

Friday 29 April 2022

Kia ora koutou

Now that New Zealand has been back at the COVID Orange Light setting for the last few weeks, we are making changes to our school processes to reflect this change that align with the Ministry of Education guidelines. While we will be returning to a more normal way of operating, we will retain some of the health & safety and hygiene practices we have in place to help keep us all well and safe as we head into the winter months.

I wanted to give you an update on what the move to Orange means for our school as we begin Term 2.

Key points

- Parents/whānau are able now able to come on site 😊. **We ask that parents, whānau and visitors wear a mask whenever they are indoors on school grounds.**
- All children can enter and exit through the main gate on Kairimu Street. The other gates next to the hall and on Montgomery Street can also be used to enter the school in the mornings.
- Children can be picked up at any gate around the school. To avoid congestion at the front gate, children can be picked up from Montgomery Street or the gate next to the hall as they were in Term 1. Please organise with your child which gate they will be picked up from after school.
- **While face masks are no longer a requirement at school for staff and children in Years 4, 5 & 6, we will be strongly encouraging them to wear masks inside.** Outside, masks are not required unless in close contact with others.

Any student or staff member who wishes to wear a face mask at Orange Level will be encouraged and supported to do so. We have a good supply of masks at school.

Face masks also continue to be required for students aged 12 and above on school and public transport.

In the event where there is a high number of positive COVID cases in our school or community, we may consider reintroducing mask wearing for staff and students in Year 4, 5 & 6 while indoors. We will notify our school community if this is to happen.

- We will not be working in separate areas around the school. Children and staff will be able to access all areas of the school as they could prior to working at Red Level.

- We will be able to hold assemblies and school gatherings again. **Staff and children in Years 4, 5 & 6 we will be strongly encouraged to wear masks for indoor assemblies. Parents, whānau and visitors must wear a mask if attending indoor assemblies.**
- We will continue with the following processes
 - Classroom and indoor spaces will be well ventilated during the day. We will continue to monitor air quality with the CO2 monitors provided to us.
 - Good hand hygiene, cough and sneeze practices will be encouraged and supported.
 - Hand sanitizer will be available in all areas around the school.
 - When and where appropriate, physical distancing will be used, especially when inside in larger groups.
- We are continuing to ask that if children are feeling unwell, they remain at home and parents contact school.
- If children display any signs of illness at school, we will contact parents/caregivers to come and pick them up. If they are displaying COVID-19 symptoms we may ask that siblings go home at this time too.

We are looking forward to a few less restrictions and returning to school life that is a bit closer to normal.

As we have done throughout the pandemic, we will respond and adapt to any changes in levels or that are required by the Ministry of Education.

Our current COVID Orange Light processes can be found on our school website. These are being updated regularly as more information is shared with schools. Please click here to access the information on our school website <https://koraunui.school.nz/this-is-us/covid-19/>

Ngā mihi nui

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Koraunui School