



West Park School

Te Kura O Papa Hauāuru

Every student matters, every moment counts.

Broderick Road, Johnsonville, Wellington 6037, Phone (04) 478 7074, Fax (04) 478 7593

12 May 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

You will all be aware that yesterday the Prime Minister announced that New Zealand will move into Alert Level 2 from 11.59pm on Wednesday 13 May, and that school's will be ready to receive all students and staff back onsite from Monday the 18th of May. This was a very exciting and positive announcement for students, staff and community. School has certainly been a very strange place with the absence of large amounts of student chatter, laughter and energy.

In preparation for completely opening up the school next Monday, I have asked all staff to come to school on Friday 15 May, from 9.00-10.30am. Thus, they will not be expected to be online Friday morning but will return to their online work with your kids from 11am onwards.

In order to best plan ahead for next week we also need to know as soon as possible if there are any parents intending to keep their child/ren at home during level 2. If you are intending to keep your child/ren at home during level 2 please contact Kathy or Jo (office@westpark.school.nz) in the school office to let them know. This is incredibly important information for us to receive as soon as possible, to help us prepare for next week and beyond. Similar information is being sought from teachers, as some may need to continue to work from home.

Public Health officials have advised that schools are safe to be open at Alert Level 2, if appropriate public health control measures are put in place. The measures that we will have put in place include:

Parents are asked to keep any sick children at home. If a sick child comes to school, parents or caregivers will be contacted and asked to take their child home.

Where possible, students and staff are asked to be far enough away from each other, so that they are not breathing on, or touching each other. This will be accompanied with good hygiene practices and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces. There does not need to be a specific measurement but where practicable 1 metre can be used as a guide, particularly between adults.

- Hand sanitiser at entry to class rooms and in shared spaces.
- Soap, water and the ability to dry hands in bathrooms.
- Regular verbal and visual reminders to:
 - o wash and dry hands,
 - o cough or sneeze into tissues or their elbow and then perform hand hygiene
 - o and try to avoid touching their face.
- Reminding students to observe hygiene practices after playing with sports equipment or on playgrounds.



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- Daily cleaning and disinfecting of all high usage, hard classroom surfaces
- Maintaining a visitor's book for contact tracing purposes.
- Noting that PPE is not required or recommended as necessary in any educational facility by the Public Health Service.

The following are a range of additional questions and answers that you may also have:

- **What about children and young people who have existing conditions?**

At Alert Level 2, all students who are at greater risk of getting a severe illness from COVID-19 may come to school or continue to learn from home. We will during level 2 continue to provide distance learning to those students learning at home.

- **Do students or teachers need to wear PPE at school?**

No, however, they can if they would like to. Please note that there is Ministry of Health guidance on the correct usage of PPE. Public Health officials have advised that if these measures are in place, then personal protective equipment is not needed.

- **Can parents and caregivers come on site at Level 2?**

Yes – however physical distancing of 2 metres is recommended for parents and caregivers from people they don't know (to align with public health measures outside the school grounds). Parents and caregivers who come on site need to register their presence on the school site. That can be done either by registering at the school office or through our school app (details on this option will be emailed out later this week.). Alternatively, you could arrange to pick your child up at an agreed location. Please note that all adults will be required to register their presence on the school grounds during drop off and pick ups as well as at any other time the school grounds are entered. For at least the first couple of weeks we ask that any adults entering the school grounds do so for essential purpose, as this will help to reduce the number of people on the school grounds.

- **Can we use drinking fountains at Level 2?**

Drinking fountains can be used, however, if used incorrectly could pose a risk. Therefore, we are asking that if your child is in years 1 and 2, they bring to school one or two filled drink bottles to last them for the day. For students in years 3-6 we are also asking that they bring bottles, however, if they do use the drinking fountains, that they:

- Not place their mouth on the spout of the fountain or allow their water bottle to come into contact with the nozzle when refilling.
- Test the water flow and let the water flow for 10 seconds to allow for fresh, clean water to come through prior to drinking.
- Clean the button/lever surface before and after, using their elbow, sleeve or a tissue.
- Clean their hands with soap and water or hand sanitiser if they came into contact with the fountain directly



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- **If my child continues remote learning, will they receive the same learning content as in the classroom?**

As much as possible programmes will be the same as those in the classroom, however your child is unlikely to be working with their regular classroom teacher.

- **My child lives with people who are vulnerable, can they continue remote learning?**

Yes, distance learning will continue to be an option during alert level 2

- **What facilities of WPS will open and what won't e.g. playgrounds?**

All our school playgrounds will be open, however, our shared staffroom/ library space will not be available as a library.

- **Will the school be implementing a staggering of break times and/or start/finish times to minimise numbers of people in one space?**

Currently start and end times for school and all breaks will continue as normal.

- **With the disrupted school term and holidays, have new term dates been set?**

The Term 2 end date continues to be Friday 3 July. No changes to term 3 and 4 dates are planned. Please note that the planned Teacher Only Day on the 29th of May has now been cancelled.

- **If I suspect another child is attending school while unwell, what should I do?**

Notify the school office.

- **If my child feels quite anxious being at school, who can they talk to?**

Their classroom teacher or a trusted staff member.

- **If a child's close family, relative, or household member is sick, should they stay at home?**

Only if the child is showing symptoms, unless it is a suspected Covid-19 case, then Ministry of Health guidelines should be followed



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- **Will before and after school care still be operating?**

Our Kelly Club before and after school programme will be operating. Measures being put in place by the programme will be emailed to relevant parents by the programme coordinator later this week.

Our aim is to provide safe and sensible practices to maintain the health and safety of everyone on the school site. As described by Dr Payinda in his NZ Herald article, "Covid's not measles or chickenpox, it doesn't hang in the air for hours waiting to infect passers-by. It travels on invisible drops of spit. You don't have to cross the street to avoid anyone. Just avoid getting in their 'moist breath' zone". We all just need to remember to have some breathing space at Alert Level 2!

It's important however that not just at school but at home, safe hygiene habits are practised by everyone, as this is essential to minimise the risk that someone gets infected with Covid-19.

For more information about the public health measures at Alert Level 2, you can visit the covid19.govt.nz website:

Looking forward to seeing many lovely faces back at school next week.

Kind regards

Luis Echegaray

Principal