



# Newsletter

2 December 2021

Newsletter No. 24/2021

Dear Parents, Caregivers & Whānau,

Welcome, Nau mai, Haere mai! hello, As-salām 'alaykum, Namaste, Nǐ hǎo, Chào bạn, Musta, Noa'ia, Hola, Mauri, Ni sa bula vinaka, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Mālō e lelei, Mālō nī, Talofa lava, and Kia orana.

Although New Zealand will move into the new traffic light system this week, schools have been instructed to retain their existing COVID-19 settings until the end of the 2021 calendar year. The COVID-19 Protection Framework settings will come into effect for all schools from 1 January 2022. With this in mind we will operate consistently using the organisation and systems we currently have in place.

**LAST DAY OF SCHOOL 8.50a.m. - 12.10 p.m.:** Please note that our last day of school for the 2021 year, will be on Thursday 16th December. School will close at 12.10 p.m. for all students on the 16th of December. Parents, please make arrangements for an early collection of your children on this day.

**REPORTS HOME:** Reports are close to being completed and we have scheduled for them to come home with students on Tuesday 14th December. If your child is not at school we will be arranging for a contactless pick-up service on Wednesday 15th December. More information will follow in next week's newsletter about how this will be organised.

**CLASS PLACEMENTS:** Next year's class placements have almost been completed. Normally students will get an opportunity to meet their new class teacher in the last week of term. Unfortunately, this year we will not be able to do this. Students and whānau will be informed of their class placement through an attached slip that will go home with your child's report.

**RETURNING LIBRARY BOOKS & SCHOOL READERS:** Please help us. We have a lot of library books and school readers at the homes of many of our students who have not returned to school. From Monday, 6th of December, a box will be placed outside the office. If you have any library books, or readers can these please be returned to school. Thank you for your support. A reminder please push the front gate keypad button and staff will open the gate for you to enter during the day.

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL IN 2022:** We look forward to seeing students and whānau on our first day of the 2022 school year. Please be aware we want to make the most of every day next year. Please don't be the parents that choose to stay on holiday. If we value education and want our tamariki to be set up with good enduring life habits it starts with being punctual and ready. In 2022 we begin on Wednesday 2nd February at 8.50 a.m.

**PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR FACE MASK:** Parents if you are onsite for the end of the day to pick-up your child, a reminder you must wear a face mask.

**STUDENTS WHO ARE SICK:** If you have a sick child, especially if they have flu like symptoms, they must stay at home. If students at school are unwell at school, we will ring home and request children are picked up. We have to regard the well being of other students, so we may ask you to take your child to the doctors. Children should have a negative test, or a doctor's medical certificate before they return to school. The Ministry of Education guidance document states, " The child should not return to school until they have been symptom-free for at least 24 hours." If you are aware of a child experiencing covid-like symptoms, it should be recommended that they get a test. Parents please help us keep everyone safe and well.

**WHAT HAPPENS IF WE HAVE A COVID CASE AT SCHOOL?:** Please be aware that if we do have any cases of Covid-19, we have a framework that we will follow. The school will work under the instruction of the MOE and the Ministry of Health. It may mean we close down a class, a team, or the whole school. Currently, we have minimal close contact between classes.

**DROPPING CHILDREN OFF:** A reminder, we ask that students arrive at school between 8.20 a.m. and 8.50 a.m. The gates will be opened at 8 a.m. and closed at 8.50 a.m. We ask that parents do not enter the school in the morning. Children will go directly to their classrooms and wait outside, their teacher will direct them into their classes.

**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 parental choice if they would like their children to wear a mask at school.

**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 directly to the office and wait while your child is collected and brought 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 School 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 School students who will also be dismissed at 2.30 p.m. Please talk to your children about your end of day plan.

**ONLINE 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. Teachers have returned to school and 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.

#### **HEALTH AND SAFETY PROCEDURES:**

- 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 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**