



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

### **Term 4 update**

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

18 October 2021

**School will remain at Alert Level 2 for the start of Term 4.** We will keep you updated with any changes to Alert Levels and to any specific school guidelines around COVID-19 when they are made available to us.

#### **General School Information**

##### **Staff Update**

Congratulations to Megan Careswell-King who has accepted a position with Te Ataarangi as a teacher of Te Reo Māori for 2022. Megan is really looking forward to this new challenge where she will be able to grow her own knowledge of Te Reo Māori whilst also supporting others on their journey. Megan's job has been advertised in the Education Gazette with an appointment scheduled to be made in November.

As you are all aware Tania Dowd, Rickard's class teacher, was absent from school for the last 3 ½ weeks of Term 3 as a result of surgery. I can now share with you that Tania was diagnosed with breast cancer just prior to our lockdown last term. Tania has undergone surgery and will be undergoing further treatment during Term 4. It is uncertain at this stage as to Tania's work commitments for the term. After the first treatment she will have a better idea of that.

##### **Term 4 Events**

There are a number of events planned for Term 4 that may or may not take place due to COVID-19 Alert level restrictions. Sadly, that is the nature of where things are at in our country at the moment. As always, we will be following the Ministry of Education and Health Guidelines.

Our **school photos** take place on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October and will be available for you to view and order OnLine with PhotoLife Studios.

Your child/ren will bring home an OnLine slip with their unique Access Key detailed on it. This Access Key will display all the photographs of your child. It is then an easy process for you to shop OnLine and purchase the photographs you want.

If you place your order within the two weeks of receiving your Access Key you will receive free delivery for your photo orders. PhotoLife has agreed to dispatch all the orders back to the school and your child will bring their photographs home.

Any orders placed after this two-week period will be sent directly to your specified delivery address and will incur a \$6.00 postage and packing charge. You will see this message when you go Online to view and order your photographs.

Sibling photo forms will be available from the school office from 18<sup>th</sup> October, Day 1 of Term 4. These can be sent home on request.

Our first planned event is **Mission Shop Day** to be held on **Friday 29 October**. This event will go ahead but unless there is a change to Alert Levels, it will only be for our students with no additional whānau and friends. You will receive a notice this week with details about Mission Shop Day.

### **A reminder of 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/grounds.**
- We wish to encourage a drop-off and pick-up only approach to restrict the number of **'adults on-site'**. **Ideally you should have arrangements in place for your children so you do not need to enter the school grounds at all.** Please be aware that our very newest students or some of our students with additional needs may need some extra parental support.
- Parents must maintain 1-2m 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.

#### **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. Contact e.g. tackling games are not to be played.
- Children and staff should be far enough away from each other so that they are not breathing on or touching each other.
- We have been advised by the Ministry of Education that masks are not required at schools at Alert Levels 2 and 3.

#### **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.
- For this reason 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.**

### **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).
- We have had no updates on the use of face masks at this time – we will update the community when we have any further information.

**E te Atua e manaaki ki a koutou katoa**

**May God Bless you all**

**Anna**