



Oruaiti School

Caring | Confident | Responsible Life Long Learners

Wednesday 1st September 2021

Dear Parents, Caregivers



Let's start on a positive, it's the first day of spring today!

As it is looking likely that we will be moving to level three at 11.59p.m on Thursday 2nd September, we are starting to make plans for what school might look like at this level.

We have organised a deep clean of the school for Friday so that we can open for children of essential workers on Monday 6th September if necessary.

We can't stress the importance that your children will be the safest at home. Whilst Alert Level 3 allows for more parents to get back to work, the more parents and students that continue to work from home gives NZ the best chance to stamp out the Delta Covid-19 variant, and for us all to return back to normal as quickly as possible. The safety of both our students and our staff is our greatest priority during these times.

At level three school is open **'For children of essential workers'**

Teachers will continue to teach and students will continue to learn online if at all possible.

We will provide extra hard copies of learning materials for those who would like them, please let your child's teacher know if you would like these.

School at level three will be very different to what we know as 'normal'

- We are only permitted to have 'bubbles' of no more than 8 students and 1 or 2 staff members.
- All students and staff must keep at least 2 metres apart at all times.
- Playgrounds and drinking fountains are not open.
- Buses will not be running to start with.
- Parents/caregivers will be required to drop off and pick up students in the bus bay at the front of the school.
- School hours may be staggered depending on numbers at school.
- Students at school will have a designated seat in a classroom, designated toilet and also play area. Students must remain at least 2 metres apart even when playing.
- Students at school will still be learning online, accessing their class learning from their class site.
- Students will have their own box of resources with books, pens, pencils and other materials that may be required. There will be no sharing of equipment.
- Students must bring their own morning tea, lunch and a water bottle.
- Staff at school will be in a supervisory role only, as we are all required to stay 2 metres apart there will be limited interaction.

I realise this may all sound quite 'strict' however it follows the guidelines we have been given by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health.

We will have limited staff available to be onsite with students as, wherever possible, those staff with children of their own are being encouraged to stay at home.

We keep hearing about how contagious the Delta variant is and we want to ensure that we are doing everything possible to keep everyone in our community safe.

We will be asking all whanau to indicate to us whether or not your child will be required to attend school at level three.

Please let your child's teacher know before Friday as to whether, or not, your child will be required to attend school at level three. We will be in contact with anyone needing to attend to advise of any further requirements.

Thank You again for your continued support. If you have any questions or queries or just want to chat please email Diane Bates principal@oruaiti.school.nz or Kaiya Lafotanoa kaiyal@oruaiti.school.nz