02 May 2022

Dear parents and whānau

Kei aku nui, kei aku rahi, tēnā koutou katoa i roto i ngā āhuatanga o te wā.

Welcome back after what we hope has been a wonderful holiday break for your whānau.

St Mark’s School staff are feeling refreshed and ready to go for Term 2 and beyond following a busy Teacher Only Day of professional learning.

This communication, is to be read in conjunction with the Board of Trustees communication of **Tuesday January 25th.**

It is good to know that at the Orange setting of the Covid Protection Framework, we are able to support every students learning onsite.

What follows is a detailed list of operational decisions **for Term 2** to ensure the highest quality our teaching and learning programs, the safety of all staff, students and whānau, and offering **guidance and expectations for staff, students and families**.

1. School Activities
2. Students/Ākonga
3. Staff
4. School Communications
5. General information
6. **SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

**Gatherings**

Large hui and gatherings especially when indoors continue to be one of the riskier activities we can undertake. We have therefore reviewed all our events and activities for Term 2 to ensure we meet the health guidance for Orange setting. The following decisions have been made and are supported by Board of Trustees policy.

1. **Church** **on Mondays and Fridays –** these will return to full school services which parents/whānau and our community can attend.

Whilst mask wearing is not required at the Orange setting, the Ministry of Education ***“strongly recommend that masks are worn for large indoor gatherings”.***  Along with Board of Trustees Policy we **strongly recommend**  that masks be worn by parents and whānau at all church services.

1. **Parents/Whānau onsite.**

According to Board of Trustees Policy:

* Parents/whānau can access the school grounds and classrooms to deliver and collect their children/tamariki from the classroom.
* Parents/whānauwill have access to the classrooms before and after school when students and staff are in classrooms – **we strongly recommend wearing a mask when doing so. Staff will continue to wear masks as a safety measure.**
* Meetings with staff to discuss your child’s learning will still need to be prearranged and conducted onsite after hours or using digital platforms as agreed.

1. **STUDENTS/ĀKONGA**

**Face Masks**

* Tamariki/children are no longer required to wear masks in Years 4 – 8 **however they are strongly recommended when gathering in larger groups e.g. Church services**. For this reason we ask that students in this age bracket are provided with a mask to keep in their desk for these gatherings/hui.
* The school has supplies of blue and white masks should they be needed for students

1. **STAFF**

Just a reminder of the following:

* **All staff that have contact with tamariki** including teaching staff, teacher aides, caretakers, board members, administration staff, and PA members in the uniform shop are likely to wear a mask while at school.
* Staff will assess students who become unwell or injured during the course of the day and at times recommend that they go home. If you are called to pick up your child please do so from the office area using the Cholmondeley Ave area.

1. **SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS (reminders)**

For clarity Staff want ALL whānau to be reminded that there are two main pathways of communication at St Mark’s School

1. **Seesaw** – this is an online platform that we primarily reserve for sharing learning from year 0-8. ANY family/whanau members can be logged into Seesaw which is provides opportunities for your tamariki to share their learning in real time. Once you have downloaded the app and signed in, you receive alerts on a device of your choice of a post from your child or child’s teacher. As whānau you are able to respond to this post with comments and other supportive tools.

Seesaw is also used for sharing class and waka information when this information is isolated to small groups of students.

**Please download this app – details from your class teacher**

1. **St Mark’s School App –** this is an app where **whole school** information is found. This app (from School Appsnz) is free to download onto the device of your choice (most commonly used is a smartphone) and provides the following services:

* St Mark’s School **Calendar**
* A facility to text an **Absence** which links directly to the office
* **Links** to key documents
* **Alerts** including key communications from the Board of Trustees, Board of Proprietors and Parents Association
* The **Newsletter**
* **Contacts –** easy connection to any staff member
* **Term dates**

1. **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Ventilation**

We have reviewed our ventilation in readiness for the start of Term 2 and have identified ways to increase ventilation in the hall and classroom areas in particular.

Providing well ventilated areas is a key strategic measure to reduce virus transmission and recommended as part of the Public Health measures identified by the Ministry of Health.

We are fortunate that our classrooms have been fitted with CO2 monitors and we will be following Public Health Guidelines for optimal levels.

**Morning and Afternoon Gate Duty**

Staff have agreed to continue our practice of being on the gates at the beginning and end of each day in the initial weeks.

**A joyous resumption of the following – details to follow:**

**1. Choirs –** we look forward to the resumption of Performance Choir auditions and rehearsals this week, and Year 4 and 5 Choir next week.

**2. Kapa haka** – Matua Steve will resume our programs on **Monday 9th May.**

**3. Winter sport –** Years 5 – 8 – training will begin this week

**4. Church buddy system**  - whole school from week 2.

Please get in touch with your **classroom teacher** in the first instance if you have any concerns or need help in any way.

Welcome, welcome, welcome back to Term 2.

See you tomorrow!

Averil Worner and all staff

Tumuaki and Kaiako

St Mark’s School