



## School Update No. 11

22 May 2020

Kia ora koutou,

First week back with the majority of students returning has been very successful.

As we have had no changes in government policy the same procedures will be implemented next week.

**Arriving at school:** Arrival time is 8.45am to 9.15am.

This has been working extremely well with the nearly all students arriving after 8.45am and before 9.15pm.

Our noticings have been that there has been no congestion at the school gate with traffic flowing freely.

Leaving School at the end of the day: 2.30pm Juniors, teina and older siblings.

2.45pm the rest of the school. Again we are finding no traffic congestion.

The "Kiss and Drop and Pick Up and Go are working perfectly.

**What have we noticed during the school day:** The wairua of the school is calm. Minimal behaviour incidents have occurred. Teachers are choosing break times and there are less students in the playground at a time which may be contributing to this.

The process of learning online has continued and teachers have commented that students are more respectful, focused and motivated to be engaged in their learning.

**Continuing with Distance Learning:** If you have chosen for your children not to return to school, there is still an expectation that students are participating in learning, whether it be online or hard copy.

Our definition of engagement in learning is for children to be uploading and submitting work as it is completed; positive written feedback from parents through either a text, a phone call or messaging through the online platform in a polite, prompt, timely manner.

If your child is learning through hardcopy activities these can be returned to school for teacher feedback and more work provided. Parents can take the initiative and email the classroom teacher.

Daily attendance is recorded depending on whether students are participating online or completing hard copy learning.

**Food and Water:** All students must bring their own food to last the day as well as a full named water bottle. The drinking fountains are turned off but there is access to more water in the classrooms if students need it.

There is no sharing of food.

This is continuing next week. Don't forget that you can order school lunches on a Friday.

See the link below.

[www.lunchorders.co.nz](http://www.lunchorders.co.nz)

**Office:** Thank you parents for coming to the office with your queries and requests. The system of only one person in the office is working well. Remember for purchase no cash, it's eftpos only.

**Sickness:** If your child is sick, please keep them home and ring the absence line to let us know. If a student becomes sick at school, you will be phoned and our expectation is that someone collects them immediately.

Thank you for keeping children home when they are sick. It's a tricky time to decide whether they are too sick to attend. My advice would be to phone the health line and if you go to the doctor ask for a medical certificate to bring to school.

This is one area of anxiety for parents that I have noticed.

**Parents:** Some parents have spoken positively about not being allowed into classrooms. They have seen their children gain more independence because the children know Mum or Dad can't take them to the classroom. I have even been asked to keep this process in place long term.

**Attendance:** Today is the last day that I need to report to the Ministry of Education on daily attendance. Next week this will become a weekly report on a Friday. I understand this will continue while we are in level 2.

**Cleaning:** The teachers have commented that during this week they have been able to establish good routines with students around sanitizing and hand washing. This will continue.

**Teacher Only Day:** We had communicated that we would hold a teacher only day on the 29th May but have decided to postpone this to later in the year.

**Reports:** Yes we are going to be providing reports this term but you will be given an opportunity to have an input into writing the comment for when children were learning at home. Reports will be distributed on the 1st July.

Thank you to you all being on the "Forest LakeTeam" and keeping students and staff safe.

Ngaa mihi

**Whaea Chris**