

27 August 2021

Kia ora whānau



We all hope that this email finds you and your whānau safe and well. Our thoughts go out to our fellow kiwis in Auckland and Northland who have an extended Level 4 period.

We have just heard that the rest of New Zealand will move to Alert Level 3 on **Wednesday 1 September 2021**. This means that Rototuna Primary School will be open **ONLY** for the children of **workers who are required by their employer to work outside the home and do not have no suitable childcare arrangements organised or available**.

This is a rather long communication this time around with lots of important information, so please read carefully.



Attendance at school from **Wednesday 1 September, 2021** will **ONLY** be for those RPS students whose parents are **workers required by their employers to work outside of the home**. The government has been clear that *"in Alert Level 3 we should work and learn from home if we can. We still want the vast majority of people working from home, and children and young people learning from home. At-risk students and staff should also stay at home."*

On behalf of our staff and our community, we ask that, where possible, please keep your children at home.

Please, please, please ONLY send your children to school during **Alert Level 3** if you are:

- A **worker** who is **required** by their employee to **work outside of the home** in Alert Level 3, and you
- have **no suitable childcare arrangements** organised or available for your child/ren



We thank every single parent who, during our last Alert Level 3 situation, kept their children home and continued juggling their own work-from-home demands, as well as caring for others in their bubble and supporting home learning for their children. We know it is not easy. We are all in this together. Doing our bit to keep our community and awesome country safe! We are,



however, saddened to say that during the last Alert Level 3 lockdown there were a small number of our school parents who, despite the government guidelines, sent their children to school during the last Alert Level 3 when they weren't required by their employers to work outside of the home, but still working from home. This was difficult for us, as a school, to manage. The decisions of a few put our whole community at risk. We know the COVID delta variant is tricky, and to date, we have seen many young people becoming infected with this variant and passing it on to others. Let's all work together to do our bit to keep Kirikirōa from going back to Alert Level 4! Please follow the clear guidelines and expectations that the government has set for Alert Level 3 to keep our whole community and country safe! **On behalf of our staff and our community, we ask that, where possible, please keep your children at home.**

As a school, we are operating at a diminished capacity with many of our teachers unable to work during Alert Level 3 because they meet one or more of the criteria as set out by the Ministry of Health guidelines. Teachers who are working in bubbles also have to continue to provide home learning for their students, which doubles their workload. **So... please, please, please ONLY** send your children to school during **Alert Level 3** if you are:

- A **worker** who is **required** by their employer to **work outside** of the home in Alert Level 3, and you
- have **no other suitable childcare arrangements** available for your child/ren



Bubble Life at School:



The whole idea of working in bubbles at school during Alert Level 3 is to minimise the contact people have with other people outside their current home bubble. Therefore, once a school bubble is organised, it is fixed. We don't want school bubbles changing during Alert Level 3 because this then increases the contact people have with other people. During our last Alert Level 3 lockdown, we had many students who

were put into school bubbles then they either just did not turn up, or they attended for a day or two and then did not continue to attend. This meant some school bubbles had only one or two students in it - which was distressing for the one or two students who were in a school bubble alone. **On behalf of our staff and our community, we ask that, where possible, please keep your children at home.**

Please, please, please only fill in the form below if you are **CERTAIN** that your child needs to attend school during Alert Level 3. Once we organise school bubbles, we do not want to change bubbles as this increases the connections people who are on site have.



Because we have a decreased level of teachers able to teach onsite during Alert Level 3, students WILL NOT be organised in family bubbles this time, instead, students will be organised in **Year Level** bubbles. Each school bubble will have a capacity of up to twenty students.

To help us plan for school during Alert Level 3, we ask that if your child/ren needs to attend school so that you can **return to work outside of the home**, please fill in the google form (link below):

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf-X3WvokDARLe-g1DMf8v7ovDS45Jrfu5Nv0_ITs-tt8Xv_Q/viewform

- Please fill in this form **ONLY** (do not email your child's teacher or the office).
- Please fill in this form no later than **12noon Monday 30 August 2021**.

This information is crucial in helping us organise 'school bubbles' for students during Alert Level 3.

The Ministry of Education has advised that they are working closely with the Ministry of Health to develop clear guidance that will support schools to safely re-open their premises to students and staff. This will help us work through the public health requirements that we all need to meet. As you will be doing, we want to be sure that what we do will keep our community as safe as possible.



Alert Level 3 Plan

We have all been here before whānau, and we thank you for the way you quickly adapt and follow the different approach to school life in Alert Level 3. You all know that school life for those in school bubbles during Alert Level 3, will look and be different, as the following points outline:

- **Drop off must be at the gate** and your child is to walk themselves to their classroom.
- **Drop off must not be before 8.45-9.00am**. Students must go straight to their assigned classroom.
- Before and After School Care will not operate.
- The school day will be from 9.00am to 2.30pm with only 30 minutes for lunch.
- **Your child will meet you at the front entrance of the school at 2.30pm** there will be no walking school bus to Countdown. Older children may be able to walk or ride home by prearrangement.
- To protect bubbles, there will be **no supervision of students after 2.30pm** so it is important that you are on time to pick your child from the front entrance at 2.30pm.

- Your child will be assigned to a 'bubble' with no more than 20 students. Your child may be with different staff members throughout the day. Where possible they will remain with similar aged children.
- Your child will remain with their assigned bubble for the entire day.
- This will mean a different approach to classroom life than they are currently used to.
- Students will mostly work from their own device on home learning set by their classroom teacher for the majority of their time at school.
- Students will be seated away from their bubble peers to maintain safe social distancing
- Hand hygiene and school hygiene will remain a top priority.

These are just some of the immediate health and safety practices that we are putting into practice. As we receive more information from the Ministry of Education we will revise our Covid-19 Health and Safety Plan and keep you fully informed of any updates and/or changes.



For now, we will continue to support your child's learning by distance while we progress our planning for what Alert Level 3 will mean for you and for our school. We will be in touch again soon with more information. Please connect with your child's classroom teachers with any questions you might have.

Look out for your whānau, friends and neighbours 😊

Kia haumarū. Noho ora mai.
Be safe. Stay well.

James, Kylie, Stacey, and Tina.

