

18th February 2021
**February COVID
Level 2 Lockdown**



Dear Parents / Whanau,

With the announcement of the downgrade to Lockdown Alert Level 2, school will reopen tomorrow for all students / staff. The Secretary of Education has stated that; **At Alert Level 2 schools are open and everyone should be attending. The exceptions are anyone who is:**

- **Unwell.**
- **Self-isolating (at the request of health authorities).**
- **Waiting for COVID test results (but only if advised by health authorities that they can't return to school until the test result comes back).**

Obviously, level 2 comes with some restrictions around gathering numbers, though as a school, we effectively become our own bubble, however, the following safety aspects will be put in place including;

We will move **to a 9am start time** (all students to be at school by 8.55am) though at 8.40 – students need to go to class. This eliminates the whole school / syndicate gatherings that would normally be at this time.

At the end of the day, we will move to **staggered finish times**, depending on syndicates. This just means that our three syndicates will finish at either 2.50 / 2.55 or 3pm to avoid congestion at the gate. Please parents, at level 2, do not come into school if you can help it.

Between 9am and 2.50pm - we will get back into normal class routines following the normal timetable. Students will need to be prepared with their normal books/PE gear etc for each day.

We will be **encouraging social distancing** as much as possible. Outside of the 'breath zone' in class and trying to maintain 2m outside of class -all classes have disinfectant, wipes and hand sanitiser. Students will need to sanitise hands on entry/leaving the classroom. **Also students will only use the one designated chromebook assigned for them.**

At level 2, this means gatherings with a limit of 100, so we will have **no assemblies**, TAI TV or singing assemblies until we are back at level 1.

Masks - although these are not mandatory for students/staff within school, we will be allowing people to wear a mask if they wish during the school day.

Bus students catching the public 131 bus should really have a mask - even though the cut off age is 12 years, it would pay for them to have one.

Our school tuck shop can't reopen until **Monday 22 February** due to delivery issues related to lockdown. Therefore, students will need to bring lunch to school for the next two days. The vendors have their own Health & Safety rules around food handling and students will need to make sure they socially distance within the wait line once the tuck shop reopens.

Drinking fountains are not to be used for drinking from the mouth, only for refilling bottles, so **please can students bring a filled water bottle** each day to school with them.

The wellbeing of your child is our top priority and we will do all we can to make sure that all students stay safe whilst operating within Level 2 regulations.

A reminder that we have postponed the Linewize / Music information evening which was due to happen on Thursday evening.

We look forward to seeing all our students back at school.

Nga mihi nui

Lloyd Evans

Principal

Te Atatu Intermediate