

MOVE TO ALERT LEVEL 2 & THE WIDER REOPENING OF LYTTON STREET SCHOOL

All at Lytton Street School are looking forward to hopefully welcoming back our wonderful students and their families in the near future. Staff are excited to be returning to teaching and learning at school, and are eagerly planning for this.

I would like to extend a huge thank you for the commitment, enthusiasm and expertise our families have demonstrated as they have sought to manage their own busy lives, businesses, and work commitments as well as their children's learning. Well done to you all.

This update provides the details regarding our move to Alert Level 2.

There is a lot of information here so have a good read, and be sure to email or contact me should you require anything further.

WHEN WILL SCHOOL REOPEN FOR ALL STUDENTS?

Our school will reopen for all tamariki and staff at **Alert Level 2**. This will take place on Monday 18th May 2020. Normal school times will be in operation.

Below are a range of questions that you, as parents, may be pondering.

IS IT SAFE TO RETURN TO SCHOOL?

Advice from the Prime Minister and Ministry of Education is that, at Alert Level 2,

“Schools are open for all children and students to attend and it is safe to do so.”

Schools will continue to follow good hygiene and safety practices, such as:

- hand washing with soap for at least 20 seconds
- use of hand sanitiser on exit and entry to classrooms
- coughing/sneezing into own elbow
- encouraging students not to touch their face and each other

CAN I KEEP MY CHILD AT HOME IF I'M UNSURE ABOUT LEVEL 2?

The advice we have is that at Level 2, school is safe for all children and staff to return.

WHAT IF MY CHILD FEELS UNWELL AT HOME OR SCHOOL?

Just like before Lockdown, if your child feels unwell while at home, please do not send them to school. Similarly, if your child displays cold/flu-like symptoms at school, we will ring you to come and collect them.

CAN MY CHILD USE THE PLAYGROUND AND SPORTS EQUIPMENT?

Yes, your child will be allowed on the playgrounds and can use sports equipment. However, they will be required to sanitise their hands on entry back into class.

WILL PHYSICAL DISTANCING BE REQUIRED IN SCHOOLS?

Where possible, physical distancing is a good precaution. However, 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.'

CAN I COME INTO SCHOOL TO DROP OFF AND PICK UP MY CHILD?

At this early stage, we do ask that children are dropped off outside the school gates from 8.30am, and that whānau do not come onto the school grounds. From the school gates, children can walk into school. We will have staff at the school gates to support this. Please be aware that every person entering the school grounds needs to be recorded on a Contact Tracing register. If you require access to the school grounds you need to provide ID that can be photographed for school records, at the school entrance gates.

At the completion of the school day parents are able to meet their children outside of the school grounds. Please make arrangements with your child so they know where to expect you.

These guidelines are designed to ensure we do not have a large number of people on the school grounds.

Please Note:

- Children will be released from class at 3.00pm, there will be no early finishing/pick up.
- If at any time through the day you need to collect your child (e.g., for a doctor's appointment), you will need to come into the **office** to sign your child out. We will ring your child's class and ask them to meet you at the office. We will also need to add you to our Contact Tracing Register and photograph your ID.
- If your child is late to school, your child will need to enter school via the Monmouth Street entrance and sign in at the office.

WHAT CLEANING MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN?

We will be following the cleaning advice from the Ministry of Health. That is, regular cleaning of frequent use areas, such as door handles and push plates. Every day, all surfaces and toilets will be cleaned thoroughly.

CAN MY CHILD USE THE DRINKING FOUNTAINS?

No, your child will not be able to use the drinking fountains. All children will need their own water bottle at school.

WHAT DO I DO WITH THE SCHOOL DEVICE THAT WAS SENT/DELIVERED TO ME?

Your child will need to bring the device and charger back to school and return it to their class teacher. These need to be returned on the first day back at school.

SO SCHOOL BEGINS...

I would like to acknowledge that this is an extremely exciting time for your children. It has been a long and strange time without regular interaction with their peers. As parents and caregivers, you have done an amazing job caring for your children and ensuring that they complete some learning whilst they have been at home. This is hugely appreciated and I completely understand the pressures that families have been under.

Now is the time to trust in the advice from our government. To date, their management of the Covid-19 crisis has received acclaim the world over. Actions and decisions have been well presented and based on fact - the reopening of schools is a continuation of this.

I wanted to pay tribute to the outstanding teaching staff that we have at Lytton Street. Staff - including our support staff, have been instrumental in ensuring the Lytton Street machine rolls, even when our people are at home across many different sites. Our staff have been prompt, creative, often humorous, and always dedicated in their desire to get as much learning completed as possible. My thanks to you all.

I can tell you now that we have an excited bunch of staff keen to get back to school and even more keen to see all your tamariki and work alongside them once more.

I am convinced that school is a safe place for our kids. It is up to us, as staff, parents and the wider community to follow the rules and ensure we keep it this way.

I wish to thank you all in advance for your positivity, enthusiasm and the diligence you have shown to both your child's learning, and the fight against Covid-19. Everyone has played a vital role in our successful fight against this virus.

Stay safe, stay strong, and be vigilant.

Warmest regards
Ben Ward-Smith.