



22 July 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers

### **Masking up for the start of Term 3**

In previous years we have found there is an increase in winter illnesses in schools at the start of Term 3 as students bring back infections after travelling and socialising during the holidays. This year cases of COVID-19 are increasing in most parts of the country, and we are also seeing high numbers of other winter illnesses.

For the start of Term 3, 2022, the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health **strongly recommend that all schools and kura amend their mask policy for the first four weeks of term to require mask wearing in all indoor settings (where it will not have a significant impact on teaching and learning – see below) for students in Years 4 and above**. In light of this, the Board of Trustees at Greytown School are endorsing this strong recommendation to wear masks for staff and students from Year 4-8 while at school. We also recommend that parents who come into school wear a mask when entering the office or classrooms.

This recommendation does not include any situation where mask wearing might not be practicable, such as while eating and drinking, playing certain musical instruments, indoor sport, where it will have a significant impact on teaching and learning (for example, students with particular learning needs), certain activities such as singing or drama performance on stage, and PE. In these situations, particular attention should be paid to ensuring there is good ventilation during the activity, and physical distancing where practicable.

Wearing masks can reduce new cases of the virus by as much as 53%. It works alongside other measures including vaccination, good ventilation, staying home when sick, and hand washing and other hygiene measures, to protect our students and staff.

[Keep up healthy habits – Unite Against COVID-19](#)

We have a good supply of masks at school, so students will have easy access to masks at all times. Masks will be available both at the office and in classrooms.

Thank you for your support in protecting our school community.

Yours sincerely

Paula Weston & Jane Cooper

