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*Kia ora koutou*

*It was a big relief to hear we are moving back to Alert Level 2 at the beginning of next week. We look forward to welcoming all our students and staff back onsite at that time!*

*Thank you once more to our parents and caregivers for the support and resilience you have shown through Alert Level 3.*

*Strong vigilance, good hygiene practices, coupled with the hard work our health authorities are doing to identify and support any confirmed cases and their close contacts remain important for all of us.*

*Just a reminder that while everyone is onsite at Alert Level 2 next week, we must adhere to key health measures including:*

- Staying away if sick*
- Good hand hygiene and cough and sneeze etiquette*
- Keeping the appropriate physical distance from others (in class this means no touching each other and keeping out of breathing distance)*
- Cleaning and disinfecting our high touch surfaces daily*
- Displaying QR code posters at our entrances and encouraging all of our community to download the NZ COVID Tracer App and use it if they come onsite*
- Keeping a visitor register for anyone who cannot use the app and for other visitors who come onsite for a period of time.*

*We know all these things will help to keep our community as safe as possible. Because of these measures, your child does not need to wear a face covering while at school. We will of course support them should they choose to do so.*

*For those of you who might be finding things more difficult than usual, a reminder that there is a large range of support available for businesses and the community. We encourage you to*

go to [covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz) for more information, or get in touch and we will help you to find the information and support you need.

## Communication to Parents under Alert Level 2

Parent instructions – bringing students to school during Alert Level 2 at Buckland School

### Welcome Back!

To ensure Buckland School is a safe place for students, staff and parents we ask that you strictly adhere to the following guidelines and that you go over the rules with your children prior to starting back to school:

**Student Well-Being** – Students may find coming back to school difficult. Assuring them that they are safe and checking on their wellbeing is the first and most important job we will be doing. Once we are assured children are settled then we will start focusing on learning. Please discuss any/all concern/worries your child is having with their teacher or discuss with me (principal) immediately by phone or email only. We are very aware of the impact this challenging time has had on children and their families and want to do everything in our power to promote positive wellbeing. We will do our best to support children to make the transition back to school a positive experience.

**Monday 31 August** – Students will make their way to their own room. They will be informed about the rules around keeping safe while at school. (Please pre-empt this by talking about hand washing, sanitising, coughing into sleeve and social distancing.)

**Beginning of School day** – Students need to be at school as close to 8.50 a.m. as is possible. Students must enter through the front two gates only (not the front parking area.) Until further notice parents must farewell their children at these gates and not enter the school. Children and parents must maintain as much physical social distance from anyone outside of their family at all times. The recommendation for parents and caregivers, from people they don't know (to align with public health measures outside the school grounds) is 2 metres.

Students must go directly to their classrooms and hand sanitize. They will not be allowed to play outside prior to school starting to minimise contact with others. Until further notice no student should be on-site earlier than 8.30 a.m.

**End of School Day** – Students will be released from their classes in a staggered manner (juniors first) and will exit via the two school gates. Pickup time will be between 2.50 (NE, Yr 1 & 2 plus siblings) – 3.00 p.m. (Yr 3 – 8) Parents cannot come into the school grounds to pick up students unless prior arrangement has been made and the correct sign-in completed at the school office (to allow for contact tracing should the need arise.) Please vacate the school as soon as you have your children and for your safety keep to the 2 metre social distancing rule.

**Food & Drink** – Students must bring a full named water bottle and their lunchbox with food for the day. There will be no sharing of food and water fountains will not be operating. Lunch will be eaten inside classrooms. We also request that students bring a **named** hand towel that they can use for hand drying. (This is to prevent the transfer of germs and will be sent home each Friday for washing.)

**Washing of Hands/Sanitising** – Students will be monitored regularly throughout the day in the washing of hands and use of sanitiser. On entry to the room at the beginning of the day and after intervals hand sanitiser will be used. Prior to and after the use of sports equipment, playgrounds or IT equipment hand sanitiser will also be used.

**Full School Uniform** – Students are expected to wear their full school uniform. It is suggested that students are warmly dressed (extra layers) for winter.

**Physical Distancing** – Although there is not a specific measurement under Level 2 for schools where ever practicable we will be using 1 metre as the guide to keeping children and staff safe. Please talk to your children about this.

**Sick Students** – Do not send any students to school who are unwell. Any students presenting at school with illness will be immediately isolated and parents will be contacted. It is **critical** that

the main caregiver is contactable and available to pick up their child in a prompt manner.

**No personal equipment** (toys) of any type must be brought to school. Adventure Playgrounds will be open but hygiene practices will be observed.

**Breaktimes** – Students will have 3 controlled break times throughout the day. These break times will see students remain within an area of the school to allow for contact tracing should the need arise.

**School Bags** – Students will have their school bags on their hooks or in their cubbyholes.

**Contact Tracing** – Contact tracing remains a priority. School QR code posters for the NZ COVID Tracer App are on display around the school. Any visitors to the school will also be required to sign in at the office.

**Kelly Club After School Care** – The Board have approved the processes to be followed and this will be operating again from Monday 31 August.

**Borrowed School Devices** – All devices/chargers/equipment that were on loan from the school must be returned to the front collection point for cleaning and reallocation to correct rooms.

Please do not take them back to classes.

If you require any clarification or have questions regarding the above instructions, please do not hesitate to contact me: [principal@buckland.school.nz](mailto:principal@buckland.school.nz) or on school phone: 2389419.

Kind Regards

Mavis Glasgow

Principal