

1st March 2022

Kia ora koutou

Primary School: hybrid learning

I hope you are well and that the week has been a good one so far. I will be writing this afternoon with our regular update, but this morning I am writing to tell all parents that we are moving to hybrid learning in the Primary School only tomorrow.

What is “hybrid learning” in 2022?

We are giving parents the choice of whether to send their children to school or to keep them at home. There is a link to a form at the bottom of this email that we require the parents of all children in the Primary School to complete as soon as possible: the form asks you to indicate if your child will be learning at home or at school on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday this week. It is a commitment for these three days, and we will ask you to do the same again for next week on Friday.

If you choose in-school learning, your child will have the same experience as they have now, but the teacher may be different. This is, I want to stress, the school’s preferred option. Unless we have asked your child’s class or year group to learn from home - P8 and P9 are doing that today - we think that the balance of risk means that school is the right place for your child.

If you choose online learning, it will work the same way as it did last year. The teacher may be different, and we may swap teachers around a little, but the experience will be close to a full, live online experience. We will probably not be able to run all specialist lessons though.

Why are we doing this?

We are doing this because we have had a number of cases in school now, including some in the Primary School. Two of our class teachers are isolating and teaching their classes online already, and so we understand that some parents feel uncomfortable sending their children to school. We want to offer a choice where we can, and we have the ability to do this in the Primary School and still offer a high standard of education.

It is not possible to run hybrid learning in this manner in Years 7 to 13, as the impact on the quality of the education we can offer will be too great. For those students, we will continue to allow students to join physical lessons remotely if they are self-isolating. Except for self-isolating students, we expect all College students to be in school.

How long will it last?

We will review this weekly, but we expect it to last for a few weeks, or until case numbers start to fall.

What do you need to do now?

Fill in the form as quickly as possible, please. If at all possible, please complete it by 2 pm. If you do not see this email until later in the day, please complete it as soon as you are able. Provided most people have completed it by 2 pm, we will be able to complete our planning.

The address of the form to complete is: <https://forms.office.com/r/RaQ9GUyhbY>

Many thanks
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