



Wednesday 13th May 2020

RE: Opening School and Moving to Level 2

Dear Parents and Caregivers

On Monday Prime Minister Jacinda Arden announced that we will be moving to Alert Level 2. This means that school will once again be **open for face-to-face learning on Monday 18th May**. As a school staff and Board, we are excited about your child/ren returning to learning on-site and enjoying all the learning and fun things that this entails.

We know there is a lot of information below, however **we need you to read it all** and be ready to follow all the Health and Safety requirements of Alert Level 2.

NO ZOOM THURSDAY 14th and FRIDAY 15th

Teachers will be onsite, learning about level 2 parameters doing the final preparation needed for school starting. Therefore there will be no Zoom meetings tomorrow and Friday.

LOW RISK

The Ministries of Education and Health have classified schools at Level 2 as **low risk** based on their research of COVID-19. However, this does not mean that we will take anything for granted and “act as normal”. We will have a “new normal” as we will be following all recommendations about Health and Safety set out for schools in Level 2.

Please be assured that we will continue to work with the Ministries of Education and Health, and if this changes we will let you know and take immediate steps to ensure everyone’s safety.

IMMUNOCOMPROMISED CHILDREN

As a school we have been classified as low risk, however, if your child is immunocompromised you will need to make an informed decision about their return. Please talk with your doctor who has specific information about your child and the current Ministry of Health recommendations. If your child needs to remain at home please notify our office and your child’s teacher so we can continue to provide remote learning.

CHILDREN REMAINING AT HOME IN LEVEL 2

We understand that a small group of parents may choose this option due to a high-risk immunocompromised child/family member and a doctor has recommended this. **If you decide to keep your child/ren at home in Level 2** please notify our office and your child’s teacher as soon as possible. From here we can work with you to continue distance learning and ensure we comply with off-site attendance requirements with the Ministry of Education. Please be aware that distance learning in Level 2 will be different than Levels 3 and 4, as teachers are working with their class on-site eg: No daily Zoom meetings, work set for longer periods of time or hard-pack learning packs sent out.

SOCIAL DISTANCING - CHILDREN AND STAFF

There is no “1m or 2m” social distancing during the day for children and staff, as the Ministries of Education and Health realise that children will struggle in schools to adhere to this as they learn and play with each other.

Social distancing for children and staff is **staying out of immediate moist breath proximity** and giving other’s more “personal space”. In addition to this we will have a higher level of hygiene practices in place eg: actively teaching, supervising and reminding children to wash hands before/after play/ entering and exiting a class, coughing into your elbow, wiping down

high touch surfaces multiple times during the day, one child at a time in the toilet area, hand sanitizing, increased school cleaning systems etc.

COMING ON-SITE AND SOCIAL DISTANCING - ADULTS AND FAMILY

When picking up/dropping off children we are required to contact trace **everyone coming on site** therefore please arrange alternative pick up/drop off points **outside the school** for your child. If you need to come in....(eg: to pick up/drop off young New Entrant children or new children) then..

ONLY COME INTO OUR SCHOOL GROUNDS IF YOU ABSOLUTELY NEED TO AND SIGN IN AT STATIONS BY THE GATE

You will need to follow the instructions at the station for hand sanitising.

- There will be no access into classrooms for parents unless your child is a New Entrant, a newly enrolled child starting school or your child is upset and the teacher asks you to help settle them into the class.
- Please do not gather outside classes in large groups - stay 2m apart
- Arrive just prior to bell times and leave straight away.

GATE ACCESS TO SCHOOL SITE

The school grounds will open at 8.00am until 3.30pm each day (longer only if you attend on-site after school care).

Access gates in the morning and afternoon will be

- Main gate by the office on East Street. (Open all day)
- Gate beside the hall on East Street. (Closed between 9am-2.45)
- Gate beside Rooms 5 and 6 on Reading Street. (Closed between 9am-2.45)

All other gates will be locked due to contact tracing recording requirements.

Any adults entering during the day and/or leaving with children early must be signed in and out via the office as the other gates will be locked.

CHILDREN UNWELL

If your child is **unwell for any reason** then they need to **stay at home**. They can return once they are symptom-free. Any children who are showing symptoms of being unwell at school will be sent home so please ensure you have support at home if this is required.

SCHOOL HYGIENE

As a school, we have increased our daily cleaning regimes and put other procedures in place to increase and monitor regular handwashing and hygiene practices for staff and students. Please take time to talk to your child about coughing into their armpits, throwing their tissues away after blowing their nose, toilet hygiene etc. We will be reinforcing these at school too.

PLAYGROUND

Thanks to the team at Wash Rite our playgrounds will be getting a thorough bacterial clean before opening up to ensure we are taking every precaution we can. From here Mr Gain will be treating them once a week with a regular bacterial spray to maintain them. This is not a ministry requirement but a choice by our board and leadership team to ensure we are providing safe playing areas for our children.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Please make sure that you have given our office up to date information about emergency contacts (phone numbers, emails, work contacts, address).

SCHOOL BUSES

School buses and local transport will be running in Level 2 with hygiene systems in place which will be set out by the bus company. Our bus controller will give drivers a list of children on the bus for contact tracing purposes.

NO SCHOOL LUNCHES

No school lunches will be available to buy at the office until further notice.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

All of these will be limited to the children on-site and will be undertaken in different ways eg: Zoom Online Assemblies in classrooms

DRINKING FOUNTAINS CLOSED

Please ensure that your child has a named drink bottle at school as drinking fountains at this stage will remain closed for hygiene reasons.

SETTLING KIDS BACK INTO SCHOOL

On returning back to school our children will have a wide range of emotions from being excited to others being anxious. Our focus in the first few weeks of school starting back will be to ensure our children are happy and healthy. We will provide additional pastoral and well-being care, re-establish learning routines, teaching and encouraging good hygiene practices, increase the frequency of PE lessons, outside quick breaks and most of all having fun being together.

RETURNING SCHOOL DEVICES -

If your child has borrowed a school device over Alert Levels 3 and 4 please return these with their chargers to Miss O'Connor's office on Monday 18th April; as we need to process these and get them back into classrooms for use.

FINALLY

On behalf of our staff and Board of Trustees, we would like to thank our community for their support during this time and helping us to keep our children and families as safe as possible. We look forward to once again seeing you all return back to school.

Yours sincerely

Patrice O'Connor
Principal of Greytown School

Jane Cooper
Board Chairperson of Greytown School