



Thursday 11th November

Kia ora koutou e te whānau o Matipo,

Yesterday our Government advised Tamaki Makaurau - Auckland would re-open all Primary Schools on Wednesday 17th November.

The Ministry of Health deems the risk to be lower and it is safer for children to return to school providing appropriate health and safety measures are in place, such as contact tracing, additional hygiene routines, limiting numbers of children out at break times, vaccination of staff and ventilation in all classroom spaces. Matipo School will be open for instruction Monday to Friday details are below.

When children return to school the day-to-day running of Matipo Primary will be very similar to what the tamariki experienced on their return after previous lockdowns, with personal hygiene being of high importance. If you are new to Matipo Primary, don't worry we have detailed in this letter what you can expect.

Monday 15th November will be a Teacher Only Day, this time will be used for all staff to prepare classrooms and plan for return onsite face to face. **Therefore, essential children will also be asked to remain home this day. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, we want to ensure all health and safety measures are in place to keep everyone safe.** Essential children can return from Tuesday 16th November.

In this newsletter you will find vital information for the return of your tamariki to school. Please read this newsletter all the way to the end and please read it carefully. Once you have read through this letter, please complete [this form](#) regarding whether your child/ren will return to school.

What your child needs for school each day:

- **Named Water bottle** - Water fountains will be closed. Classroom sinks can be used to refill water bottles.
 - **Covered shoes, jacket/raincoat and sweatshirt** (all named)
 - **Plenty of healthy food** for the day
 - **A container/bag to take their own rubbish home**
- **Sanitizer/ tissues** the school will have these available in all classrooms and shared spaces, we encourage our tamariki to keep their own as well.

Checking and Tracking Sickness

- If your child is sick in any way; has a 'sniffle', a runny nose, headache, sore throat, is coughing or sneezing, has 'flu-like symptoms or has an upset tummy. Let us know and keep your child home for 48 hours or until symptoms are no longer present. **Do not send your child to school if they are unwell. This is to protect all tamariki and staff.**
- **If someone is unwell in your family or household we encourage you to keep your child at home.**
- If another child in your child's class is sick then that child cannot return to school as per the guidelines above. If they are suspected of COVID-19 we will notify the COVID Helpdesk. **The local Health department will contact families if your child has been exposed to COVID-19.**
- If a teacher or staff member is sick we will ensure they do not return to school without effective due diligence. The same processes will be in place for staff as for students.
- **If a teacher is away we will:** check the reason, ensure online learning can continue, and try to find a suitable reliever. If not, classes will be notified and your child will be asked to remain at home.

Before and After School Care (SKIDS) / Breakfast Club

- Will not operate under this current alert level.

School Devices

- If you currently have a school device please return these with your child.

In order to maintain safety we will be adjusting the following things:

- The majority of learning will be delivered face to face. We have some provisions for online learning that will be posted on your child's designated platform, i.e. Seesaw or Google Classroom. This will be self directed and not necessarily be created or marked by your child's classroom teacher.
- Close tracking of attendance; student engagement with online learning or engagement with teachers or teacher aides has all been closely tracked during lockdown.
- Regularly disinfect high touch areas; toilets, tabletops, stair rails and door handles etc. Sanitiser will be available for all students and they will be reminded to use it regularly.

Arrival and Departure

- We require all our Whanau that you **'drop and go'** each morning and arrange for a *'pick up spot'* outside the school gates each day.
 - While we do understand some of our tamariki will require transitioning back to school support. We ask Whanau to drop your child at the school gate, for any child that needs support getting to their classroom they will be assisted by our teacher aides.
- Arrival to and departure from school will be staggered depending on year level. Siblings will arrive and depart at the earliest slot. For example, one sibling is in Room 2 and the other is in Room 15, they will both arrive at 8:20am and leave at 2:00pm.

Team	Classes	Arrival	Departure
Ako	Rooms 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9	9:20am - 9:35am	2:00pm
Taonga	Rooms 1, 2 & 3	9:20am - 9:35am	2:00pm
Mana	Rooms 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 & 25	8:50am - 9:10am	2:20pm
Aroha	Rooms 14, 15, 16 & 18	8:20am - 8:40am	2:40pm
Te Puawaitanga	Rooms 12 & 13	8:20am - 8:40am	2:40pm

Staggered Break Time

- To ensure bubble integrity and mitigate intermingling with bubbles, our break times will be staggered throughout the day and play areas will be strictly monitored.

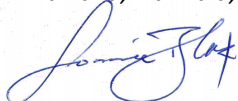
Rubbish

- To protect our staff, we ask your child to take home all their own rubbish. Please send them with a bag to put their rubbish in. Please make sure they empty it at home.

COVID-19 poses a considerable risk for staff and the wider community if health and safety measures are not correctly followed. Students who do not follow instructions or comply with Health and Safety requirements will be sent home in the first instance. If there is further non-compliance students may face disciplinary action. Please discuss this and our Health and Safety expectations (as above) with your child. Classroom teachers will also be discussing the shared expectations.

We will focus on the wellbeing of all our tamariki. We are aware this has been a disruptive year for the tamariki, staff and our whanau. We will work hard to help our tamariki transition back to school again. If you have any questions or require support please contact us. Our contact details can be found on the school website. Please also find a copy of our [health and safety action plan here](#).

Kia Kaha, Kia Maia, Kia Manawanui,



Matua Jonnie Black
Tumuaki/Principal