

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

ALERT LEVEL 2 @ TAI



Thursday 21 May 2020

Dear Parents/whanau of Te Atatu Intermediate.

Kia ora koutou to you all.

Our re-start after nearly eight weeks away has been very smooth to date. We have had between 88-92% of students back at school each day. There has been a very positive vibe around the playground and within classes as students reconnect with their friends and their teachers, which has been lovely to see.

As a staff, last Thursday and Friday, we were able to spend time looking at the Health and Safety implications and re starting our curriculum. However, our most important focus was around how we can best support students in their re-start to school. The wellbeing and hauora of all students has been, and will continue to be, our priority.

Under Level 2, we will not be having large scale gatherings such as assemblies, fitness, team sport or cultural group activities. We will resume these once the level moves to one. We don't know yet what implications will be as a result of this lockdown time, as just last week I was notified that all Waitakere and Auckland Zonal sport for term 2 has been cancelled, which impacts our winter sports programme. Students, however, have adapted well to the changes we have put in place and as has been witnessed this week, are often sometimes more resilient than adults with changes and 'new normals'.

As a school, we keep encouraging the main 'mantras' of physical distancing - being outside of the 'breath zone', washing hands and using sanitiser, as well as coughing/sneezing into elbows, which we will continue to reinforce.

A couple of pleas from staff - Firstly, from Mr Andrews, if you received one of the school chromebook/charger, could these please be returned to school ASAP to Mr Andrews in Workshop 2, as these came from classes and we require these back to continue our in school learning.

Secondly, a message from Mr Collins, could all chocolate money / chocolate from our fundraiser prior to lockdown, please be returned to Mr Collins ASAP as well.

How we are operating at Level 2 at TAI:

- **Health and safety procedures** are working well. We kindly ask parents, please do not send your child to school if they are unwell. If for any reason you need to come to school, all parents must sign in at the office. We need to keep track of all people on site for contact trace purposes, so would encourage parents to not come into the school grounds if at all possible.
- **All students require a drink bottle filled with water each day.** Drinking fountains/ taps will only be used for filling water bottles.
Pita Pit is available for ordering every Monday through EZ Lunch as per normal. At this stage, unfortunately, our tuck shop has become an economic casualty of Covid. However, we are hoping this will reopen soon with new contractors. In the meantime, we have no tuck shop on site.
- **Physical distancing** is still in place, students must be outside of another persons 'Breath Zone'.
- **Washing of hands** is paramount and will be encouraged regularly. Sanitiser bottles and disinfectant are available in each classroom.
- **School will be starting later each day at 8.55am** - due to level 2 having no large gatherings, we will not be having assemblies, fitness rotations/ singing from 8.40.
- The **staggered dismissal times at the end of the day** have worked really well to avoid all students leaving at once and creating congestion at the gates. This will continue from 2.50 /2.55 /3pm with different syndicates daily.

Thankfully, there don't seem to have been any issues around buses, with Auckland Transport limiting numbers on buses, requiring students to enter via the rear doors and not accepting cash. Hop cards are required daily.

We are finally settling into our new routines and our new normal for the foreseeable future. I would like to thank you all for your consideration and support of us as a school, as we support the reintroduction of learning and routines with your children. Let's hope Level 1 is not too far away.

Nga mihi nui

Lloyd Evans

Principal/Tumuaki
Te Atatu Intermediate