

4 April 2022

Kia ora tatou

I hope the weekend has gone by with a swing. It's been beautiful late summer weather, and it was lovely to see so many families out and about over the last couple of days. At school, we have had the excitement of a "Very Big Crane" on site, dropping our first pre-cast concrete panels for the Theatre into place. It's a special moment when the building starts heading towards the sky, its shape and texture becoming reality.

Our daily update follows, but just a quick word on where we are as a school. Vaccine mandates and passes are no longer required in most places from this evening. At school, we no longer require passes to be shown, and it will be optional to scan in from tomorrow as well.

We do still have, though, a vaccine mandate in place for everyone who works with our children: that is, all staff and volunteers. The Board of Governors have asked me to review it, and I will be presenting the review to the Board at their next meeting at the end of May. The reason the Board have kept it in place for the moment is because, even though all of our current staff and volunteers are fully-vaccinated, we are still employing new teachers, coaches and other staff, and we wish to keep requiring vaccination as part of our recruitment procedures for the time being. We need to consider our policies in full, so we are making sure we take the time we need to do so. After the meeting at the end of May, we will confirm any changes we may make.

In every other respect, regardless of any changes the Government may announce later this afternoon, we are making no changes to our rules and procedures for the rest of this term. We will review everything in the holidays for the start of Term 2. If you are coming in to school for any reason, of course, please wear a mask at all times. We're really looking forward to seeing all our parents at Parent Teacher Conferences this week (Primary) and next week (College), and we know that we will all keep each other safe by following the procedures we have in place.

New cases

We have had five new positive tests since Friday.

- A Year 2 student tested positive on Saturday morning. She was last in school on Thursday, and we informed Year 2 parents on Saturday. She is now doing well, and we don't know how she was infected.
- A Year 5 student tested positive on Saturday. He is the sibling of a Year 8 student who tested positive earlier in the week, and will not have been infectious in school as he was already isolating at home. He is also doing well.
- A Year 6 student tested positive on Saturday, possibly connected to a Year 6 case a day earlier. He may have been infectious on Friday at school. We informed Year 6 parents at the time.
- A Year 4 student tested positive yesterday. He caught the virus from his Year 6 brother and was already self-isolating. He was not infectious in school.
- A Year 4 student tested positive this morning. She has mild symptoms, and probably caught the virus from the Year 2 student who tested positive on Saturday. She has very close contact with her friend outside school. She was not infectious in school.

As you can see, the pattern remains the same as it has for 2-3 weeks now. Occasional cases, most of which are not infectious in school. Thank you to all parents who keep us so well-informed, and who take such a cautious approach.

Rapid Antigen Tests

We tested a number of returning students and staff this morning. All tests were negative.

Many thanks and enjoy the rest of the week. See you in school!

Alex.

Alex Reed

Executive Principal

Pinehurst School

a: 75 Bush Road, Albany, Auckland 0632, NZ

t: +64 (0)9 414 0960 EXT 603

m: +64 (0)21 194 8584

e: Alex.Reed@pinehurst.school.nz