

1 February 2022



Kia ora koutou parents/caregivers of our new Year 7 students

Firstly, a huge **'Welcome to Te Atatū Intermediate School'**. I hope that you have all had a relaxing summer break enjoying the beautiful weather. We are looking forward to welcoming all our new students into their new school.

Unfortunately, due to the Red Light setting and the contagious nature of the Omicron variant, we are following recommendations from the Ministry of Education and have a plan to keep everyone as safe as possible. Therefore there will need to be a few changes to our start of year programme which mostly impacts parents being onsite within school grounds.

Thursday 3rd February will still be the start date for just the Year 7 students. Ordinarily we would hold a full pōwhiri for our students and families who would all be present on the school grounds. **Unfortunately, we will not be able to hold our pōwhiri this year.** We will instead do mihi whakatau in smaller groups outside to welcome our students.

This means, **parents/whānau will not be able to be onsite** for this, however, we aim to record these whakatau and will put them up on the website for parents to view.

We ask that students be at school between **8.20 - 8.40am on Thursday**. Students will need to go straight to their class. Parents, could you please make sure you have organised a meeting place or instructions for after school. All students are required to wear a mask during class time. Also, as we have no tuck shop at the moment, they will need their lunch and a drink bottle.

If you could farewell them before coming onto the school grounds, we will make sure we look after them once they enter school and will have staff at the gates to point them in the right direction to their classroom. Class teachers will be in their rooms to greet them and get them set for the day.

At the end of the day, any students needing to catch the 131 bus, I will meet with them to make sure they go to the right location. They will need a mask for the bus.

On **Friday 4th February**, we will go ahead with our Whānau hui meetings at the times you have booked - however, we will need to do these online in place of face to face in person meetings. These meetings are for parents and your child to meet with the teacher to help set up the year in a positive manner. **Students are not required at school on this day as teachers are involved in the 1-1 online meetings with whānau.**

It isn't too late to set up a meeting with the teacher - please go to www.schoolinterviews.co.nz and use the code fxw8x for Te Atatū Intermediate

We will send information home later this week about accessing these meetings.

We understand that this is not the ideal situation that we wanted for the start of the year, however, we know that the students will be resilient and we will be looking after them all very carefully as they start their new journey at Intermediate. From next week, they will have a year 8 buddy to support them in their start to the new year.

Thank you all for your understanding as we endeavour to make the start of the year as normal as possible under the circumstances we find ourselves in.

Please view the school website www.teatatu.school.nz if you wish to contact any staff members - all emails are under the staff section, or you can call the school office on 834-5371.

Although this isn't quite the start we envisaged, we are looking forward to a great year of learning!

Nga mihi nui

Lloyd Evans
Principal /Tumuaki