



Newsletter

02 February 2022

www.stheliers.school.nz

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Tēnā koutou kātoa

I trust that you all had an enjoyable long anniversary weekend. At school we are busy this week preparing for the students' return. I am sure the children are as excited as we are that we all start next Tuesday. We have had parents picking up uniforms and quite a number of students enrolling this week. We have continued to refine our health and safety plan following Ministry of Education advice. The information around mask wearing and vaccinations is provided as a template, written by the Ministry of Education, for schools to use to communicate with their school community. This is so that all 2,536 schools in New Zealand are getting the same message. Although specifically intended for School Leaders, these bulletins and templates are publicly available: <https://bit.ly/MOEBulletins>

Here is a little more on the health and safety measures we are taking. For information sent out in previous newsletters then please refer to the school website:

<https://www.stheliers.school.nz/en/day-to-day/newsletters>

Gate Drop offs and Pickups

Please refer to the letter sent out on 28 January for the pickup and drop off information. This will be important for the first day of school.

Distanced Breaks

We will be staggering morning tea and lunch breaks and there will be separate eating play areas for each year group. There are opportunities for classes to have regular mask breaks outside and when possible classes may choose to learn outside from time to time without a mask.

Handwashing and Hygiene

We will be reminding everyone at school to follow basic regular hygiene measures.

- § Washing hands regularly with soap
- § Sanitising when entering and leaving the class
- § Sanitising before and after handling your mask
- § The correct way to blow your nose, cough and sneeze
- § Avoiding touching your face, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean

Masks

Staff and children in Years 4 – 8 must wear masks when inside at school when we are at Red level. Masks are not required for staff and children in Years 1 - 3 although they may choose to wear these. Children will need to bring their own mask and it should be well fitting.

There will be some students who are unable to wear a mask and have a medical exemption that has been provided to the school. Please talk to your children so they understand it is acceptable for one of their classmates not to be wearing a mask and treat them with respect. The school supports these students and their family.

Managing Cases in our School

The health and wellbeing of our children, staff and school community is a top priority. If we are notified there is a confirmed COVID-19 case in our school community, we would immediately work to identify who is a close or causal contact of the confirmed case. In all situations we will keep you informed and the necessary steps to take.

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

Managing Teaching and Learning in our School

The education of your child(ren) is important to us, and we are prepared in the event that learning at school is compromised by COVID-19.

Children with complex medical needs and students who are required to isolate for short periods of time will receive a hardpack to support their learning. These hardpacks have been designed by classroom teachers. These would be provided contactlessly by the school office.

For classes who are self-isolating for longer periods of time the teacher will provide online distance learning as soon as she/he is able to.

If the teacher is required to self-isolate at home and the class does not, then another teacher will teach the class.

Parents who choose to keep their children at home when face to face learning is available will not be provided with hardpacks or distance learning. Parents will need to arrange their own child's learning.

Boosters

Staff are in the process of having their booster vaccination shot once they are eligible. This is now required and is another way the school is working to keep children safe.

Please make contact with us should you have any questions. Phone the school office on **09 575 8311** or email to secretary@stheliers.school.nz

On Friday I will send out a short message ahead of Waitangi Long weekend and the start of school.

Noho ora mai

Sean Valvoi
Principal