

## **IMPORTANT: Red Level and other important Information for Aorangi School Parents and Caregivers:**

Kia ora koutou katoa,

You would have heard the Government has moved the whole of NZ to the RED traffic light framework.

It is good to know that at Red setting, we are able to support everyone learning onsite. Below are key points regarding the Government/Ministry of Education COVID RED requirements for schools:

### **Events and activities**

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 the upcoming term to ensure we meet the health guidance for Red.

-New enrolments coming in on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Jan and Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb – must wear face masks, scan in at the front of school QR codes. Please keep your distance from other whanau and sanitise before completing forms in the designated seating areas. Please only enrolling child/ren and one adult to attend.

Principal and new students Pōwhiri and Whakatau set for Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February has been postponed.

-Whole school assemblies will be postponed with Juniors and Seniors having separate syndicate assemblies- unfortunately these will be closed to parents and caregivers.

### **Hand sanitisers**

Will continue to be supplied at school entrance points and in every classroom. Please encourage your children to use it.

### **Ventilation**

We have used the Ministry of Education self-assessment tool to review all our ventilation in readiness for the start of the year. Providing good old fashioned fresh air remains the most important thing we can do in our learning spaces to minimise risk for ākonga and kaiako (and the same goes for you at home). We will also be receiving a CO<sub>2</sub> monitor in the coming weeks to further support our ventilation plan.

### **Face coverings**

Staff and children in Years 4 – 6 must wear face coverings when **inside only** at school when we are at RED.

Years 0-3 students are not required to wear face masks at school.

Please ensure if your child is a Year 4-6 student what you send them to school with an appropriate face mask to use. The school will have spare disposable masks available for those children who forget theirs but I suggest putting a couple in their school bag. For those of you seeking medical exemption from this please forward communication from your GP to [principal@aorangi.school.nz](mailto:principal@aorangi.school.nz) for the school to process.

Public health advice is that an appropriate face covering will fit snugly and seal well around facial contours. This can include single use, disposable masks (medical masks) and re-usable fabric masks with three layers.

For those of you with children who might be reluctant to wear a face covering, there is some [helpful advice from Michigan Health](#), including using simple, specific explanations about why they need to wear a face covering, adults being the role models, providing small rewards for wearing them, bringing face coverings into play

such as drawing face coverings on characters in colouring books, or letting them choose/make the mask.

### **Physical distancing**

We will physically distance children where possible- Key thing being out of 'proximal breath zone'

### **Parents and Caregivers on school grounds**

We are asking all Whanau to restrict time on school grounds. Obviously, parents of new entrants and new students are going to want to support their children on day 1, but please limit your time while on school grounds.

Please no parents are to enter the school classrooms and must report to office if they wish to sign their child out early.

Anyone who is on school grounds must correctly wear a mask at all times and scan in using the QR codes at entry points.

### **Unwell students, whanau , and staff**

We ask that anyone who is unwell, students, whanau, and staff, to please stay away from school. If a child becomes ill during the day, we will contact whanau for an immediate pick up.

### **Managing cases in our school**

We have a good contact tracing system in place so that if there is a confirmed case who has been at school while infectious, we can quickly identify who was a close contact of that person. We will then quickly advise those contacts of what they need to do.

Only if the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Education advises to do so, would we consider closing a physical onsite school and moving to distance learning for everyone. At Red we will keep everyone learning onsite for as long as we can.

Please make sure your contact details we have on file are up to date, so we can get in touch with you if needed.

### **Distance learning**

This will only be available for students who have been instructed to stay home by a medical professional. We cannot provide online learning for children who choose to stay home while also providing quality instruction in class.

### **Self-isolating at home because of COVID-19**

Many people will be able to manage self-isolation with help from friends and whānau, but there is help available if you need it – both with health support and access to food and other essentials.

- [What to expect when self-isolating at home | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](https://www.covid19.govt.nz/what-to-expect-when-self-isolating-at-home)
- [Getting extra support if you have COVID-19 or are self-isolating | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](https://www.covid19.govt.nz/getting-extra-support-if-you-have-covid-19-or-are-self-isolating)
- [COVID-19 positive – managing your symptoms | Health Navigator NZ](https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/keeping-well/managing-your-symptoms)

If you know anyone in your community affected by COVID-19 and who may need help, such as food and other financial assistance, Work and Income has a range of [supports available for individuals, families, employers and self-employed people affected by COVID-19.](https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/individuals-families-employers-self-employed-people-affected-by-covid-19)

## **Work and Income support**

The beginning of the year can be a tough time for parents who are faced with many costs and it is important you are aware of what assistance you may be able to get from Work and Income. These are available to people on a low income as well as those on a benefit.

Check what you might get here

- [School costs](#)
- [Out of School Care and Recreation \(OSCAR\) Subsidy](#)
- [Other Childcare Assistance](#)
- [School and Year Start-up Payment \(for people getting Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit\)](#)
- [Help with living costs \(including food and rent/mortgage\)](#)

Use the links above or call 0800 559 009 to find out more, or to apply.

MoneyTalks can assist with [free budgeting and debt help](#)

You can also contact your local community provider. [Please find more information here.](#)

### **Getting ready to return to school**

I am assured by MOE there will be NO LOCKDOWNS as in previous years, however school may close for a short period if we have a large number of positive cases at school or if we are unable to staff the school due to self-isolation measures. Hopefully, if we all follow the above guidelines we won't need to close the school.

We are also here to help. Please get in touch if you have any concerns or need help in any way

Kia Kaha, Kia Māia, Kia Manawanui

Matua Kairo McLean  
Principal - Aorangi School