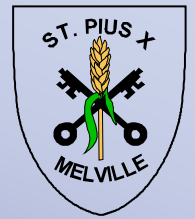


St Pius X Catholic School

Te Kura O Hato Paea

Newsletter #1



*To Learn Love
To Learn Wisdom
The Way We Are*

Tuesday 1st February 2022

Week 1 Term 1



Welcome back

Welcome back after what we hope has been a wonderful summer for your whānau.

We are looking forward to welcoming back our students for the 2022 year.

In regard to COVID-19 we have moved fully into the new traffic light framework for our school. We have amended our safety plan to ensure all of the health measures for the changing face of Covid are included.

We are asking you to once again drop your child at the gate, the teachers will be in their classrooms to welcome your child. For those new to the school you are welcome to bring your child down. Please come to the office and we will take you and your child to the classroom. We ask you to wear a mask and keep your distance from others and not stay for too long.

Ventilation: We have used the Ministry of Education self-assessment tool to review all our ventilation in readiness for the start of the year. Providing good old fashioned fresh air remains the most important thing we can do in our learning spaces to minimise risk for our students. We will also be receiving a CO₂ monitor in the coming weeks to further support our ventilation plan.

Omicron and testing: We have all seen the very large numbers of cases overseas and we will very likely see much larger numbers of cases in Aotearoa than we have previously experienced in the last two years. While Omicron is more transmissible than previous strains, most people who get COVID-19 will have a mild to moderate illness and will fully recover in their own home.

Sickness: If you or your child are symptomatic you must not come to school. Symptomatic people need to be tested and call Healthline, go to the Covid-19 website or your GP clinic will guide you through the process appropriate to your situation. If we notice that your child is unwell, we will contact you and ask that you collect your child from school.

Face coverings: The big difference is that staff and children in Years 4 – 13 must wear face coverings when inside at school when we are at Red.

Public health advice is that an appropriate face covering will fit snugly and seal well around facial contours.

This can include single use, disposable masks (medical masks) and re-usable fabric masks with three layers.

Don't worry if you don't have these specific types of face coverings, as public health experts also say that any face covering is better than no face covering.

The Unite Against COVID-19 website also has information on [how to make a face covering](#).

For those of you with children who might be reluctant to wear a face covering, there is some [helpful advice from Michigan Health](#), including using simple, specific explanations about why they need to wear a face covering, adults being the role models, providing small rewards for wearing them, bringing face coverings into play such as drawing face coverings based on characters in colouring books, or letting them choose/ make the mask.

Vaccination for five- to 11-year-olds: Vaccination, including a booster shot, remains an important tool to help prevent the most serious harm from the COVID-19 virus. If children and young adults who have been vaccinated do develop COVID-19, they are far less likely to get seriously ill and less likely to transmit the virus to others.

The free five- to 11-year-old vaccination programme is now underway and more than 100,000 children in New Zealand have had their first dose.

There is some helpful information available to support you on the [Unite Against COVID-19 website](#) including [How to book a vaccine for your five – 11 year old](#) and [some great videos](#) on the Kids Health page that can support you to talk to your tamariki about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Managing cases in our school: We have a good contact tracing system in place so that if there is a confirmed case who has been at school while infectious, we can quickly identify who was a close contact of that person. We will then quickly advise those contacts of what they need to do.

Only if the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Education advises to do so, would we consider closing a physical onsite school and moving to distance learning for everyone. At Red we will keep everyone learning onsite for as long as we can.

Please make sure your contact details we have on file are up to date, so we can get in touch with you if needed.

Getting ready to return to school: The Ministry of Education has some helpful information on their [Parents and Whānau website](#) to support your tamariki to get back to school. There is also a very important reminder about how you can [take care of yourself](#).

While this might all feel a little overwhelming at times, we know that all these measures will help our children return to school, reconnect with whānau and friends and do what they enjoy.

We are also here to help. Please get in touch if you have any concerns or need help in any way. principal@stpius.school.nz or info@stpius.school.nz

Jane Rutherford
Principal