



SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL

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Te Matapuna Aroha – Te Matapuna Whakapono

14 May 2020

Kia ora Parents, Caregivers, Whanau,

I am sure your child/young person is getting excited about returning to school on Monday and we are looking forward to seeing them and getting back to a more normal day. I wanted to share with you that while we will be trying to operate as normally as possible we will also need to follow the Ministry of Education Level 2 Guidelines and put some extra measures in place because of our student's needs.

Under Level 2

Distancing

Staff and students will try to maintain the required distancing so that they are out of another person's 'moist breath zone'

To help students stay out of a person's moist breath zone we will:

- teach students what the moist breath zone means and encourage students to stay out of other students and staff's moist breath zone
- alter furniture layout where necessary so that students are out of other people's moist breath zone
- alter programmes so that other students and staff are not in each other's moist breath zone
- some programmes and IEP/ITP goals may not currently be able to be taught if they require close proximity.
- Students based in satellites will not at the beginning stages of Level 2 be going into the partner school classes nor will students from the partner school be going into the satellite space
- When staff do need to be in close proximity to students they may need to wear a face shield and/or gloves and/or a gown or apron and/or a mask. This will not be the normal day to day wear of staff but may be worn if staff require this.

Parents

Parents/caregivers can come to drop off and pick up their children/young people. As per my email dated 13 May 2020 school transport has also resumed for students and will begin on Monday 18 May 2020.

If parents/caregivers do bring in their child/young person or pick them up from school, they must maintain a 2-metre distance from students and staff. Because many of our students cannot maintain 2 meters distance we are asking that parents/caregivers drop off and pick up their child/young person at the door of the class or by briefly entering and exiting the classroom. This is to look after all our children/young people and staff.

The government requires us to keep a contact tracing register. If you come into a school space eg the classroom or administration you will need to go onto the school contact tracing register. On arrival you will be asked to fill in your details and confirm you do not have COVID-19 or been in contact with someone with a known case of COVID-19.

Cleaning

Classes will be cleaned daily. As well as this staff will clean regular contact points within the classroom such as work surfaces and door handles at times throughout the day using detergent and/or disinfectant and/or a sanitiser wipe.

Classroom programmes, equipment and resources

Classroom programs will as much as possible run as normal with adaptations so that students and staff are not in each other's moist breath zone. Some programs such as tooth brushing may not be able to be run if students require a staff member to be in close proximity to them.

Learning resources such as play dough or stationary will still be used but students will have their own items assigned to them. Other resources such as iPad or math's resources will be shared but they will be regularly wiped down with disinfectant or a sanitiser wipe. Paper can be used but the number of users for a workbook or a worksheet will be limited as much as possible to individual students. If you have any concerns around classroom programs, use of equipment or resources, please talk with your child/young person's classroom teacher.

Break times

Break times will happen as normal and children/young people will be able to access sports equipment and play on school playgrounds. Currently students based in satellites will not be playing with mainstream students.

Wheelchairs

We ask the wheelchairs come into school clean. Staff will do a quick wipe down of chairs on their arrival of the main points of contact with a wheelchair eg the wheelchair handles.

How you can help

I am very grateful to all the staff who have worked hard to support each student during the lockdown. We are now going into a new phase of students being on school sites and this means we will need to follow health and safety guidelines because of COVID-19 which will have challenges for staff.

To help create a safe environment for all can you please ensure the following happens before your child/young person comes to school each day:

- Your child/young person has a shower
- Your child/young person wears a washed set of clothes
- Your child/young person has trimmed nails (particularly if they do scratch other people)
- Your child/young person has washed their hands before they leave home.

Child/young person is unwell

Due to the serious nature of the COVID-19 virus the Ferndale School BOT will be providing guidelines on what you will need to do if your child/young person is unwell.

I appreciate your support as we work together to make school a successful place for our young people in Level 2.

Before I go, I would like to say a big thank you to all parents and caregivers. I know you have also worked hard over this time supporting your child/young person. We understand that there would have

been great moments but also there may have been really challenging moments. On behalf of the staff I would like to say how we appreciate how you have supported us to deliver education programs and supported your child/young person throughout this time.

If you have any questions or concerns about Level 2 or any other issue, please contact me on Ph (03) 355 7595 or 027 222 6645 or email maureen.poulter@ferndale.school.nz.

Ngā mihi
Maureen Poulter
Principal ~ Tumuaki