

**KIA ORA FROM KYRAN** 

### Kia ora e te whānau o te kura Kahurangi.

Kei aku nui, kei aku rahi, tēnā koutou katoa i roto i ngā āhuatanga o te wā. Welcome back after what we hope has been a wonderful summer for your whānau. A special welcome also to our new learners and their whānau who join us this year.

Our team is feeling refreshed and ready to go for the 2022 year and can't wait to welcome our tamariki back on Tuesday. Over the past few weeks we've been back preparing for their arrival and participating in professional development, as well as getting to know our new team members.

This year we've welcomed several new staff, and there are a few changes to teachers' class levels and roles. Follow <u>this link</u> to our website which introduces our 2022 team and tells you a little about everyone. Email addresses are also included with their bio if you wish to get hold of them.

If you've forgotten who your tamariki's teacher is this year please don't be afraid to email or give us a call on Monday.

#### A few reminders for our first day

- Children start back on Tuesday 1 February.
- School starts at 8:50am. It's helpful for your tamariki and the teachers when children are at school before the bell.
- We have different end of day bell times during Covid-19 times. See Early Finish for Senior Students for more information.
- Year 4-8 children need to wear a mask (see Masks for more information).
- Our tamariki can access sunblock at lunchtime. Please have them apply some before they come to school too.
- In Term 1 all children need to wear sun hats (or caps) to be able to play freely in the playground.
- We provide school stationery. As a free school, this is one of our commitments to whanau.

#### Getting ready to return to school

The Ministry of Education has some helpful information on their <u>Parents and Whānau website</u> to support your tamariki to get back to school. There is also a very important reminder about how you can take <u>care of yourself</u>.

Our school counsellor Leah Cooper thought whānau with children feeling a little anxious might find this link useful.

Our Kahurangi team is here to help. Please get in touch with one of us that you feel comfortable approaching. If they're unable to help they'll do their best to link you with someone who can.

While all this information and our protocols might feel a little overwhelming, we know these measures will keep us as safe as possible and enable school to remain open. If you have concerns about any of the information in this newsletter please contact myself or your child's teacher.

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I look forward to seeing your tamariki and you very soon!

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Kyran Smith | Principal

### **Important information Covid-19 matters**

You will be aware that there have been some big developments in regards to Covid-19. Now we have moved fully into the new traffic light framework under the Red setting, there are some necessary changes to the health measures we have in place for our school to operate safely. Above all it is good to know we are able to support everyone to learn at school.

Over the next pages I share some 'new' safety measures along with some 'old' safety measures that will be continued. I'm afraid there's a massive amount of information for you to digest so I've tried hard to include only the most important points and to keep it as brief as possible.

#### **Events and activities** [New information]

Large hui and gatherings (such as assemblies, mihi whakatau, waka hui) especially when indoors continue to be one of the riskier activities we can undertake. While under Red sadly we won't be having these activities.

To make up for this teachers will be incorporating a 'Celebration Time' every Friday afternoon into their classroom programme. This way our tamariki won't miss out on the things they love about these occasions.

#### Ventilation [New information]

We will use the Ministry of Education self-assessment tool to review all our ventilation in readiness for the start of the year. Providing good old fashioned fresh air remains the most important thing we can do in our learning spaces to minimise risk for ākonga and kaiako (and the same goes for you at home). We will also receive a CO2 monitor to further support our ventilation plan.

#### Omicron and testing [New information]

We have seen very large case numbers overseas. We will very likely see larger case numbers in Aotearoa than we have experienced in the last two years. While Omicron is more transmissible than previous strains, most people who

get Covid-19 will have a mild to moderate illness and fully recover in their own home. However, some of our tamariki, whānau and community who are immune compromised, are ill, or have other vulnerabilities, even when they are fully vaccinated, could be more affected by Omicron. Kahurangi is absolutely committed to playing our part to minimise the spread of the virus.

In regard to testing, the health system currently has capacity to process 40,000 PCR tests a day. PCR testing is the most accurate test for Covid-19 and will continue to be used while New Zealand is in the stamp-it-out phase. Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) will begin to be used more widely over time. They are not as accurate as PCR tests and this means that some people who do have Covid-19 will get a negative test result back. There are currently 4.6 million RATs in the country and 10s of millions on order. If you are symptomatic or need to be tested to access a workplace or service, you will be guided at the time on which test is best for you.

#### Masks [New information]

All staff, visitors to the school, along with children in Year 4-8 must wear face coverings inside school when we are at Red as required by the Ministries of Health and Education.



If you do not wish your Year 4-8 child/ren to wear a mask for medical reasons we ask that you seek an exemption from their doctor.

If an adult insists on not wearing a mask we cannot allow you past our reception area and will be suggesting that we converse over the phone or online (google meet or zoom).

Health advice is that an appropriate face covering will fit snugly and seal well around facial contours. This can include single use, disposable masks (medical masks) and reusable fabric masks with three layers. Bandanas, scarves or teeshirts pulled up over the mouth and nose are no longer acceptable to be used in the settings which require masks to be worn. The Unite Against Covid-19 website also has information on how to make a face covering.

For those of you with children who might be reluctant to wear a face covering, there is some <u>helpful advice</u> <u>from Michigan Health</u>, including using simple, specific explanations about why they need to wear a face covering (as they do a sunhat and sunblock), adults being the role models, or letting them choose the mask.

### Masks donated by Kahurangi Friends [New information]



We are grateful to Kahurangi Friends for

providing us with enough cloth masks to give one each to all our Year 4-8 tamariki who would like one. These will be offered to students in the first week back at school. We won't have enough on the first day so please send your child with their own if you are able to.

# Vaccination for five to 11 year olds [New information]

Vaccination, including a booster shot, remains an important tool to help prevent the most serious harm from the Covid-19 virus. If children and young adults who have been vaccinated do develop Covid-19, they are far less likely to get seriously ill and less likely to transmit the virus to others.

The free five to 11 year old vaccination programme is now underway and more than 100,000 children in New Zealand have had their first dose.

There is some helpful information available to support you on the <u>Unite Against COVID-19 website</u> including <u>How to</u> <u>book a vaccine for your five – 11 year old</u> and some great videos on the Kids Health page that can support you to talk to your tamariki about the Covid-19 vaccine.

# Managing cases in our school [New information]

We will follow the Ministry of Health's contact tracing system. This means if a confirmed case has been at school while infectious, we can quickly identify who was a close contact of that person. We will quickly advise those contacts about what they need to do. It's incredibly important that we have your correct contact details. Only if the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Education advises us to do so, would we close the school and move to distance learning for everyone. At Red we will keep everyone learning onsite for as long as we can.

# Please ensure we have your correct contact details

Please make sure your correct contact phone numbers, email and residential address details are up to date and correct so we can get in touch with you if necessary. Please phone or email the office to update us, or if you wish to check the details we have for you.

#### Preparing for Covid-19 [New information]

You can also prepare for Covid-19 by making sure you and your household have a plan and know what to do. This will mean your whānau and community can help each other if needed. Find out more here:

- Be prepared for COVID-19
- Download the COVID-19 Readiness Checklist [PDF, 121 KB]
- What to expect when self-isolating at home

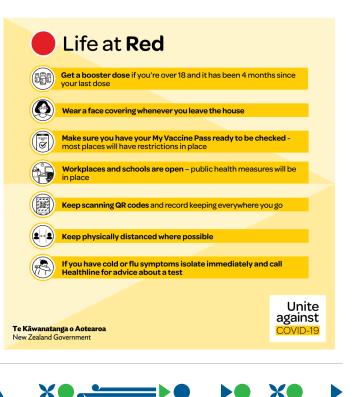
### Self-isolating at home because of Covid-19 [New information]

Many people will be able to manage self-isolation with help from friends and whānau, but there is help available if you need it – with health support and access to food and other essentials.

- What to expect when self-isolating at home | Unite against COVID-19 (covid19.govt.nz)
- <u>Getting extra support if you have COVID-19 or are self-</u> isolating | Unite against COVID-19 (covid19.govt.nz)
- <u>COVID-19 positive managing your symptoms | Health</u> <u>Navigator NZ</u>

If you know anyone in your community affected by Covid-19 who may need help, such as food and other financial assistance, Work and Income has a range of supports available for individuals, families, employers and self-employed people affected by COVID-19.

Our school social worker, Kathryn Gray is more than happy to support you to access the above support. She may also be able to link you with support beyond this. Follow <u>this link</u> for her contact information.



## Work and Income support [New information]

The beginning of the year can be a tough time for parents who are faced with many costs and it is important you are aware of what assistance you may be able to get from Work and Income. These are available to people on a low income as well as those on a benefit.

#### Check what you might get here;

- School costs
- Out of School Care and Recreation (OSCAR) Subsidy
- Other Childcare Assistance
- School and Year Start-up Payment (for people getting Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit)
- <u>Help with living costs</u> (including food and rent/ mortgage)

Use the links above or call 0800 559009 to find out more, or to apply.

MoneyTalks can assist with <u>free budgeting and debt help</u>. You can also contact your local community provider. <u>Please</u> <u>find more information here</u>.

### What if your child is required to self isolate or they can't come to school [New information]

If your child is not able to come to school for a period of time (5+ days) due to having to isolate or something else to do with Covid-19 we will want to provide them with some learning to complete while at home. It will look different to previous years.

We still need more time to get this learning organised but in the meantime please contact Kyran if your child/ren fit into this category.

### We're requesting whānau don't come on-site unless they really need to or unless you have a child in our Year 0-1 classes [Updated]

This is a particularly difficult one for us because you know we really appreciate and value parents and whānau coming on-site and into classrooms. However, to avoid congestion and facilitate physical distancing we prefer you to say goodbye to your children in your car or outside the school grounds without coming onto our grounds.

If you have a child in one of our Year 0-1 classes we're comfortable with you entering as long as you keep your

distance from other children, wear a face mask and stay for a short period of time.

The reason for this is that we are required to track and trace every single adult that comes onto our property as well as not allowing them to get close to other children. This would be extremely hard to do especially if there are a lot of people entering and leaving.

If you do need to come onto our school grounds you must enter through the main entry, wear a mask, scan and sign in at the office and then be given permission.

# Physical distancing remains a good precaution [Updated]

In Red, staff and children are to give one another space but are not required to maintain a 1 or 2 metre physical distance.

### Stay home if sick and get tested [Updated]

We cannot have tamariki or staff at school who are sick. If you, your child or someone in your household has <u>COVID-19</u> <u>symptoms</u> get a Covid-19 test and remain at home until a negative result is received and they are symptom free for 24 hours.

Our school staff have been instructed if children are displaying signs of being unwell they are not to remain in class. They will be sent to the office staff who will contact whānau to pick them up. We will also request you contact your GP or Healthline.

# Classes will not be mixing [New information]

We will be keeping classes of children apart, however, they will be allowed to play with each other when outside.

# Maintaining good hygiene practice will be promoted and focused on

Coughing and sneezing into your elbow, hand-washing and sanitising are going to be very important. Hand sanitising

will be heavily used as the number of basins we have would make regular hand-washing an impossible task. In saying this, hand-washing and drying will be essential when using the bathroom.





# Children need to bring a clearly named water bottle [Updated]



Water fountains will remain open but we request that each child brings a clearly named water bottle. We remind children not to share water bottles. During this time we also strongly discourage children from sharing food.

# Hand sanitiser at entry points and in classrooms

When entering a space or eating we will request that everyone uses hand sanitiser. With 280 children handwashing facilities are limited. If your child can't use hand sanitiser please contact their teacher or the office.

### Increased cleaning of frequently touched surfaces



While under the Red setting there will be regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces (tables, door handles) rather than just the usual once a day. Teachers will involve the children in this where they are old enough and willing.

Shared supplies and equipment are able to be used

Our tamariki will be hand sanitising regularly which allows this to be safe.

# Early finish for Senior students (Years 4-8) and their siblings

To ease congestion at the end of the day we will release our older children at 2:50pm. Older siblings are to collect their junior siblings when they are released.

We send our older children home first as we are concerned our little ones just might wander off without their older sibling/s or before their whānau arrives.

# Our grounds and play equipment are closed immediately after school

We have been advised that we should be trying to stop people from congregating. We're sorry about this one as we know you enjoy this time connecting with one another.

Whānau and children are welcome to come back and use the grounds after 3:30pm or in the weekends.

### We will ask and remind but we won't demand



Our team will give reminders and share our expectations but we won't get into a position where we are in conflict. We ask that you please respect the position we are in and our desire to keep all our children, staff, whānau and community safe.

### After School Sports [New information]

What we know so far;

**Floorball** is going ahead for all ages. 12+ year olds have to have a vaccine pass. 12+ year olds wear masks when not active on the court.

**Minipolo and Waterpolo** competitions are going ahead as normal. 12+ year olds have to have a vaccine pass. Spectators may be limited.

Junior Netball - nothing has come through about this yet.

Touch rugby - nothing has come through about this yet.

These code registrations close on the 8th, 10th and 11th of February so information will be coming home about these sports in the early days of school starting. Please complete your child's registration promptly.

**Important to note;** School coaches and team managers are now required to have vaccine passes. We know this will limit the number of teams we can enter so if you are vaccinated please consider volunteering for a sport your children want to participate in, especially if you've not done so before. This year our staff will be coordinating these sports but won't be in a position to coach or manage teams. They have a lot of extra responsibilities due to having to support children who are learning on site as well as children who are required to be learning from home.

### School bus services [Updated]

Year 4-8 children are now required to wear face masks on the school bus and busses we charter for trips.

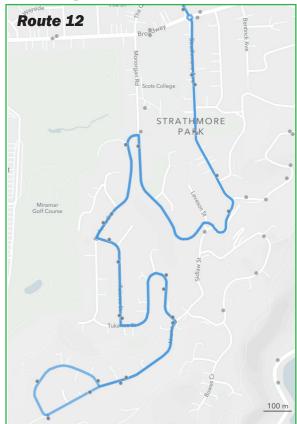
If your child travels on the school bus please ensure they understand physical distancing requirements and hygiene requirements. The front door of the bus will be used for entry and exiting, as 'normal'. Metlink also wants you to know it is not the bus driver's responsibility to maintain or supervise physical distancing on board the bus.

Our bus routes can be found on the next page.

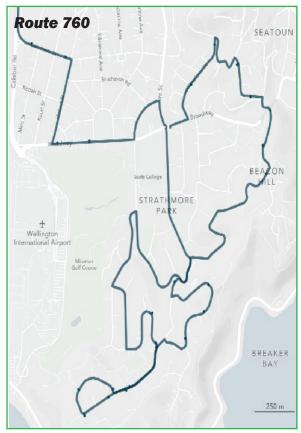


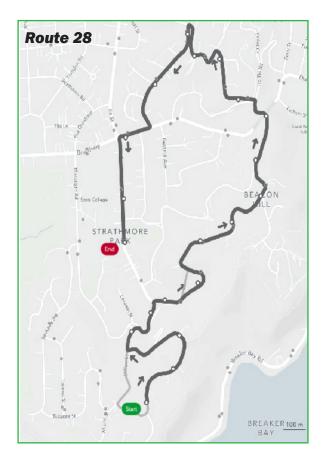
### School Bus routes starting tomorrow (9.9.21)

#### Morning



### Afternoon





#### **MORNING ROUTES**

**Public Route 12** services from Strathmore Park (which follows the same route as the Route 780 school bus) will stop at Kahurangi School to drop off students who have come from Ahuriri, Tukanae and Raukawa Streets. <u>Metlink Route 12</u>

**Public Route 28** will serve students from Sidlaw Street which will start on Sidlaw Street at 8.30am, which will then terminate at Kahurangi School. <u>Metlink Route 28</u>

#### **AFTERNOON ROUTES**

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**Route 760** Strathmore Park and Beacon Hill will depart Kahurangi School at 3.08pm on its way through from Evans Bay Intermediate School. <u>Metlink Route 760</u>

Maps of these routes can be found by following the blue links above or visiting the Metlink site.

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