

2022 Start of School

Dear Parents and Caregivers of Riverview School Students



Firstly, a warm welcome to everyone and especially the children who are new to Riverview School. This newsletter deals with start of school only; there will be another newsletter next week.

We now know that school will open on Tuesday at the Red level of the Covid-19 traffic light system, and this will have significant impact on the way in which we do things.

There are many divergent views on all that is happening with the government's response to the pandemic. As a state school, we follow the instructions and guidelines as set out by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and do our best to keep all our students safe. I do receive a number of communications from parents who do not agree with such measures and, while we respect each person's right to their opinion, we will not deviate from the health measures we are asked to follow.

We have over 40 new children starting on Tuesday so it will be a little chaotic, and the weather may play a part in this. We ask for the following from parents:

- All children may come to school between 8:00am and 8:55am. New families, please arrive between 8:15am and 8:45am. Hand sanitiser will be at the gates for all to use.
- Because of the restrictions, we will not have a large pōwhiri as in recent years.
- If your child was here last year, please have them walk into the school from the footpath at the front, just as they were doing last year. They may go directly to their classroom.
- Those children coming to Riverview School for the first time may be accompanied into the school by parents. Please enter the school via the footpath to the staff car park then report to the person sitting at a desk under a school gazebo in front of the office (Red light measures require 1m distancing, and this would be impossible in the reception space). You will, hopefully, have a special pass to show as you come in the gate (if not, don't worry, we will have lists as well). If all paperwork is in order, you will be taken directly to your child's classroom and introduced to the teacher. If any paperwork is needed, we will do that in the reception area.
- Parents of new Year 1 children (Rooms 1 – 3) may stay until after classes have settled. We have a plan in place to help with the process of leaving your child in the classroom. For the first week, you may also enter the school around 2:50pm (using your special pass) and go to the classroom to pick up your child. It is hoped that this will only be needed in the first week, with a view to children going to the road front in Week 2.
- Parents of new children in Years 2 – 6 are respectfully asked to leave again before school starts at 8:55am.
- In general, parents are asked not to come into school during the Red traffic light period, unless for a specific purpose such as meeting with a staff member; this needs to be booked, either with the teacher or through the office.
- All parents/adults entering the school are required to wear face masks and scan and sign in at reception.

- Wearing of Masks: During the Red traffic light measures, children from Year 4 up are required to wear a face mask inside. I know this will not be easy for many and have written to the government asking them to supply these but, at present, the expectation is that families will provide these. I understand that this requirement is still being reviewed in Wellington and am waiting for further advice from the government, which I will forward to families as soon as anything changes.
- Children need to bring:
 - Brain snack, morning tea, and lunch)
 - A named water bottle
 - Swimming cap, togs, and towel (named)
 - Stationery
 - A Riverview School sunhat (named).

Stationery purchases can be made at the "Sunshine Room", which is beside Room 16, near the Bus Bay. There are some whole staff professional development meetings and administration meetings on Thursday and Friday, which means that it cannot be open all the time. Times when you can come are ...

- Tonight (Tuesday) until 6pm
- Tomorrow (Wednesday) 9am to 3pm

If you are picking up children in a car, please follow the patterns set and use the roundabout outside the hall, or park on the roadside and come to the same roundabout on foot. Please be patient as there will be new families learning how this works, and we expect heavy congestion for short periods of time.

If you need to get a message to your child about a change of after-school plans, please let the office know this by 2:15pm if at all possible. Messages need to be written and delivered around the school and this takes time. The receptionist is NOT available to run and find a child at the last minute.

There will be no "Back to School" night in Week 2 (Red Traffic Light) so we will be depending on good newsletter and email communications.

Despite the measures in place, we do want to express the warmest of welcomes to you all and will do our very best to ensure that your children are safe and have a positive and productive start to the school year.

For the Children



Ken McLeay
Principal