



Kia ora Whanau

During the recent announcement to move to Alert Level 3. The statement was made that in Level 3, schools 'ultimately remain closed'. Only those children where ALL caregivers are essential workers and there are no other options available are able to attend. In preparation for returning to school, we need you to understand the following messages. The key message is that if you can, you must keep your child/ren at home. With the Delta Variant, we know children are more susceptible than our previous return to Level 3, so you should only physically send your child to school if you need to. Due to underlying health conditions and vulnerable household members, we have very limited staff in a position to return to school under the guidelines of Alert Level 3. To keep our staff and those children of essential workers who need to return to school safe, we will be putting the following, strict procedures in place:

WHAT LEVEL 3 WILL LOOK LIKE FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING SCHOOL

- Students are only at school if there is no one else to look after them whilst parents/caregivers are at work
- **NO buses will be running**
- Bubbles are limited to 10. Students will not be working with their peers or regular classroom teacher
- Whanau will not be permitted on the school site
- School bubbles will have set break times in designated areas with appropriate social distancing
- If your child has a health condition that means they are at a greater risk of a severe illness you must keep them at home
- Any child presenting with any signs of illness should not be at school and will be sent home
- The School Office will be open for phone calls that we will check regularly throughout the day, however if you need to contact someone urgently please call or txt 021804407

What does this look like at Firth Primary School??

Our school has safe and sensible practices to maintain the health and safety of everyone on the school site.

We will:

- Each child will have a designated seat (this may be at a table or on the carpet) and will be seated in the same space on a daily basis
- Each individual child will bring their own named drink bottle
- Each individual child will have their own learning tools, e.g pens, books, pencils, tote trays in their designated space
- Toileting times will be staggered with classes and cleaning of the toilets between the classes after use will be carried out
- Students will wash their hands and sanitise on entry and at various times throughout the day
- Classroom surfaces will be wiped regularly with sanitiser throughout the day with a thorough clean at the end of each day by our cleaner
- Sports equipment will be shared only by bubble groupings
- We will have family groupings together

- We will try and have age levels together where possible
- Masks and gloves will be provided for those students and staff who wish to wear these
- Students will be dropped off at the front gate and escorted to their classrooms by teachers
- **There will be no access to our site for parents and/or visitors. Students will be picked up and dropped off from the carpark footpath in front of the school**
- A minimum of 1m distancing inside and 2m outside.
- **School is open from 9 am - 3 pm**
- **Students may arrive at school at 8.45 am, no earlier - teachers will collect and bring students to their respective bubbles**
- **Students must be picked up at 3 pm, no later**

We will be operating under the Ministry of Education guidelines for Alert Level 3. Distance learning will continue through the avenues you have whether this is a hard copy pack of learning materials or online through seesaw or google classroom. Schools expectations still remain that you manage what you can at home as we know that this is a stressful and uncertain time and our main focus is on the hauora and well-being of our students and their whanau.

As a Board we are committed to keeping our staff and students safe and healthy. Thank you for taking responsibility to help make plans work and to keep our children and our education workforce safe. If you need any further clarification, please feel free to email me at principal@firth.school.nz

Nga mihi
Stay safe and be kind

Michelle Ryan
Principal

Serena Pilmore-Evans
Presiding member
Board of Trustees