
Tuesday 01 February 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to all Murrays Bay students and families, and a warm welcome to all new students who are starting with us this year. We hope that it has been a wonderful summer for your whānau.

Our team is feeling refreshed and looking forward to the 2022 school year, and we are looking forward to welcoming everyone back onsite on Thursday.

In regard to COVID-19, we have moved fully into the new traffic light framework for all our school activities and events this year. Please find below details of how our school will operate under the Red Traffic Light setting. Many of the measures outlined below have been in place here at school throughout the pandemic.

To keep staff and students safe, schools have been asked to focus on:

- Appropriate wearing of face masks for students in Years 4-6 and any other student who wishes to wear a mask.
- High levels of hygiene.
- Appropriate social distancing.
- Careful Ministry of Health contact tracing (in case of a COVID-19 infection at school).

It is our goal for our school to remain OPEN as much as possible. Some mitigation measures we have put in place include:

- NO PERSON WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK OR FEELING UNWELL.
- Parents are strongly encouraged **NOT to come onto the school site** to drop off or pick up their children. This was proven to be highly effective during our various Alert Level restrictions last year and we are confident that pupils and the community will be able to continue this practice.
- Anyone who has to visit the school MUST sign in with our school QR code.



- Children are to enter the school premises via Clematis Avenue, Aotearoa Terrace or across the bottom field. There is **NO ACCESS** via Murrays Bay Intermediate School in respect of helping to keep their school community safe. Please avoid walking through Murrays Bay Intermediate School site. It is important that when coming to school children social distance by not touching each other and staying out of each other's space.

- **Staggered start and finish times are in place:**
 - **Students with surnames beginning with A - M** can come onto school grounds at 8:30 am and will be dismissed at 2:45 pm
 - **Students with surnames beginning with N - Z** can come onto school grounds at 8:45 am and will be dismissed at 3:00 pm.

- **Before school**
 - We ask that children wash their hands just before they leave home.
 - Children **MUST NOT** be on-site **before 8:30am**. If you need childcare for your child prior to 8:30am, Carekids Before and After School Care is available onsite. Please phone Margaret on 0210582660 for further information.
 - Unless previously arranged, please do not walk into the school grounds with your child.
 - On arrival, children **MUST** go straight to their classroom and wash and sanitise their hands.
 - Playgrounds are **NOT** open for use before school starts.

- **After school**
 - We will ensure that children wash and sanitise their hands just before they leave school.
 - Children must leave the school site as soon as they have been dismissed. If you are picking them up from school, please ensure that you are on time. If you need childcare for your child from 3:00pm onwards, Carekids Before and After School Care is available onsite. Please phone Maragret on 0210582660 for further information.
 - Unless previously arranged, please do not walk into the school grounds to pick up your child.
 - Please make a plan with your child for pick up time. Choose a place that you will meet them, out of school grounds. Please ensure you maintain physical distancing with other parents at drop off and pick up times. We strongly encourage you to wear a mask.
 - Playgrounds are **NOT** open for use after 3:00pm and the school site needs to be cleared by 3:20pm.

- **During school**
 - Year groups will be kept totally separate from each other, including at break times.
 - Classes and teachers will be operating individually and have very little contact with each other, apart from at break times. This means that our ILEs will be operating as individual classrooms until further notice.
 - Classrooms will be well ventilated by having windows and doors open.



- Learning will take place outside where possible. Please ensure your child has sunscreen applied at home each morning.
 - Students and teachers in Years 4-6 will need to wear masks when inside.
 - Hand washing, social distancing and coughing and sneezing etiquette will be followed alongside reminders of staying out of each other's space and not touching each other.
 - The school will be split in half for Morning Tea and Lunch Time breaks to ease congestion in bathrooms and allow more space for playing at a safer distance. Each year group will have its own area to play in to avoid mixing of year groups.
 - All assemblies will be held remotely.
 - Cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces will be carried out at regular intervals during the day.
 - Sports equipment and the playgrounds will be available for PE and at break times with students washing their hands before and after every use.
- **Events and activities**
 - Large gatherings, especially when indoors, continue to be one of the riskier activities we can undertake. We have therefore reviewed all our events and activities for the upcoming term to ensure we meet the health guidance for Red.
 - Some of our outside providers will continue to provide service onsite. These will be the providers who have a health and safety plan that meets our school standards.
- **School lunch orders** will be available as usual.

Managing cases in our school

We have a good contact tracing system in place so that if there is a confirmed case who has been at school while infectious, we can quickly identify who was a close contact of that person. We will then quickly advise those contacts of what they need to do.

Only if the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Education advises to do so, would we consider closing our physical onsite school and move to distance learning for everyone. At Red we will keep everyone learning onsite for as long as we can. Please make sure the contact details we have on file for you are up to date, so we can get in touch with you if needed.

We are looking forward to the year ahead and all hoping that we can move forward and get back to 'normal' as safely and quickly as possible.

We look forward to having your children back with us at school on Thursday.

Kind regards and stay safe.

Hayden Iles
Principal

