



PUHINUI SCHOOL

Covid-19

Welcome Back Level 2 Newsletter



18 May 2020

Newsletter No. 10/2020

Dear Parents, Caregivers & Whānau,

Welcome, Nau mai, Haere mai! Today has been an exciting day for us as students and teachers began Term 2, Level 2 back at school learning. As educators learning is naturally our key focus, however, these first few days, our initial goal will be about establishing safe hygiene routines to help us manage Covid-19 at Level 2, and reestablishing expectations for learning. For students a big part of today is not about learning, or about Covid-19. Today is particularly about friendships and enjoying the social aspects of education with their fellow primary school peers. Teachers have been briefed on the health and hygiene routines and the expectations of keeping everyone well in Level 2. Let's hope the amazing progress we have made as a country now continues in Level 2.

HEALTH AND SAFETY: You will be aware we continue to take our guidance from the Ministry of Education (MOE) and the Ministry of Health (MoH). This week in preparation for all students returning to school, we have completed and also continue to manage a number of tasks to ensure all health and safety measures are in place for staff and children. The teaching staff had a briefing last week and this morning our support staff were also briefed on health and safety measures. A key part of our safety plan is around the fundamental hygiene practices of washing hands, sanitizing, wiping surfaces and coughing and sneezing into elbows, and staying home when you are unwell. Please continue to support these practices with your children at home too.

MORNING DROP OFF ROUTINES: Parents please note, due to Level 2 tracing guidelines we are asking that students arrive at school around 8.20 a.m. and before 8.45 a.m. Our school gates will not open in the morning until 8 a.m. We would also like to ask that you stay outside our school gates when you drop your child off in the morning. This will make it easier for us to know who is on our school grounds and it will be an added safety precaution for the children too. Although we would prefer that parents stay outside the gates, we do understand that some parents, particularly parents of junior children may still wish to come through the gates. Although not our preferred preference, if you do come on to our school grounds please make sure you sign the tracing register books we have stationed just inside the school gates. Please use the sanitiser before entering your details in the book. We will monitor how our first few days go and if need be we will look at adjusting beginning of day routines.

AFTER SCHOOL PICK UPS: Parents please note that as with morning drop offs we ask that when you pick your child up at the end of the day you wait outside the school gates. The school gates will be locked until 2.45 p.m. to help us manage people on site. For parents who do come onto the school grounds, please ensure you sign the register book just inside the school gates. The more parents who are able to stay outside of the school grounds the safer the students will be. Please talk to your children about a waiting place so they know where you will wait for them. We will monitor how our first few days go and if need be we will look at adjusting end of day routines. Let's hope that we work together to make this busy time of the day successful for everyone. A reminder to also pick-up children promptly after 3 p.m. It is not possible for us to care for students after school as staff members are busy in meetings, marking learning, preparing and planning for lessons. Please talk with SKiDS, our before and after school carers who are there for parents who need to arrange after school care.

RETURNING OF DEVICES TO SCHOOL: For the families that received a digital device from the school over the lockdown period we ask that these be returned from Monday 18th May and during our first week back at school in Level 2. We hope the devices have helped your child and we look forward to having them back at school so we can continue to work with devices in our school programmes. Please return the device and chargers to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

REMINDER STUDENTS TO BRING WATER FROM HOME: We encourage each child to please bring water bottles from home each day. Our water fountains will remain closed for at least the first few weeks of school.

NO LUNCH ORDERS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE: Our normal Monday and Friday lunch orders will be temporarily suspended until further notice. This is in relation to food and health guidelines and ensuring we are able to follow good processes while we settle into Level 2 learning at school.

SICK CHILDREN: Please remember if your child is sick we ask you to keep them at home and if you could also phone the office on 2788703 or freephone 0800 167 919 to let us know that would be appreciated. If a child arrives at school or becomes unwell at school we will ring home and request they are collected and taken home to recuperate. Please remember the advice from the Ministry of Health: *Stay at home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention. Follow the directions of your local health authority.*

CONGRATULATIONS PARENTS AND WHANAU: On behalf of the BOT and the Puhinui staff we would like to say thank you to our school families. The positive respect and support for our educators and school systems has helped us make more informed decisions and deliver better outcomes for students during this extraordinary time. Let's continue to work together as we hopefully move further and further into ordinary life in the coming days, weeks and months.

SCHOOL HOURS: School will operate at normal times from Monday 18th May. We ask that students arrive before 8.40 a.m. in the morning to give them time to play before the bell rings for the start of school at 8.50 a.m. Please make sure your child does not arrive at school before 8 a.m. in the morning, unless they are going to SKiDS in the Tech Room. Morning tea will be at the usual time of 10.50 a.m. and lunch at 12.40 p.m. The school day will end at 3 p.m. Please ensure you collect your child promptly at 3 p.m. A reminder, we encourage you to park on the back streets around the school and walk to pick-up your child, or arrange for them to meet you at the same place each day near where you park. Parents are allowed on site, and if you could practice safe, social distancing and wait away from the classrooms please.

SKiDS OPEN: SKiDs are now open for before and after school care. Please contact SKiDS if you would like to make arrangements for care and you are not one of their regular families. To contact SKiDS, **ring Becca at 0800 754 377. Text 022 473 0281 or email SKiDs at puhinui@skids.co.nz.** Please see our website for more information.

WELCOME MRS GINA SAY: We welcome a new member of staff to the team this term. Mrs Say will be teaching in Room 25. She takes over from Miss Chapman. We wish her all the best and we look forward to working with her at Puhinui School and getting to know her better over the next few terms. Mrs Say, it is lovely to have you as part of the team.

PLAY, SPORT AND CULTURAL GROUPS: During breaks our playgrounds will be open for play. We will resume our normal sports training and cultural practices at Level 2. We will operate almost as normal as possible in every respect apart from school assemblies and mass gatherings, which will continue to be postponed for at least the next few weeks.

SCHOOL UNIFORM: Angels Fashions Uniform shop is open in Alert Level 2, Monday to Friday 8.30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

FAMILY SUPPORT: During this time we hope that families are coping well, however, if your family is struggling to feed the family please don't hesitate to contact us. We have several organisations that have offered to support families with food essentials. Please email Mrs Borrie our learning support coordinator who will pass your details onto one of the organisations. Mrs Borrie's contact email is: lorraine@puhinui.school.nz

TESTING FOR COVID 19: There are community based assessment centres (CBACs) across the Auckland region where you can get assessed and tested for COVID-19. You only need to have ONE of the below symptoms to be tested:

Cough	Sore throat	Runny nose	Shortness of breath
Loss of smell	Fever		

If you do not have any symptoms, you will not need to be tested. If you're unsure if you need to be tested, call your family doctor or phone Healthline on 0800 358 5453.

Thank you parents, we hope your whānau remains well.