

Red Level Omicron

 **Western Heights Primary School – Whanau information**

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| **Health and Safety Information*** All teachers will wear protective visors while teaching. Masks for general purpose.
* The Ministry of Education informed schools dated 23/1/2022 that masks must be worn by year 4 students and above while at school. Year 0-3 not mandatory but strongly advised. Omicron is highly contagious among school aged children.
* The office is open to parents/caregivers from 9.30am-12.30pm daily and 3.15pm-4.00pm
* All parents/caregivers/visitors are required to sign in and sign out for tracking purposes. Also, QR Scanning. Masks required.
* All Parents/Caregivers /Visitors must go straight to the office. No visiting classrooms.
* Parents/Caregivers/Visitors must adhere to the social distancing guidelines of 2m separation.
* On arrival at school a hand sanitiser stand will be set up on the inside of the open gates. 3 Entrances. All visitors must use the hand sanitiser.
* All classrooms will be supplied with bacterial wipes for computers and tablets to be used at the end of the day before storage, hand sanitiser for students and staff will continue to be available.
* Unnecessary movement within the school will be controlled, movement only when necessary.
* Lunches will arrive at 12.00pm and will be placed outside of the classroom door as per normal. Teachers will distribute lunches to children.
* Students who refuse to adhere to the social distancing rules will be sent home.
* Behaviour that is compromising the health and safety of other students will result in the student being sent home. No exceptions.
* Teachers to go over the hand washing 20 seconds and sanitising rules continually during the day. Parents/Caregivers to reinforce this message.
* Most Important, we are a very huggy school. Our students will be expecting a hug from their teacher. We now have the ‘Tumeke Tap’, a toe to toe or foot to foot tap. It shows we care; kids can also do it because it is a metre apart.
* If a child is upset or has hurt themselves or just needs a hug, they will receive one, avoiding face to face contact.
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| **Start of the School Day*** Staggered start to the day. Juniors without senior siblings 8.30am, Seniors plus Seniors with Junior siblings 8.45am.
* No Parents/Caregivers to enter school at this time. No walking your children to class.
* Parents /Caregivers will need to drive directly to the drop off point, and let the child/children out, not park and walk children to the entrance. This will keep a steady flow through the main carparks.
* Children will sanitise their hands-on entry to school.
* Children will be required to sanitise their hands every time they enter or leave their classroom, toileting, cloak bay etc.
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| **Social Distancing**Ministry of Health Guideline at Red Level. In schools, physical distancing means children, young people and staff maintaining enough distance so that they are not breathing on or touching each other. **Brent’s Quote- Maintain physical distancing where practicable** * Inside the classroom the social distancing requirement will be an appropriate distance 1m.
* Outside the classroom coming to and from school also an appropriate distance.
* Breaktimes will require tight control. Social distancing at breaktime, Teachers will encourage children to limit touching and getting in the breath zone of each other etc.
* Possible playground separation splitting juniors and seniors may occur. To be decided.
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| **Break Times*** Break times remain the same.
* Eating times at the discretion of the teacher.
* Reflection Room will operate as per normal.
* Duty teachers who are roaming will encourage children to play following the social distancing protocol, appropriate distance and not face to face.
* At playtimes children are expected to attend an activity or play their own game. We do not want children loitering around.
* Library is open at lunchtime following this schedule-Kakano/Monday, Pihinga/Tuesday, Pihinganui/Wednesday, Purapura/Thursday, Mahuri/Friday.
* Red Level guidelines state at break times children can interact with fellow students in the open air within all year groups. However, we will be discouraging close contact and encouraging the wearing of masks.
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| **School Program*** Our teaching programmes operate as normal with the exclusion of cross waka events.
* Explicit group-based teaching in the core areas for juniors, clinic based explicit teaching for seniors- 1m social distancing rules for group or cooperative activities. Teachers will wear medical face visors.
* Students who do not follow the required Red Level guidelines in PE will not be invited back during Red Level.
* No assemblies of any kind that would involve over 100 students until directed by the MOE .
* 4-year-old Classes will operate under Red level but only students from the same ECE bubble. Random arrivals will be turned away.
* Pathways 4 Learning Programs- Tutors will work with individuals or groups from the same class. No waka crossover.
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| **End of the school Day*** Year 0,1,2 can be picked up at 2.30pm. Older siblings can go with them. Nobody is released at 2.30pm unless requested by the office. All other children released at 2.53pm as normal
* The bus and chariot will operate starting 10 minutes earlier. Masks must be worn by students or no entry onto the bus.
* No parents/caregivers are to leave their vehicle and wait outside the classroom for their children.
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| **Other*** Omicron is highly contagious among young people. Masks are the best way to limit the spread. Please ensure your child has a mask.
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Thank you

Brent Griffin