



## **St Pius X School New Plymouth**

### **Return to Alert Level 2 – 9 September 2021**

#### **Information for Parents, Caregivers and Children**

7 September 2021

Yesterday the Prime Minister advised that New Zealand, beyond the northern and southern boundaries of Auckland, is moving to Alert Level 2. **This means a return to school for all students from Thursday 9th September.**

#### **General School Information**

##### **School Devices**

All school devices and chargers that were loaned to families **must** be returned to school on Thursday. Can you please remember to package these back into the packaging they were sent to you in, for our track and trace purposes. Please ask your child to place them in the box in the office when they arrive at school so that they can be cleaned and checked.

##### **Staff Update**

Tania Dowd, Rickard's class teacher, is having surgery this week and will then be recovering at home until the end of Term 3. During Tania's absence, the teaching responsibilities in Rickard will be shared by Karen Maclean and Deb Johnston. Karen and Deb will continue with their current job responsibilities. Please keep Tania in your thoughts and prayers.

**What St Pius X School looks like at Alert Level 2.** *Please note that these procedures have been developed with the safety of staff and students in mind. Under Alert Level 2 we will continue to follow the guidelines and advice set out by the Ministry of Education and Health.*

##### **Classrooms**

- Hand sanitiser will be provided in every learning space. Hand sanitiser stations will be set up at a designated entry/exit of each classroom and students and staff will use this as they enter or exit a room.
- Additional disinfectant/wipes will be available in classrooms for children and teachers to sanitise spaces throughout the school day as required.
- Contacting teachers is best through email again at this stage.
- If you need to drop anything into school or your child, please do this through the office.

### **At Pick-Up & Drop-Off**

- Under Alert Level 2 **parents and caregivers will not be allowed inside** the school buildings. We wish to encourage a drop-off and pick-up only approach to restrict the number of **'adults on-site'**. Where possible there should be one person designated for pick-up and drop-off. Please be respectful of this. **Ideally you should have arrangements in place for your children so you do not need to enter the school grounds at all.**
- Parents must maintain 2m distancing from other parents and children. Be aware of this when waiting at the crossing/going through the gates, etc.
- Students will not be allowed to enter the grounds or buildings before 8:15am.
- Do not stay in the grounds at the beginning or end of the day. Do not stay with children after school to 'play'. Please do not congregate at the end of the day. All families and children should have left the school by 3.10pm.

### **Class Numbers - Distancing**

- There is no 'class bubble concept' at Alert Level 2 so there are no restrictions on groups of students mixing with others on-site.
- Break times will be as normal.
- Children and staff should be far enough away from each other so that they are not breathing on or touching each other.

### **In The Playground**

- Physical education classes and break time activities can include access to sports equipment including playgrounds. Students will complete hand sanitation after using shared equipment.
- The drinking fountain has been turned off. **Students will all need a named drink bottle at school.**

### **Managing Attendance / Contact Tracing:**

- Students and staff will not attend school if they are unwell. Students and staff who become unwell during the school day are required to be sent home. If people are sick, they must stay home (phone Healthline or their GP and get tested if they have flu-like symptoms).
- Use the App to notify the school if a student is not attending school - please include a detailed reason.
- In school our contact tracing is a combination of timetable, attendance register and visitor register. These provide good information to health authorities if they need to contact people that might be considered a close contact of a confirmed case, and determine whether they will need to self-isolate. The Government Covid 19 APP QR Code is displayed at the office and you will need to scan this with the Covid 19 Tracer app or through the Covid 19 Check-in on the School app, if you are needing to be on the School grounds at any time.
- During Level 2, parents are not allowed to enter buildings to limit the track and trace practicalities and responsibilities. **Parents will ideally have arrangements in place so they do not enter the grounds at all.**

- All parents who have to enter the grounds must 'check-in' filling out the contact tracing sheets provided or the school app and/or using our QR code provided

### **Cleaning & Hygiene**

- Students and staff will use hand sanitiser when entering and exiting learning spaces and before and after break times.
- Cleaners will complete daily cleans in line with the Ministry of Health guidelines.
- At Alert Level 2 we will continue to follow good hygiene practices (coughing into elbows, handwashing / sanitiser and drying hands).
- **Face Masks** - Our latest information from the Ministry of Health states that they are not compulsory in Primary Schools as they are often worn inappropriately and can add to the levels of transmission rather than reducing it. It is at your discretion to have your child wear a mask at school or not.
- **Face coverings are not mandated for use when in schools.** Where an individual chooses to use a face covering they should supply and wear their own, and [to do so safely](#).

### **Gatherings/Visits/ Sport**

School gatherings can include groups of more than 100, but:

- We will follow the guidance of local sporting codes on organised sport and keep the community updated with any announcements.
- We will err on the side of caution with events so that the health and wellbeing of our students and community is placed at the top of any decision making.
- Assemblies, school prayer and class masses are on hold.
- **Cross Country** will not go ahead this coming Friday as planned. The NP Cross Country has been postponed under Level 2. We will advise further as to whether we will hold our school cross event at a later date.
- **Learning Conferences** - our teacher only day scheduled for Friday 24 September has now been cancelled. Teachers have been busy writing reports during the lockdown time and will complete any assessments needed for reporting over the next 10 days. We are planning to hold Learning Conferences on Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 September from 2.30pm - 7.30pm if Alert Level 2 restrictions allow. Further details of this to follow.

I look forward to welcoming all students back to school on Thursday morning.

God bless

Anna Wormald  
Principal