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Dear Parents and Caregivers – Tena Koutou Katoua

# chatterbox



It is a great relief that we can now be safely in Alert Level 1 from midnight last night. The past few months have been an incredible challenge for our country and it has been amazing to see the way the people of New Zealand have responded to this.

One of the benefits of operating under the various alert levels is that we have been able to try various adjustments to our school routines.

Going ahead we are going to keep the following:

1. Arriving at school to start the day:

No children to enter the grounds before 8.30am unless they are attending GMS OSCAR or doing Road Patrol that day. The only other exceptions would be if there was a special trip or event that day.

2. Parents in the school grounds before the start of the school day:

To avoid having to keep recording parents contact tracing details when entering our school site, for the past three weeks we have asked that parents say goodbye to their children outside the school. Staff at school immediately noticed a couple of things as a result of the children coming into school by themselves.

- i) They took more responsibility for themselves and their belongings as they came into school. They learnt how to hang their bags and get organised for the day as their parents weren't there to perform these tasks for them.
- ii) Many children started looking for their friends or making new friendships rather than staying close to their parents before 9.00am

We do not want to lose the gains we have made in this approach as we see the benefits for the children.

So we are strongly encouraging parents to continue to drop their children at the school gate and will continue this until the end of Term 2. We understand that children who are very new to school, may need their parents to settle them so if they want to come in that is fine. If older children are anxious then we ask that you work with the teacher to overcome these anxieties, rather than simply continuing to escort them in. However, we do not want to be denying parents the opportunity to see the types of things going on in school. We want to make Friday mornings 'whānau time' from 8.30am until 9.00am when parents are encouraged to come into school with their child. We will also be trialling this until the end of the Term.

3. End of the school day and releasing students

This has been the most successful change over the last few months for many schools, including ours. Before lockdown we had been so worried about the congestion of traffic at the end of the day when hundreds of cars arrive and go in and out (at times dangerously) of the car park and through very busy intersections.



**If you are thinking about moving, let's work together to help both YOU and Greenmeadows School achieve a great result.**

For every property that is listed and sold with us, we will give \$500 back towards Greenmeadows School for them to use to benefit your children. The next school trip, the new playground equipment - it could be on us! Give me a call today, I would love to hear from you.



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Since the staggered times to finish the day have started, the end of the day has been so much safer ... and we want this to keep going. The people in the church are also very happy there are now sufficient car parks to go around for everyone.

What also helps is that parents are assembling at the gates and teachers bringing the children out to meet them. This is a practise many overseas schools use and it helps clear the school quickly.

These will be the routines for the rest of Term 2:

2.45pm Kowhai (Year 1 and 2) students released along with any older siblings

2.55pm Pohutukawa students released along with any older siblings and any other children who cross Guppy Road at the Reigner Catholic School kea crossing.

3.00pm All remaining Tōtara students released from school

If parents keep assembling in the pick up areas we have used these past few weeks this will continue to stay slick, smooth and safe.

#### 4. Eating at Break Times

One new thing we are going to trial is when children eat at break times. We are going to move the eating time to the end of the break (rather than the start). They get the opportunity to play prior to this.

- Interval will now go from 10.50am until 11.10am, followed by eating in class for ten minutes
- Lunch will now go from 12.50pm until 1.30pm, followed by eating in class for ten minutes.
- The canteen times are going to adjust to fit into this new timetable.
- We will review this at the end of Term 2 (a lot of reviewing going then!).

#### 5. Contact Tracing

As we are now in Level 1, this is no longer required. When picking up students for appointments or signing out early, please use the tablet in the office as previously.

#### STARTING UP AGAIN!

- Full school assemblies - from this Friday 12 June 12.20pm start in the Heart of the School (weather permitting)
- Sports in Term 3 - registrations for teams are now on the school website (the link was emailed out yesterday)
- GMS Canteen - in full operation again (apart from Juicies and Moosies) Wednesdays to Fridays. You can order online or with cash.

#### ALSO:

Taradale Rugby Club JAB - are looking for junior rugby players from 5th to 12th grade. We have official weigh ins on Tuesday 16th June from 4-6pm. To register please visit our club website [www.sporty.co.nz/taradalerugby](http://www.sporty.co.nz/taradalerugby). On the page you will see the tab called 'Club Registration Forms'. Here you will see the Junior Registration Form. If you have any queries please contact Rachael on 0276023015.

Ka kite ano,

Mark Johnson  
Principal



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