COVID Orange Light processes can be found on our school website. These are being updated regularly as more information is shared with schools. Please click here to access the information on our school website <https://koraunui.school.nz/this-is-us/covid-19/>

Ngā mihi nui

Dave Lamont
Principal
Koraunui School