



28 August 2021

Dear Parents/Caregivers and Whānau

I hope this letter finds you well and surviving in our current lockdown. You will be aware that the Government has signaled a move to Level 3 for most of New Zealand, scheduled to begin on Wednesday 1 September. I am still waiting for final details, due to be released on Monday I believe, but working on past information it seems likely that the school will be open only for the children of essential workers who are unable to find any other means of care for their children. Staff will continue to work with all children on-line. Hard copy packs will be available to collect (in a non-contact manner) from Wednesday by appointment (please ring the school office for a suitable time).

Because staff will be working on-line, those children who are coming to school will be working on-line as well, with a small team of teachers acting more as supervisors. To help us determine how many staff we will need to have at school, if your child must attend, I ask that you email the school office school.information@kirkwood.school.nz by 3:00pm Monday. Thank you for your support with this. Please note that my understanding is that school buses will not be operating at this time. Our school hours will be from 9:00am – 3:00pm. Office hours will be from 8:30am – 3:30pm. We are unable to look after children outside these hours.

It is clear that the Government wants us to stay at home if at all possible. I ask you to consider this before sending your child to school.

Currently masks are not mandatory at school, but I suggest that you send your child with a mask in case we need to use them. All children attending will need to sign in, and should, if they can, bring their own hand sanitizer – some will be available at school should they forget. If they have a device, can they please bring it as well. Can you please also make sure that they bring their own food and a full water bottle.

Should the requirements change on Monday, I will be contacting only those families who have indicated their attendance – most likely by email on Tuesday morning after the government announcement on Monday.

I hope the above makes sense and thank you in advance for your co-operation. We do hope that we will soon be at Level 2, where all children can safely return to school.

Ngā mihi nui

Phil Tappenden
Principal