



Term 3.

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whānau

I trust you are all well and that, despite the poor weather, you have had a positive two weeks while school has been closed.

We welcome you and your children back for Term 3, and a special **welcome to new families and children** in our school community. This welcome extends to **Mrs Sue Holman** who has returned to our staff for Terms 3 and 4, teaching a new class of 5-year-olds in Room 4.

Planned property work over the holidays was very much affected by the extreme weather, but I am pleased to share that good progress has now happened with two key improvements: the **all-weather shade sails** over the Junior playground behind Rooms 1 – 4 are now well advanced, and the initial clearing work at the far side of the field for our new **septic tanks and system** has begun.

Masking up for the start of Term 3 (most of the wording of this section comes from the Ministry of Education):

In previous years we have found there is an increase in winter illnesses in schools at the start of Term 3 as students bring back infections after travelling and socialising during the holidays. This year cases of COVID-19 are increasing in most parts of the country, and we are also seeing high numbers of other winter illnesses.

For the start of Term 3, 2022, the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health strongly recommend that all schools and kura amend their mask policy for the first four weeks of term to require mask wearing in all indoor settings (where it will not have a significant impact on teaching and learning – see below) for students in Years 4 and above.

This recommendation does not include any situation where mask wearing might not be practicable, such as while eating and drinking, playing certain musical instruments, indoor sport, where it will have a significant impact on teaching and learning (for example, students with particular learning needs), certain activities such as singing or drama performance on stage, and PE. In these situations, particular attention will be paid to ensuring there is good ventilation during the activity, and physical distancing where practicable.

Wearing masks can reduce new cases of the virus by as much as 53%. It works alongside other measures including vaccination, good ventilation, staying home when sick, and hand washing and other hygiene measures, to protect our students and staff.

We know that some of our ākonga/students are exempt from wearing a mask. If they have an exemption card or a letter from their health provider, or we have agreed that mask wearing is not practicable for them, we will support them to not wear a mask. *Note: here at Riverview School we will honour any parent request for a child to not wear a mask – please do this in writing, or by email or class dojo, to your child's teacher.*

The Ministry of Education has provided the school with over 5,000 child sized masks which we will distribute to classrooms, so you do not need to buy any.

In Years 1 – 3 wearing of masks is optional. Child sized masks will be available in each classroom.

Thank you for your support in protecting our school community.

Parents in School: We welcome you coming into the school at any time. We do ask that if/when you come inside a classroom or administration building, that you please wear a mask inside.

We still encourage children walking into school and leaving at the end of the day by themselves as good practice (independence, resilience) but this is a parental choice.

Please note this date: Monday, 5 September. There will be no classes on this date as we have all staff attending a professional development day with Ngāti Rēhia.

I trust the term ahead will be a positive, happy and healthy one for us all.

For the Children



Ken McLeay
Principal.