



31 January 2022

1. Information for Parents

Kia ora tatou e te whānau

This is the first instalment of our Omicron, phase one protocols. Senior management met with the B.O.T. at 7.30am today to discuss / outline start of school priorities. We realise that we will be in a rapidly changing landscape and we will be ready to respond. All decisions are made with the full support of the Board.

We will likely see large numbers of community Omicron cases but thankfully with high vaccination rates, most people who get COVID-19 will have a mild to moderate illness and will fully recover at home. One of the unforeseen benefits of starting school on the last possible date is that we will get some insight into how schools that are back this week, are impacted.

Let's be clear, we are striving to keep our school open with great learning happening, in the most difficult circumstances ever faced by the New Zealand education system, except perhaps for two world wars, the Spanish Flu, the great depression and the polio epidemic. Anyway, you get the picture, previous generations prevailed and so shall we.

We know from past experience - when we were at Level Two - community support was exceptionally high-end and we are confident that with adherence to our guidelines we will have as safe an environment as possible for students and staff to continue with teaching and learning.

A few Dogma's to start off

- Schools cannot limit services or access to students or parents based on vaccination status
- Parents of New Entrants can settle their children in their class. We would hope that this practice can be scaled back around Week 3 and not be necessary after Week 4
- We ask that parents of children beyond New Entrant drop children at the gate but we can't enforce this. However, we would expect that community support for our efforts to slow down the rate of infection and keep our children and teachers safe as possible, will prevail
- We can request that parents of Year 1 and older children who feel it necessary to be on site do not come into classrooms
- Anyone coming on site must contact trace, wear masks and socially distance
- We cannot require evidence of vaccination status from a parent or child. Nor can a child be excluded from education outside the classroom (EOIC) based on vaccination status.
- Parents are free to provide us with evidence of vaccination if they choose
- Student vaccination status can be requested for school records but cannot be shared without consent

Tomorrows instalment will include information on **mask wearing** and **gatherings**.

Nga Mihi

John Wootton