



## Plans for returning to school on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September

7 September 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Following the Prime Minister's announcement, we are looking forward to welcoming all Riverview School students/tamariki back on Thursday morning.

At Delta Level 2, the school is officially considered to be one big bubble with the children and staff who come every day included in that bubble, but this does not extend to parents, whānau, or members of the public (Ministry of Health rules). Anyone not officially in that bubble who wishes to come into the school must have permission before entering and must be registered at the office for tracing purposes. This is why we are asking you to please deliver your children to the front gate for us to look after, rather than to the classrooms. Buses will run as normal.

I realise that many families will have some anxiety about not accompanying their children to the classroom. Please be assured we will be going the extra mile to ensure that every child is welcomed very warmly and looked after throughout the day.

Here is a reminder of what to plan for on Thursday morning:

- Children may arrive between 8:00am and 8:55am.
- Please drop your children off at the roundabout outside the hall or walk them to the entrance near the staff carpark entry. All other access points have been closed.
- Staff will be at these entrances to welcome the children.
- Children will sanitise their hands (hand sanitiser is provided by the school) as they enter the grounds. Children may use their own as desired.
- All bus runs will be back to normal; bus students enter the school via the bus bay and will also sanitise their hands.
- If using the hall roundabout to drop off your children, please plan ahead so that you can do this quickly (e.g. have bags ready and don't linger for long good-byes). We expect that there will be more congestion than usual. Please be patient.
- If you need more time (perhaps because you have younger children who need help with seatbelts, etc), we suggest that you use the angle parking and walk them to the front of the school to enter, and the same at the end of the day. I know that there will be extra congestion; we will all do our best.
- If possible, please pick up your children after school from the same entry point that they come through in the morning so that they know where to go to meet you. Please explain this to them before coming to school.
- Parents are asked to please NOT come into the school. In an emergency or, if you need to collect your child/ren, please phone the school office (0211077110); wait in your car, and we will bring your child out to you. If you can let the office staff know well ahead of time, that would be appreciated.
- Be sure to include a brain snack, morning tea, lunch, and a named water bottle. Drinking fountains are closed for Level 2. We have replaced and upgraded the filter of all water in the school, so all the water (except the Room 15 -18 classes) is filtered and fine to drink. Rooms 15-18 will have filtered water supplied.



- Children need to bring their stationery, devices (Years 5 and 6), and any library books or readers they have at home (including those that were sent home in learning packs).
- If your child is sick, s/he must stay home.

Face masks: Director-General of Health, Dr Ashley Bloomfield, confirmed that, while masks are recommended in classrooms, they will not be required, either for teachers or students. Masks are “strongly” encouraged in secondary schools, but simply an option for younger children. Bloomfield said at the Monday announcement it was “an area we will keep an eye on”. If you send your child with a mask, we will support their wearing it.

The OSCAR programme will be open at Level 2.

This is a great deal to take in at one time. If we are all patient and work together, I am sure that it will work out.

**One last hint:** Your own demeanour will be very influential on how your children cope with coming back on Thursday. If you are positive about school opening, calm and assured, your child will reflect this and will feel secure. If, on the other hand, you are anxious, worried, or flustered, your children will follow your lead, and will be more worried about returning than they need to be.

For the Children

Ken McLeay  
Principal