

Returning to School next week.

We are delighted to be able to welcome our tamariki back onsite under Alert Level 3 from next Wednesday 17 November.

We know learning is the best option for children and young people. It's important for them to connect with their friends and teachers and it helps their social, physical and emotional wellbeing.

We will welcome all our students this Wednesday. We have looked at our numbers and we are confident that we can provide a safe learning environment for our students. We are able to ventilate our classrooms and practise physical distancing.

Piwakawaka does have two classes in it but it also has sliding doors on both sides that go out onto the decks which extends the classroom considerably. Not only does it provide plenty of ventilation but we are also able to have physical distancing. The children will be in their homegroups and work with one teacher.

Tara Iti will split into Year 5 and year 6 with Year 5 going to the old room 4.

The new entrants will go to the library. The rest of the classes will be as is.

Year 8 will be in Tui and Year 7 will be in Hoiho. We want our Year 8 students to be able to spend their last weeks at St Pius together.

Children in Years 4 to 8 are to wear masks as mandated by the Ministry of Health when indoors.

Bubble School will continue Monday and Tuesday.

To avoid congestion in the carpark the other change we are making is when the children are to be picked up after school. Years 1-3 will **need** to be picked up at 2:30. The teachers will bring them down to the carpark. If they have an older sibling they are to wait in the car until they are joined by their sibling. Years 4 to 8 are to be picked up at the usual time of 2:45.

At the end of this letter I have put the general health advice which our school will be putting into practise. Again this is to ensure we can make our learning environment as safe as possible for the children.

I realise that some of you will not feel comfortable sending your children to school until the level changes and I understand this. However, it would be helpful for our planning if you could let me know as soon as possible principal@stpius.school.nz if you are keeping your child/ren at home. We will ensure that your child will continue to receive on-line learning.

We look forward to welcoming back the children on Wednesday

Jane Rutherford

Summary of general health measures we will be employing at St Pius X Catholic School

- Parents **are not** to come on to the school site during drop-offs and pick-ups.
- Parents should wear face coverings when dropping off and picking up students from school and remain distanced from the school as much as possible.
- Visitors, including parents and caregivers, should maintain a two-metre distance from those who are not part of their household bubble.
- All visitors and parents who need to come to the office will be admitted to reception on a case by case basis.
- Any child displaying symptoms will need to be picked up immediately.
- We will take all practicable measures to ventilate our classroom spaces.
- Face coverings are required to be worn inside for Years 4 to 8 along with any staff members working to provide support for these students.
- Face coverings are not required to be worn in schools by staff or students, for Years 1 to 3.
- Lunch times and Breaktimes will be separate Years 1-3 10:15 to 10:40 Years 4-8 10:45 to 11:10 Lunchtime Years 1-3 12:00 to 12:45 and Years 4-8 12:45 to 1:30.
- There will be designated play areas for class groups each day.
- Cleaning: All surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected daily.
- We will not be holding our usual assemblies, prize-giving or performances. These will take on alternative formats that are appropriate to each occasion.
- No events will be going ahead during Level 3. E.g Outdoor education and camp