



COVID - 19 UPDATE

29 May 2020

Dear Parents and Whanau,

I hope things are going well for everyone and that you manage to get some sort of a break this long weekend. I will continue to put out these weekly COVID updates during level 2 instead of my usual Principals blurb in the newsletter. I have repeated some of the important messages from last week's update as some information has not changed.

Drop Off and Pick Up Times

The Ministry of Education have advised us to continue with our current procedures through to Level 1. The current practices of children being dropped off and picked up from outside the gates, the closing of gates between 8.45am and 4.00pm, and parents and visitors signing in at the office are done for two reasons:

1. While parents and visitors can come onto the school premises at any time, schools are encouraged to keep the number of people entering school premises during Level 2 **to a minimum.**
2. All schools need to control the flow of people onto school premises to make contact tracing easier. This means that between the hours of 8.45am and 5.00pm, all visitors and parents entering the school premises must come through the gate to the staff car park and go straight to the office to contact trace.

A reminder that our new Kiss and Go Area is on the left as you enter the school car park. This area is designated for parents who want to drop their children off safely without turning off their engine.

We also ask that parents pick up their children from the designated Drop Off and Pick Up Zone and not ask them to cross the car park to meet them at the end of the day. We want to keep the children safe.

Again, a huge thanks for your support and cooperation with this.

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 (by the staff car park) 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.

A reminder that school is closed this Monday 1 June as it's Queens Birthday weekend.

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.

Hand Sanitiser

Children are welcome to bring to school and use their own hand sanitiser. Children are not allowed to share this with anyone but their siblings.

Mid Year Assessment

Over the next few weeks, teachers will be carrying out mid year assessment in mathematics, reading and writing. This will help inform us about next steps for your child

in these areas. At this stage, we will be holding Learning Conferences (also known as Parent Interviews) on Thursday 2 July from 12.30pm. A letter and booking procedure will come out in the next few weeks.

Keep safe and be kind to one another.

Ngā mihi

Drew Campbell - Principal