



Huia Range School

Cole Street
Dannevirke

Phone 06 374 6444
Mobile 027 781 2224

14th May, 2020

Huia Range School Alert Level 2

Kia ora e te whanau,

We are all looking forward to seeing our tamariki back at school on Monday (18th May). Our school is following the guidelines provided by the Ministry of Education and the Health Ministry to ensure the safety of our staff and students. Please respect these conditions.

Background

School will start on Monday at 9.00am and finish at 3.00pm. Teachers are currently planning and preparing for the return of our children. We have heard that many of our children are very excited about returning and are looking forward to seeing and playing with their friends, talking to their teachers and doing some of the every day school things that they have been missing.

We have also heard that many of their parents, grandparents and caregivers are also really, really, really looking forward to their children returning to school. We would like to acknowledge what a tremendous job you have all done in looking after and 'teaching' your children at home over the last 7 weeks. Thank you all for your hard mahi and for keeping your children safe so we can all safely move back to a slightly more 'normal' life.

Students must follow the requirements set out for Health and Safety:

Wash hands and sanitise regularly (good hygiene). Always on leaving and arriving in any room, including the toilets and before and after eating..

No sharing food or drink (especially drink bottles)

Sneeze or cough into elbow

Stay home if sick (ring/text/email the school by 9.00am)

Any tamariki or adult that comes to school sick will be sent straight home.

Follow the Classroom and Canteen rules

If you arrive after 9.00am collect a "Late Note" from the office and make sure the teacher sees it.

IF STUDENTS DO NOT COMPLY WITH THESE REGULATIONS, THEY MAY BE SENT HOME.

Hygiene

Hugely important and at the base of most things we do.

Classroom cleaning - disinfectant and paper towels will be stationed in every room.

Door handles, desk tops, and other hard surfaces will be disinfected every night and more often if the teacher chooses.

Hand sanitisers are available in every classroom and must be used every time a child or adult enters and leaves the room.

Hand washing routines will be retaught and practised and used as needed

Children and staff should be far enough away so they are not breathing on or touching each other.

Children will have their own desk and chair or 'space' and these will not be shared

Children may only use their designated toilets and must hand sanitise on leaving their class and returning.

Children will not be moving between classrooms for basic facts, phonics or other programmes.

Reading books will not be sent home for at least the next 2 weeks.

No toys or games of any sort are to be brought to school (including teddy bears, etc)

School Buses

Our school buses start running again on Monday and the requirements from the Ministry of Education are that children use the hand sanitiser as they get on and off the bus and that they do not sit in seats close to the driver. There is no distancing required as the drivers will know who is on their bus, on every run.

Children before school drop off and after school pick up

Children may be dropped off at the main school entrance between 8.30am and 8.55am.

The main school gate is the only entrance that may be used, except for the Room 16 boys who may use the electronic gate by the dental clinic, if they do not have a younger child with them.

No child may be at school before 8.30am

I have asked staff to keep the school side of Cole Street clear for parents to be able to easily and quickly drop off and pick up children.

At the end of the day classes are staggering release times from 2.50pm until 3.10pm to avoid crowds at the school gate..

Our Room 1 and 2 children will be walked out to the main entrance at 2.50pm, with any older siblings, and their teachers will remain with them until they are picked up.

All other teachers will inform you, through class dojo, of the planned time for their class to be released from their class.

Siblings that walk or bike home together will be asked to organise a 'safe' meeting place in the school, away from the main entrance. They will then collect their bikes/scooters and go home together.

All children must leave the school grounds by 3.10pm

Visitors and Parents

There are only allowed to be 10 parents or visitors at school at any time.

Because of this requirement **no parents** may come into the school.

Any parent wanting to come into school must ring or text (06 374 6444 or 027 781 2224) for permission. If permission is given, they must use the QR code on the main door to provide the contact tracing that is compulsory for every and all visitors.

If lunches need to be dropped off, they must be put in a named bag or container and put in the blue box on the main doorstep. (Ring or text Suzie as you drop them off)

The main school door will be locked at 9.00am. Parents of any child arriving late must ring so the door is opened for them.

The only gate that may be used to enter the school is the main school gate (except for room 16 boys)

The aim is to reduce the number of extra adults on site to keep children, staff and families safe and to make contact tracing easier.

Food and Drink

Children are expected to bring their lunch and morning tea to school every day and parents may not deliver lunches to classrooms (drop the outside office please).

Children may not share food at school.

Milk - we have enough milk to give to children as usual on Tuesday through to Friday.

Fruit in Schools - it was disappointing today to hear that this wonderful programme is not starting next week. We are waiting to hear when it will restart and will inform parents as soon as we know.

Breakfast Club - we need a little bit of time to reorganise this programme and put safety plans in place. There will be no breakfast club next week (we also need to restock milk, weetbix and bread before we can start). A start date will be in the school newsletter.

Water - drinking fountains will be cleaned before school but we would prefer our tamariki to **bring their own named water bottle.**

Canteen - this reopens next week and will run as usual on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. There may be some options not available to begin with, but should be right by the following week.

Orders need to be completed and put in an envelope/ziplock bag, with the correct amount of money - change will not be available.

Parents will not be able to visit or place orders at the canteen.

Break and lunch times

To avoid a large number of children together in the playground and to ensure distancing is observed, classes will be having very different break and lunch times. We also recognise an hour break to play and eat lunch would be very difficult for everybody.

So classes have paired up and will do these times together with 2 adults supervising. Different areas will be used at different times - concrete, field, adventure playgrounds, under room 15 tree, etc, with no more than the same 2 classes in each area.

The 2 classrooms will have 3 or 4 breaks every day (always at the same time) for a total of one and a half hours.

The playgrounds will be spray disinfected every morning (this is not a requirement, but we have decided to do it!) and children may only play on them if they have hand sanitised before playing and again as soon as they return to the classroom.

School Devices

Please return these to school with our children on Monday or some classes will struggle with their continuing learning. Please return them to your desk and they will be collected and cleaned before being returned to the class and children that usually use them.

Staff

While we have been in Alert Levels 3 and 4 Jo Brown has been quite ill (nothing to do with Covid19!!). We are really pleased to hear that she is recovering well and is hoping to return to her class and children.

If any children/parents would like to make a 'Get Well' card I will ensure they are delivered to her and that would definitely help cheer her up. Jo's husband has requested no visitors at this point and we would ask that parents respect Jo's privacy and allow her to recover well.

In the meantime Kat Easton has been delivering the online learning and has offered to work in the *Moon shooters* class (Room 11) until Jo is able to return. We are very grateful for Kat stepping in and supporting this class. This will also help the continuity of their learning.

Diann Thompson (Room 9) had a knee replacement last week and is back on her feet and exercising appropriately and hoping to be back at school in a few weeks time. Meantime she will continue online learning for her class.

Room 9 children will be working in groups of 2, 3 or 4 in another classroom until Diann returns. They will be supported at school, with their learning by supported by Vivienne Dagleish and Eru Rautahi.

School Activities

All school activities can resume, except sport for the next two weeks. Everyone is wondering about sport, as are we. The decision on this will be made by the Regional Sporting Codes. We will update you as soon as we know but again groups are limited to 10 at this stage, and that includes the coaches and players. We will update you as soon as we know more.

Please do not ask our staff, because at this stage, they do not know anything more than you do

Advice for parents and whānau about preparing for Alert Level 2

This website has been suggested by the Ministry of Education should you wish to check it out. URL: <https://parents.education.govt.nz/essential-information/news-stories/covid-19-preparing-for-alert-level-2/>

What an incredibly long and exhausting list. However it is necessary to keep every child, staff member and your families safe. Please be respectful and uphold these requirements so everyone remains safe.

Kia kaha

Ngā mihi nui

Robyn Forsyth
Principal