



# PUHINUI SCHOOL

## Term 4 Return To School Newsletter



16 November 2021

Newsletter No. 23/2021

Dear Parents, Caregivers & Whānau,

*Tomorrow (Wednesday 17th November) we welcome back students who will return to school. Please read this newsletter carefully and thank you for your continuous support during this time.*

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION!!!**

#### **Puhinui school at Alert Level 3, Step 2**

**RETURNING TO SCHOOL:** Please be aware that we have organised the school around the feedback we have had from parents who responded to the google form sent out last Friday. We used this information to get an understanding on how we can support our community and your children here at school. We appreciate that a large number of our whanau need the school to be available and open while you manage your family work life expectations.

This week we are taking a flexible approach to return to school. All classes will be open and teachers will be planning learning tasks for the week. To help us, we would like to continue encouraging parents to wherever possible stagger attendance at school. For example, if you have someone at home to care for your children please take the opportunity to keep them at home. If possible the more consistent this is the better for us.

Many parents have responded to how many days their tamariki will be attending school for the remainder of the year. Some have said 5 days a week, some 4 days, some 3 days, some 2 days and some have said that their children will not be returning until 2022. We are happy for you to make the decision that best suits your family. All we ask is that you continue to work with us as we manage learning at school and if the plans change please let us know.

At the end of this week we will assess how things are going and this may mean we adjust our approach to students on site. We are working to be as flexible as possible, but please appreciate and support us if we do formalise staggering of students. If we do so, it will be to ensure the students are kept as safe as possible within the school environment.

Please be aware that if we do have any cases of Covid-19 that the school will be directed under the support of the Ministry of Health and will be instructed on the appropriate actions needing to be taken. This may include the school closing if we have any direct Covid-19 cases.

**DROPPING CHILDREN OFF:** Each morning, we ask that students arrive at school between 8.20 a.m. and 8.50 a.m. We may have some students that need to arrive a little earlier. If so please ensure this is not before 8 a.m. The gates will not open until 8 a.m. We ask that parents do not enter the school in the morning. Please say goodbye to your tamariki at the gate. Children will go directly to their classrooms and wait outside, their teacher will direct them into their classes.

**PICK UP ROUTINES:** When you are picking up your child and you enter the school for the end of day, please sign in using the Covid QR tracing code. If picking up your child through the day, please come to the office and wait while your child is collected and brought up to you. During the day the gates will be locked. If you wish to enter the school please use the front driveway gate (Puhinui Road entrance). You may need to push the button on the keypad to notify the office. They will then open the gate for you. At the end of the day when collecting your child please remain outside the classroom, 2 metres apart and at a distance from the classrooms. Your child will be sent to you. There are spaces outside each classroom to wait. A reminder, the Junior School children will be dismissed at 2.30 p.m, as well as their siblings. The Middle and Senior School students will be dismissed at 3 p.m.

**JUNIORS AND SIBLINGS 2.30 p.m. DAILY PICK UP:** Please be aware that Junior students and their siblings will have a shorter day at school. This is to help us manage the end of day pick-up routines and to limit the number of people on site at any one time. Please make sure you have planned for the pick-up of

your child at 2.30 p.m. if they are in the junior school. As mentioned this also includes any siblings of junior students who will also be dismissed at 2.30 p.m. Please talk to your children about the end of day plan.

**MANDATORY MASKS FOR YEAR 4 - YEAR 6 STUDENTS:** The Ministry of Health has instructed schools to ensure all children from Years 4 to Years 6 wear masks in classrooms. Please provide your child with a mask. For students who are New Entrants through to Year 3 it is a parent's choice if they would like their children to wear a mask at school.

**HATS:** Please remember to send your child's hat with them for the remainder of the term.

**NO AFTER SCHOOL CARE:** Please note that while we are at our current level, there will be no SKiDS after school care.

**NO LUNCH ORDERING:** While we are at our current level, we are unable to have lunch ordering on Mondays and Fridays.

**ON LINE LEARNING:** For students who are not attending school, please refer to the schools web site. There are numerous resources that children can access for at home learning. Once teachers have returned to school they will focus on preparing lessons for the part time and full time students attending school. There will no longer be hard copy packs for collection.

**SICK STUDENTS STAY AT HOME:** A reminder that if your child is unwell they should not be at school. Please be vigilant for symptoms of the covid virus and your child should be tested before coming back to school if they show any of these symptoms.

**DRINKING FOUNTAINS:** Please note although drinking fountains are open. We encourage you to provide a drink bottle for your child (with water) each day.

**STAGGERED LUNCH BREAKS:** During the school day we will have staggered lunch and morning tea breaks to help minimise the opportunity for contact interactions of students. Teams will have areas they will be designated to play in.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY PROCEDURES:** On Wednesday when we return to school we must adhere to key health measures including:

- Good hand hygiene and cough and sneeze etiquette.
- Staying away from school if sick.
- Keeping the appropriate physical distance from others (in class this means no touching each other and keeping out of breathing distance).
- Cleaning and disinfecting our high touch surfaces daily.
- Displaying QR code posters at our entrances and encouraging all of our community to download the NZ COVID Tracer App and use it if they come onsite.
- Keeping a visitor register for anyone who cannot use the app and for other visitors who come onsite for a period of time.
- Please stay away from the classrooms and distance yourselves 2 metres apart in open waiting areas.
- If you enter the school grounds please use the QR tracer code at the gates, or sign our contact tracing register booklets by the school gate. Before and after signing please sanitize your hands. We will have sanitizer on the table next to the contact tracing books.
- For enquiries throughout the day please make sure you go directly to the office.

**PROTECTING YOURSELF AND OTHERS:** Puhinui School would like to encourage and promote the protecting yourself and others code of conduct:

- 1. Get vaccinated**
- 2. Stay home if you're sick**
- 3. Use basic hygiene**
- 4. Wear a mask**
- 5. Record your movements**
- 6. Practise physical distancing**