



Newsletter 15 May 2020

Kia ora whanau

Well, here we are in Level 2, enjoying the last day of our bubble classroom today and really looking forward to school starting back for all our children on Monday.

Just over two months ago we didn't have a clue what the terms Level 2,3,or 4 would come to mean to us or have a concept of what was meant by bubbles but now we are all very conversant with this terminology. It is so good to see what our country has achieved in terms of health outcomes in this period of time and for us all to be moving in the right direction towards a more normal life, but with a big focus on doing things safely and taking extra precautions.

That's definitely what school will be all about too. It will be so important for the children to return to their school life, having fun with friends and all their classmates, playing with others outside their immediate family and learning from, and with others at school, but all the time we will be focused on doing things safely. Earlier this week I sent home an email to all families with an attachment that outlined how we plan to do things safely in our Level 2 schooling here at Macandrew Bay School.

We had a staff meeting at school yesterday afternoon for all the teachers and Irene and Gill to make sure we are all on the same page and to talk through the finer details of our plan and the practicalities of implementation. I thought I would just go over some of the details re drop off and pick up times with you as we have tweaked things slightly after those discussions. Sorry this is very wordy but it will be really helpful if we all understand the plan ready for Monday.

## VISITORS

*We need to keep a record of all we come in contact with so contact tracing could occur if necessary quickly and easily.*

- All parents and whanau coming through the school gates and into school buildings with children need to be treated as visitors so we can be sure we can contact trace anybody who has been within the school. Parents and all whanau would need to sign in, printing their name, and time in and time out each time. We have parents' contact phone numbers and addresses so this would not need to be recorded. If your child is confident to come into school on their own then it is best they do so and parents remain outside the school and wait for them at a distance, while also keeping your 2m distance from others . We know this is very different from our usual way of operating but hopefully it won't be for too long.

## ONLY HEALTHY CHILDREN, STAFF AND ADULTS SHOULD COME TO SCHOOL

- Unwell children and adults are not to enter the school. Children who show signs of sickness will be sent home straight away.
- Symptoms to monitor for are any respiratory symptoms such as a cold, a head cold, blocked ears, cough, sneezing, chills and a fever. Anyone with those symptoms should stay home and contact Healthline for advice, which may include getting tested for COVID-19 as a precaution. Anyone with these respiratory symptoms should not enter into the school.

## PUPIL ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

*Underlying principles - minimise adult contact with others; hand sanitise first thing on arrival and on departure; keep a distance where possible. Parents of Years 1 – 3 children may need to deliver their child to the teacher and collect children from the teacher. Year 4, 5 and 6 children can mostly take responsibility for their own entrance and exit from school.*

- Parents are encouraged to drop their children at the two main gates if your child is comfortable with that – Conway Street gate for the Juniors and the entrance near the Chemist Shop or Office entrance driveway for Yrs 3-6 pupils – we will set up some cones as a drop off zone, both at the front of the school and also we will create a coned drop off zone in Conway Street in the mornings and this area can be a place in the afternoons where parents can stand and wait with space between them at the Conway Street gate. We don't want people to use the school staff carpark as their drop off zone as this can be quite dangerous with children walking through the carpark while staff are driving in.
- We will have hand sanitiser at each school entrance for everyone ( children and adults) to put on when they enter the school and also again as they exit.
- Some children may be anxious or reluctant to leave parents at the gate. If this is the case, parents may bring their child to the classroom, do the hand-over, and then leave the school promptly after signing in as a visitor on the school site visitor register and noting their time in and out of the school.
- After school car (Magic Kids) will develop a safe departure process which reflects the practices reflected in this document.
- Parents who need to speak to the office staff or senior staff should do so via a phone call or email if that is possible. If an adult needs to drop something off, such as medication, they should walk directly to the school office, sanitise hands, sign in and depart after business is completed.
- Parents of younger children or older children needing more support may need to collect their child from the classroom, signing the visitor contact tracing sheet each time they are on the school property. Older more independent children may be able to meet their parents at an arranged spot, outside the school grounds and this would be really helpful while we are in Level 2 to avoid congestion and congregation within the school.
- The 3pm pick up time has the potential to be very congested and a time where it is a challenge for the adults coming to collect children from school to keep an appropriate physical distance.

The best place to park at 3pm is probably in the parallel parking down at the Ralph Ham Park. I am very happy to walk children down to the park, crossing them over by the dairy if people want to arrange to meet their children there. We already having a teacher taking the bus children down to catch the bus too.

Your child would need to know that was the arrangement and if they are older you might be happy for them to walk down independently but if you would prefer them, to be crossed across the road then they could come down in a group with me. We also thought big brothers and sisters could collect younger ones and walk them to your arranged collection spot.

We have decided that if it is necessary for parents to collect the younger children from their classroom at the end of the day then we will have separate pick up areas for the Yrs 1-3 classes so you won't have to all be together in a crowded area:

Kakano parents could wait on the front deck spaced out ( as Jacinda would say). You would need to sign in and out on the register.

Kowhai parents could wait on the back deck/ ramps area ( spaced out). Again you would need to sign the register.

Rata parents could collect children from the Tennis court area and Nic Brown would walk the class down together at 3pm. You wouldn't need to sign in there. If it is wet they would wait in the school library and you would need to sign in if you came to collect them from there.

Tui parents could wait if necessary to come and collect them under the Tui verandah and sign the register on the verandah.

## RETURNING EQUIPMENT AND STATIONARY TO SCHOOL

- Once school restarts on Monday, all chromebook devices lent out must be returned and put back to use in the classrooms. They need to be cleaned upon return so we will gather them up in a box in the learning street, mark them off as returned from your family and clean them.
- Additional library books that were sent home just prior to Lockdown need to be returned too please and left in classrooms or the children could put them in the library near the return box. These could come on Tuesday or Wednesday next week so you can concentrate on sending stationary back to school and chrome books if applicable on Monday.
- Also we sent home lots of the children's stationary home with them prior to lockdown so now we are returning to school we really need for all those books to come back to school so the children can use them here please and if they took their tote trays they need to come back too.
- With so much equipment being returned on Monday morning we completely understand on that first morning parents may need to help the children carry all their stuff back to school, but as long as we all sign the register that will be fine. The library books could come a little later in the week.

This is a lot to take in but hopefully Level 2 expectations will become normalised pretty quickly, and you never know, we may be in Level 1 in a few more weeks and can relax all these things a bit.

In the meantime have a lovely first weekend in Level 2. Hopefully you get to do something that you haven't been able to do over the past 7 weeks and get to see some friends and family you have been hanging out to catch up with.

Thank you for all you have done to support your children, and their teachers and myself over these past two months. I feel we have done a great job as a school community, trying to manage what really is an extraordinary situation. Roll on the next phase! I know we will continue to support each other as we deal with the next set of challenges that lie ahead.

### **MEL GAUL'S BABY IS COMING SOONER THAN WE THOUGHT**

Kate will be teaching Kakano from Monday full time but Mel had really wanted to join the class for the morning. It looks like she will be having her baby instead. All the very best Mel, thank you for being such a wonderful teacher and we will look forward to meeting your new baby in time.

Nga mihi nui

Bernadette

Mirumiru bubble group loving being back on the playground in Level 2 today!



We loved looking at the dying sunflowers in our school garden and doing observational drawings and sunflower paintings of these gorgeous autumnal beauties.



488 Portobello Road, Macandrew Bay, Dunedin  
phone: (03) 4761 004      Email: [admin@macandrewbay.school.nz](mailto:admin@macandrewbay.school.nz)  
Website: [www.macandrewbay.school.nz](http://www.macandrewbay.school.nz)