



COVID - 19 UPDATE

22 May 2020

Dear Parents and Whanau,

It's been a real joy having the children back this week. They have settled into school life very well. We extended all break times this week to give the children more time to reconnect out in the playground. We felt this was very important after lockdown. Normal learning times will resume next week.

Drop Off and Pick Up Times

Thank you everyone for your patience and support with the new Level 2 procedures around dropping off and picking up children. The Ministry of Health and Education still wants as few people as possible on the school premises so we will continue with our current Drop Off and Pick Up procedures next week. I am expecting the rules and guidelines around this to relax over the coming weeks if the number of cases remain low.

The staff, including myself, have been very impressed with the way our students have settled into each day on arrival. We've seen lots of independence and very, very few tears.

Please remember that parents and whanau can enter the school premises if necessary as long as they contact trace and adhere to the Health and Safety practices of the school.

Office is now open

The school office will be open to parents and whanau from Monday 25 May. As I've mentioned, this is only if necessary eg. picking up a sick child, and you will need to

contact trace. As we are still trying to keep the number of people entering the premises to a minimum, we ask that you phone, txt or email the office if you need anything.

Early Pickups and Late Arrivals

If your child arrives late to school (after 8.45 am) or needs to be picked up early, we ask that you remain in the car park and phone the school office on 07 856 5946. Someone will be able to come to the Visitors Gate and either pick up your child/ren or deliver them to you.

Term Dates

The Ministry of Education has given an assurance that term dates will remain the same for Primary Schools for the remainder of 2020. For Newstead Model Country School this means the following:

- Term 2 finishes Friday 3 July.
- Term 3 starts Monday 20 July and finishes Friday 25 September.
- Term 4 starts Monday 12 October and finishes Tuesday 15 December.

The last holidays were brought forward to give teachers time to work on and develop their Distance Learning programmes.

Lost Property

We currently have lots of unclaimed Lost Property. We are putting this out in the Drop Off and Pick Up zone each day. To manage the amount of Lost Property we get, any unclaimed clothing and shoes are cleaned then delivered to Hospice at the end of each term.

Life Choices

We have recently put out our annual "Opt In" survey for the Life Choices programme that will be starting in a couple of weeks. If you wish for your child to take part in this programme, please fill out the survey by Friday 29th May.

Reminders

- School starts at 8.45 am.
- Marzipan starts up again next week.

- Please bring back any exercise books that were used at home during lockdown.
- Please ensure your child has their own drink bottles at school. The school drinking fountains are not in use during Level 2.
- Senior students can BYOD.
- Pick Up time after school is 2.35 - 3.00pm. Any children not picked up by 3.00pm will wait in the office. You will need to contact the office on 07 856 5946 and wait in the carpark for your child to be brought out.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge and thank all parents and whanau for all the hard mahi/work you have put into your children over the past two months. We are working together to ensure our kids feel safe and calm. I have had the privilege of working in a number of school communities in my career so far, including overseas, and I feel our Newstead community is tight and we genuinely look out for one another. Thank you.

Keep safe and be kind to one another.

Ngā mihi

Drew Campbell - Principal