

5th March 2021

Kia ora tatou

I hope that you are well, and that your child or children have managed their online learning well this week. We do know that some students (and parents!) find it difficult when we are learning online, and I hope that you feel able to reach out for help when you need it.

I am sure by now you will have heard the welcome news that Auckland will be at Level 2 from 6 am on Sunday morning. There have been no new cases all week, and the risk seems to be low. We expect to be at Level 2 for the whole of next week.

This means that Pinehurst School will be open to all students as usual on Monday.

Over the last two weeks, we have made some changes to our approach to Level 2 at Pinehurst. In the past, we have adopted a consistent approach to Level 2 that was appropriate to the level of risk we had when Level 2 was first introduced last year. We can now see that Level 2 is being used by the Government to manage different kinds of risk. This means that we will adapt our approach at Level 2 according to the exact circumstances of the time.

So next week, March 8th to 12th, unless the situation changes, Level 2 at Pinehurst will look like this:

- All visitors on site **must** sign in with the Covid app. This includes waiting at the front of the school for your children, and includes if you are entering the Primary School to pick up your child. Our QR code is everywhere, so can I please ask parents to make sure that they do this.
- You will be able to make appointments to see members of staff, but we will ask you to sign in, and to observe a physical distance of 1 metre in meetings.
- Physical distancing of 1 metre is encouraged between all adults in school.
- Face coverings (masks) will be optional for students and staff - they are not mandatory at Level 2 this time.
- There will be no temperature checks again, **but students should stay home if they are unwell at all**. We will send home students who have symptoms consistent with Covid infection.
- Normal timetables will apply - there will be no “bubbles”, as schools are considered their own “bubbles” at Level 2.
- All students will have to sanitise hands before lessons as before; and we will continue to wipe down tables and surfaces between lessons.
- Internal sports practices and events will go ahead as usual, though parents will not be able to come into school to watch practices.
- Games against other schools will go ahead where we think that the sport has made safe arrangements for our children. This means that golf and tennis games, for example, can go ahead, as can some other sports. Some, though, will not go ahead. Our sports staff will inform you separately when games are to be cancelled.
- The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award practice tramp on Thursday and Friday is currently expected to go ahead as planned.
- Assemblies will not take place at Level 2, and nor will any gathering of students and staff of more than 100 people.

- The Year 4-6 Parent Information Evening on Tuesday will go ahead as scheduled as these take place in a different classroom for each year group: all parents must sign in with the Covid app.

We feel that these are the appropriate arrangements for the level of risk on this occasion, and they are all in keeping with the Government's requirements at Level 2.

Let me know if you have any questions and, all being well, I'll see everyone back in school on Monday!

Have a great weekend
Alex

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