



Geraldine Primary

Desire to Learn, Aspire to Achieve

Whaia e koe te iti Kahurangi

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Newsletter

Week 5, Term 2

Thursday 14 May 2020

From the Principal...

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Kia ora Whanau. Ka nui te mihi ki a koutou - greetings to you all.

As we prepare to move into Alert Level 2 I'd like to acknowledge the support that you have been giving our school and your children through Levels 4 and 3. It has been seven weeks since we commenced the earlier than expected school holidays and most students have been at home for all of this time - this is longer than the summer holiday period! As a staff we are looking forward to seeing all our students and school whānau again soon.

Many of you will have heard the announcement from the Prime Minister on Monday 11 May about the change to our nationwide lockdown status from Alert Level 3 to Level 2. While the country moved to Level 2 at 11.59pm yesterday, the change in alert level will come into effect for schools on Monday 18 May. Until this time, through this week we will be operating at Level 3. Details about Level 3 have been made available to you in an earlier letter and we have recently surveyed each family about their needs this week at Level 3.

Moving from Alert Level 3 to 2 requires additional planning in order to prepare for the return of staff and students. It is expected that all students will be returning to school on 18 May, unless there is a medical reason why it would not be safe to do so. Children at a higher risk of illness from COVID-19 should stay home wherever possible. I understand that some parents and children may feel anxious as we return to school. Our main priority will be supporting student wellbeing and ensuring that they are safe.

Class groupings will reform from the start of Level 2. For those students with diagnosed immune or medical concerns who remain at home, work will be provided so that learning can be continued. This also applies if they have family members with compromised immunity or who are medically vulnerable. If parents choose to keep their children home with no significant (i.e. medical) reason, some basic distance learning work will be provided for the first week of Level 2, in order to transition students back to school.

We will have a range of hygiene procedures in place to reduce the risk of infection. Cleaning of surfaces will be increased at Level 2, as will the number of cleaners we will have at school each day. For us, this means that we will allocate additional hours for cleaning during the school day, as well as after school.

Students and staff will need to sanitise hands before entering and leaving classrooms, with regular washing or sanitising through the day. Sanitiser stations will be made available at the entrance to classrooms. Additional disinfectant/cloth will be available in classrooms for children and staff to sanitise spaces throughout the school day as required.

There is no bubble concept at Alert Level 2 so there are no restrictions on groups of students mixing with others on site. Physical distancing however continues to be a valuable precaution to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Children, young people and staff should be far enough away from each other so that they are not in the 'moist breath zone', breathing on, or touching each other. This will be coupled with good hygiene practices and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.

Normal bus services will resume on Monday 18 May.

Parents are asked to keep any sick children at home. If a sick child comes to school, or becomes sick during the day, like always we will phone you and arrange for your child to be collected. Anyone who shows symptoms of Covid-19 should phone Healthline or their GP to ascertain whether a Covid-19 swab needs to be done. They should then wait on the results before returning to school.

Parents / caregivers may come onto school grounds, however you will not be permitted inside classrooms at L2. If entering the school grounds, you will be required to deliver and collect your child(ren) from classrooms. In this case, parents / caregivers will need to sign a contact tracing register, which will be located outside their child's class. Parents should bring their own pen to sign the register. If you have more than one child at GPS, you only need to sign one register.

Parents should drop off and collect their children as quickly as possible and not linger. Drop off will not be before 8.30am. If parents are collecting students, this should be done at 2.30pm, to avoid congestion at the end of the day. Students who walk or cycle independently or bus home will leave at 2.45pm as usual. All parents and whānau should model safe physical distancing when entering and leaving or when inside the grounds.

It is highly preferable that contact with the school office at Level 2 is done by phone or email. If you need to enter the school office, please stand well back from the front desk with no more than two people on the public side of the desk. Please use the main entrance, not the staff door by Room 1 or the door at the back of the admin block. You will be required to sign a contact tracing register if you enter the school office.

There will be no Friday sausage sizzle, Parkside Dairy or Subway orders for the week beginning 18 May. This will be reviewed for the following week.

Our Teacher Development Day scheduled for Friday 22 May has been postponed. A new date will be advised. The 3 Way Conferences that were postponed in the early stages of Covid-19 have been re-scheduled to 24 and 25 June. We will let you know when bookings are open.

*As we prepare for a move to Alert Level 2, I ask that parents contact your child(ren)'s teacher(s) by email if your child(ren) **won't** be at school from Monday 18 May. Please also include the reason for this. I ask that you do this by 9am Friday 15 May. We will presume all other students will be back at school on Monday 18 May. If you have any queries, please feel to contact your child's teacher or me directly - phone 693 8208 / principal@geraldine.school.nz .*

Kia kaha, kia toa, kia manawanui – be strong, be bold, be steadfast.

*Andrew Leverton
Principal*

Calendar

Please check each newsletter for further updates.

Term 2

Week 6

Monday 18 May School re-opens at Alert Level 2

Week 7

Wednesday 27 May Board of Trustees Meeting, 6pm

Week 8

Monday 1 June Queens Birthday – school closed

Week 11

Wednesday 24 June 3 Way Conferences from 12.45pm. Classes stop 12.15pm

Thursday 25 June 3 Way Conferences from 3pm

Friday 26 June Mufti Day for Geraldine Social Worker Trust

Week 12

Friday 3 July Term 2 ends

Term 3

Monday 20 July – Friday 25 September

Term 4

Monday 12 October – Tuesday 15 December

Teacher Development Day Tuesday 27 October