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Monday 25 July 2022

### **Mask Wearing for the Start of Term 3**

We hope you had a restful holiday with your family. We are looking forward to all the exciting events and activities that will be taking place in Term 3!

With the significant increase of winter illnesses in school at the end of Term 2, we had a high number of staff and students absent from school. Our aim is to keep our school open every day this term and we therefore need to ensure that we have robust mitigation strategies in place to help keep everyone well.

The Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health strongly recommend that all schools require students in Year 4 and above to wear masks at school in indoor settings. **In order to help keep everyone well, we have decided to ask students and staff in Years 4, 5 and 6 to wear masks for at least the first four weeks of term, when indoors.** If your child is in Years 0-3 they are still welcome to wear a mask if they wish to.

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.

[Keep up healthy habits – Unite Against COVID-19](#)

Adult-sized masks can generally be adjusted to fit older children by tying knots in the ear loops. Unite Against COVID-19 shows how to do this:

[How to wear a face mask safely – Unite Against COVID-19](#)

We know that some of our 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.

[Apply for a face mask exemption pass – Unite Against COVID-19](#)

**Please make sure that children in Years 4, 5 and 6 come to school ready to wear masks.** Students should bring masks from home. If students cannot bring masks, there will be a limited supply of masks for students who are unable to bring one from home.

Thank you for your support in protecting our school community.

Ngā mihi,

Hayden Iles  
Principal

