



COVID-19/OMICRON UPDATE 1

Sunday 23 January 2022

Kia ora Parents and whānau

Like me, I am sure you followed with interest the announcement made by the Prime Minister earlier this afternoon. You would have heard her talk about New Zealand moving to Red (Traffic Light system) from 11.59pm tonight due to the Omicron variant now being in the community.

Schools are still expected to open for the beginning of the 2022 school year, as per the dates already given to you for our school. We would like to reassure you that we are working on what this means for our students and their return to school for an 8.30am start, on Tuesday 8 February. We are following all Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education advice and guidelines to support us doing this safely for students and our staff. At this stage however, we believe we are unable to have our normal full-scale beginning of the year powhiri with whānau and friends accompanying new students, which is so gutting, and so we apologise for this now. Our powhiri therefore, is likely to be just staff and students and held outside.

Under the red light system all students and staff must also wear a face mask at all times when indoors, so please ensure your child comes to school on Day 1 with a mask. They do not need to wear this outside.

As the Prime Minister said the best way, we can continue to keep ourselves and our community safe is to be fully vaccinated. So if you are due for your booster, or still have not had the first two injections, please go and get them. I for one, along with all our staff, are fully vaccinated (and many already even boosted!), and it does my heart good to know that we are not infecting others. Please do your part too! Remember children, aged 5+ years can now be vaccinated also – so if your tamariki are not yet vaccinated please go and get that done, and as always, make sure you are wearing a mask and practicing social distancing and good hygiene practices whenever you are out in the public arena.

We are ever mindful that each family faces a unique set of circumstances, so please do take care and let us know if there is anything you need, and that we can help you with, to support you and your tamariki during this time. As always, we will continue to keep you updated as we become aware of new points to communicate to you.

Also, if you are feeling unwell get tested! A massive thank you in advance for all your support and goodwill. Keep safe!

Kia kaha and faamalosi whānau!

Ngā mihi

Iain Taylor
Principal