



Te Matapuna Aroha – Te Matapuna Whakapono

SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL

104 Merivale Lane, Merivale, PO Box 36024, Christchurch, New Zealand
P (03) 355 7595 F (03) 355 7194 E admin@ferndale.school.nz

7 September 2021

Kia ora Parents, Caregivers, Legal Guardians, Whānau,

Yesterday the government said that schools are to prepare for students to return to school on Thursday 9 September as we move into Level 2. **Ferndale School will reopen for all students on Thursday 9 September 2021 and school transport will be in place as per usual from this day.**

In the meantime, online learning will continue on Tuesday 7 September but on Wednesday, as teachers will be busy getting their classrooms ready for students, there will be no zoom or seesaw learning activities available on this day.

As we return to school at Level 2 we are focusing on what we can do to keep students and staff safe and so we are making adaptations to our programs and practices at Level 2.

Below are the following guidelines we will be following;

Masks

Masks are recommended but not mandatory. If students or staff would like to wear masks they are welcome to do so as long as they can do this hygienically.

Distancing

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

Regular hand washing/hand sanitising

All students are encouraged to wash and/or sanitise their hands regularly. Students are encouraged to sneeze or cough into their elbow.

Parents

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 require parents/caregivers to drop off and pick up their child/young person at the door of the class. This is to look after all our children/young people and staff.

Part of the government requirement is that we keep a contact register of all people who come onto our site. The easiest way for us to do this is having all parents who drop off their child/young person scan in on the Covid tracing app at the gateway on arrival. We appreciate you following this request. If for some reason you cannot do this, we will also have a paper sign in sheet.

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 a 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 where possible will have their own items assigned to them. Other resources such as iPads or maths 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.

At this stage in Level 2 our students will not be accessing community facilities or programs such as libraries, pools, gyms, Special Olympics sports, bussing, malls, supermarkets, other shopping facilities and public playgrounds. Our work experience and ARA courses for transition students are currently on hold. Kapa Haka and Inclusive Dance sessions are also on hold (although this may still be run with zoom sessions). We have put on hold our satellite class students going into mainstream classes and mainstream students going into satellite classes. However, students will still be able to go on van outings (although they cannot get out of the van unless it is for a walk) and go walking in the community in places where it is easy to maintain the 2-meter distance rule. A reduced version of DOE programs will also happen.

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/working alongside 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 e.g. the wheelchair handles.

How you can help

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 last year the Board set up guidelines that require a child/young person who is unwell to remain at home until they are well. I have attached a guideline (the Infectious Diseases Chart) on time frames to be followed for the length of time a student remains at home when they are unwell. If a child/young person becomes unwell at school, they will need to go home and parents/caregivers/legal guardians will be contacted immediately to organise for their child/young person to go home.

Thank you for your ongoing support. I feel confident that by working together we can help keep our students and staff safe.

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