

## **WELCOME STUDENTS AND WHĀNAU ON THEIR RETURN TO SCHOOL**

It is hoped that all students will return to school on Monday 18th May. This document will help you to support them to transition back smoothly and happily.

I would like to thank you all for the commitment and dedication you have shown to your students over the last 6 weeks.

There is a range of information included here. Please ensure you read it carefully and choose the parts that are most useful to you and your classroom.

## **SUPPORT STUDENT WELLBEING**

Some families will be anxious about their children returning to school, while others will be excited. For students it will set off a flurry of feelings. Anxious feelings and feeling scared are normal responses to abnormal situations and can be expected during times of transition or change.

For some families/whānau and children, the transition back to school will be more difficult. These children may appear quiet or withdrawn, nervy and giggly. Some might cry, be clingy or get angry. Expect the unexpected, your calm response and delight at seeing everyone back and together again can make a significant difference.

Be assured, even though children will have a range of reactions, most will settle over time as routines are re-established. Reactions will settle as children begin to feel safe; they know and practice routines such as entering the class and handwashing. When their families are reassured of their safety, children can focus on learning with their peers.

### **As school starts:**

Talk with children, parents, and whānau about the positive aspects of being back together, what you are all looking forward to. Keep in mind that wellbeing needs to be addressed before teaching and learning will happen.

### **Classroom and learning activities:**

- Learning experiences at home will have been varied. Focus on where children are at today, new activities will support their engagement.
- When talking about children's individual experiences, avoid putting them on the spot. Invite them to share when they are ready.
- Be patient, listen. Distracting children from things they find distressing can be appropriate. Acknowledge their sadness, fear or anxiety but gently move on to another activity.

- Focus on what we are doing to stay safe and how everyone is working together to help each other, rather than telling children that what we went through will never happen again. Children and young people need to hear about positive action. This will provide inspiration and hope for their future.
- Have fun. Playing a game, designing an activity together, re-reading a favourite story or watching a video clip can help lift the mood. Children need to know that in the midst of uncertainty there is still happiness and hope.
- Games, physical challenges, and getting outdoors can release energy and tension as well as provide a break from indoor activities.

Take time to check in with your colleagues, look after yourself and each other as you develop your resources. Build in times during the days, weeks, and months ahead to keep checking in on each other.

A series of wellbeing guides have been developed by Julie McCormack (Clinical Psychologist) with support from Future Curious Limited and funding from the Ministry of Education. These have been included in a folder for you to access. Here is the link to the third module - [Preparing For And Returning to School](#).

The last guide has only been included. If you wish to access the others they are free online. Just Google Julie McCormack.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES

The following health and safety measures need to be explained to your children. The poster (thanks Jayne) should be displayed in the classroom to support your instructions. It is essential that we are extremely vigilant in monitoring distancing and hand washing.

- **Physical Distancing** - It is acknowledged that physical distancing is not always practical in schools. For our school, it means that children and staff maintain a physical distance so that they are not breathing on or touching each other - 'if you can smell someone's breath, you are too close.'
- **Unwell Children** - any unwell children need to be referred to the office as soon as possible. Alicia is well resourced and will triage them as required. In most cases parents will be rung to pick them up as soon as possible.
- **Germ Busters** - older students will come around and ensure desks and high risk areas are cleaned. Please find the roster [here](#).
- **Hand Sanitiser** - it is essential that you encourage your students to use hand sanitiser as frequently as possible, especially upon entry into the classroom. Safe hygiene practices are the essential element in defeating Covid-19.
- **Drinking Fountains** - all drinking fountains will remain closed for the foreseeable future. Please ensure all students are reminded to bring a drink bottle.
- **General Hygiene** - please remind/re-teach students about the importance of:
  - sneezing and coughing into elbows
  - regular and thorough hand washing
- **Covid Practices** - guidelines for school wide rules have been printed and delivered to all classrooms. Please refer to these regularly. You can find the poster [here](#).

## WHĀNAU SIGNING IN

All whānau need to sign in, in order to access the school. Signing in can take a range of forms.

- At the school gate (8.30am-9am & 2.45pm-3.10pm). There will be three ways to sign in - QR code that is linked to a Google Form (thanks Chris), photograph taken by senior management and uploaded and then added to a database, and finally, written down. Emphasising the use of the QR code with parents would be great as this is the most efficient and simple method.
- At the school office. During the day parents and visitors can sign in and all three sign in methods are available at the office.

It is absolutely unacceptable for any adults to be within the school grounds unless they are signed in.

## STAFF ROOM

The staff room is only available for making tea, coffee and lunch preparation. This is not the place to sit and talk. If you wish to talk to a colleague please get your food and drink and find a place outside or in a classroom. It is up to us to limit the contact and keep our groups as small as possible.

## STUDENTS WHO CHOOSE NOT TO COME INTO SCHOOL

It is envisaged that many students, or whānau, may choose not to come, or send their children to school. This may be for two reasons:

- Parents wish to monitor the situation for the next week or two and see how things pan out (this is acceptable but will mean online learning must be provided - more information coming out about this)
- Children are considered 'at risk' from catching Covid-19 due to an underlying health issue. Parents will be directed to contact their GP and/or health specialist to get written confirmation

## ONLINE LEARNING PROVISION

Online learning will continue during Alert Level 2. Once the roll has been taken on Monday we will tally up the number of students who are at home for either of the two reasons previously mentioned (at risk, monitoring the situation). Our wonderful LSCs and support teachers will touch base with these families and support them to transition to school or provide online learning. A format for online learning has been developed. [A link is provided here.](#) There has also been an additional section added to the website to cater for Level 2 'at home' learners.



**PLEASE CHECK IN**



For updates and more information on keeping yourself safe, visit [Covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)

New Zealand Government

**Unite  
against  
COVID-19**

S\_STOP\_1\_2020

LSS HOME LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

ONLINE



LEVEL 2

Online Learning from 18th May

## **WELLBEING LUNCH**

The school will provide two wellbeing lunches. A Google form went out today and this will be followed up by an order form on Monday. Please encourage your child to return the form as soon as possible. Once you have it please enter it into the Google Form online. [Link here.](#)

- Friday 22nd May - all students will be able to opt into a pizza lunch. Only a 'cheese' pizza flavour will be offered, and students can select one or two slices
- Friday 29th May - a sausage sizzle lunch. Each child will be able to opt in and can choose one or two sausages

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

I wish to convey the thoughts of your board of trustees who have been extremely impressed with the quality of support and commitment that our staff have provided during the pandemic. In light of this they wish to show their thanks by providing staff drinks. This will take place after school in Te Tipu on Friday 22nd May. Your attendance would be most appreciated.

In addition to this the board will provide a pizza lunch. Laura will touch base with regard to the types of pizzas available.

**HAVE A GREAT  
weekend!**

**see YOU ALL on  
MONDAY!**

Covid-19 update

**LYTTON  
STREET**