

PARKLAND SCHOOL

JANUARY 27TH 2022



WELCOME BACK....

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARKLAND SCHOOL FAMILIES

With the move to the **RED TRAFFIC LIGHT** there are a number of changes that parents need to be aware of as we begin the school year on Tuesday, Feb 1st.

Schools received 9 pages of requirements this week so I have tried to summarise these below. Please feel free to email me (principal@parkland.school.nz) or phone the school office (358 1469) if you would like further clarification. We may not have all the answers straight away but we will always find out and let you know.

It is already clear that some of our planned school events will be cancelled or postponed. We will give you plenty of notice about any changes.



**If you are sick - stay home
and get tested**

Anyone who is not feeling well should not come to school. Any child who presents with any symptoms while at school will need to be collected promptly.

Vaccinations

All workers in schools, paid and unpaid, have had two vaccine doses by January 1 2022. The latest mandate requires those workers to now get a booster dose within 183 days of their second vaccination. If 183 days has passed, they are required to get a booster by March 1st.

No unvaccinated workers are able to have contact with children on the school site.

Children from 5 to 11 are now able to get a vaccine. At this stage the school will not be asking you if your child is vaccinated. If you wish to inform the school office about your child's vaccination status, that is fine. (Use the Ministry of Health Record for your child.) This information will simply be stored on your child's school records, along with their other vaccination history.

A child's vaccination status will not restrict learning for any student, nor will it restrict parents and caregivers from supporting their child/ren in their learning.

Any parent undertaking voluntary work within the school that is likely to bring them into contact with children is required to show their Vaccine Pass.

Masks

Children in Years 4-6 will require an approved face mask and this must be worn at all times when indoors at school. Masks are not required to be worn at break times or during sports activities when children are outside.

Children in Years 1-3 are not required to wear a mask, nor are their teachers.

If your child has a medical reason or condition that would make the wearing of a mask difficult, please just make contact with myself or your class teacher. This will not be a problem.

The wearing of masks by teachers would impact negatively on their ability to teach. Our staff will wear masks when meeting with parents etc but are able to remove these when teaching so that children can hear and have clear face to face communication.

All parents coming on to the school site MUST WEAR A MASK that covers the mouth and nose at all times.

Events and Activities

Events involving large numbers in close contact will not be held. *To start the term we will not be holding team or whole school assemblies. Our Buddy Class system will not operate just yet.*

The school PTA Lunch system will begin in Week 2 with a Pizza Order available on Friday Feb 11th.

Access to School

There should be no non essential visitors on site while we are at the Red Traffic Light.

No members of the public should use the school grounds as a thoroughfare while the school is operating.

Both vaccinated and unvaccinated parents of Parkland students are able to come on to the grounds and meet with staff associated with their child.

We simply ask that you wear a mask and scan in using the QR Code. (You could choose to physically sign in using the 'Contact Tracing Register' found at the front of the school.)

Parents of New Entrant children are encouraged to take their children to Room 10 after the 8.30am bell, for the first few days or until you feel comfortable about leaving them.

Physical Distancing

Maintaining a physical distance from others continues to be an effective measure to reduce the risk of infection. There is no physical distancing requirement in schools between group members, only between different groups.

Clearly, distancing is not practical in a classroom setting or in the playground when children are playing with others.

As we have done in the past, parents and caregivers are encouraged to drop children in the car park 'Drop Zone' or at the front of the school by the Flagpole. If using the back entrance the 'Drop Zone' would be beside the Fitness Course. If your child is confident, they could be dropped off in Parkland Cres and then walk into school.

We will send out a reminder about the afternoon pick up organisation next week. Teachers will continue to physically bring students out to either the Basketball Court behind Rm 3 & 4 or to the Netball Court by the office where parents can meet them. If your child uses the back entrance, teachers will escort children to this area.

We do ask that parents do not come into the school and wait outside classrooms for children.

Hygiene & Cleaning

As in the past teachers will be encouraging regular handwashing and general hygiene practices such as sneezing or coughing into elbows etc.

There will be more regular cleaning of high touch surfaces.

Doors and windows of classrooms will be kept open, if appropriate, to allow better ventilation.

Looking Ahead

Media advice is warning us that workplaces are likely to experience significant staff absence in the coming months. If teachers are required to isolate for 14 days however before returning to work this will cause significant disruption to the ability of schools to function normally.

The School Board will determine if we should close for a short period, should this situation arise.

There will be a Newsletter on Thursday of Week 1 with any further information we can share.

In the meantime.... We are looking forward to getting back to work and we are looking forward to Parkland children returning to classrooms.

As always, feel free to contact myself, your child's class teacher or the office with your queries.

Peter Barnett
Principal