

Mālō e lelei Postgate School

To start off today's very interesting and useful email I'd like to acknowledge and thank Mrs de Villiers, Lianne, Tracy, Tara and Kelvin who have been at school for the past week working at Alert Level 3. Their support of our school and our children is greatly appreciated. Great work team.

Thanks for your replies to our email from yesterday. It is wonderful to have a supportive school community. We'll try to answer some questions that have come through to us.

We have work Wednesday and have no childcare. Can our child/ren please come to school on Wednesday?

YES! Upon reflection, we can see how moving businesses/companies to Alert 2 tomorrow and schools on Thursday can be problematic. We have booked four relievers for tomorrow as we can see Wednesday may cause some concern for parents. **However, if your child will be at school tomorrow, please email me now.** We need to ensure we have to correct student to teacher ratio. With four relievers we can accommodate 100-120 children. If we have more than 120 children, we'll book more relievers. Easy as.

When do we bring the school device back to school?

Great question. We need these back as soon as possible, like on Thursday. Please ensure the charger is with the device. If they could be returned straight to Mr Harper's office. For younger children, it may be more practical to return to the classroom teacher who will ensure the device and charger makes their way to Mr Harper's office.

If there is something wrong or broken with the device, please note this on a piece of paper and stick it to the device. It will make Mr Harper's life a lot easier and will ensure a quick turnaround with getting devices back out to classes.

Does my child have to wear a mask to school? And if no, why not?

No, your child does not have to wear a mask but they can do if you want them to.

Incorrect mask use can be counterproductive. We have seen children wear a mask at school, they take the mask off, touch the inside, take it off to play, take it off to eat. It is a tough ask to expect children to wear a mask when they are so young and do so correctly/safely.

Teachers are not required to wear a mask. One reason is we have students who have hearing difficulties, so seeing the teacher's face is very important.

Your child's classroom will now become their bubble and yours as well. Hence why we ask you to keep your child at home if they are sick.

We are asking for all adults who enter our school grounds to please wear a mask. Only parents who have Year 1 children should be entering the school grounds and will need to scan/sign in if they enter any buildings. All entry to our school buildings must be done through the school office. We will have a table set up outside the office with hand sanitizer and face masks. All school gates will be locked at 8:55am.

The Health and Safety of your child/ren and our staff is of the utmost importance to your Board of Trustees and me.

Can my child receive the COVID vaccine at school?

Schools have not been asked to be a site for vaccinations and it is highly unlikely we will be asked. It is up to whanau to decide if they are going to vaccinate and whanau could potentially do this together. This is a decision each family will need to make and it is your choice, just like it was when your child was a baby with their vaccinations for Measles/Mumps/Rubella etc. You'll make a decision that is best for your family, I'll make one that is best for my family and we all respect each other's individual rights.

If you choose to get your child, who is over 12, vaccinated you can go to bookmyvaccine.nz to book this in.

There is also vaxx.nz which will show you where there are vacant bookings available close to you and the time they are available. Please note, this is not an official Government website. It has been developed to make it easier for whanau to see where vacant bookings are. You cannot book through this site.

Will the school holidays be brought forward?

Highly unlikely and with just over 3 weeks until the end of term, yeah nah. I think there were problems last year with teacher's employment contracts and booked holidays.

Key points for Thursday and beyond, for now:

- Postgate School is open and all children are expected back at school. If your child has a compromised immune system, your child is not expected at school, this becomes your decision
- As we are back at school, there is no more Distance Learning
- All adults entering our school must do so via the school office. You are also required to wear a face mask while on site.
- Just after 9am, all gates will be locked
- Please refrain from entering the school grounds to drop off and collect your child/ren.
- Year 1 parents may enter the school grounds to drop off/pick up, however, you must be wearing a face mask. If you enter the school building, you must sign in. It is advised to drop your child off at the bottom of the Junior School deck
- All children are asked to bring their own drink bottle as the use of the drinking fountains are discouraged
- If your child is sick, please keep them home. If your child is sick with COVID symptoms, please keep any siblings at home as well
- If your child suffers from asthma/hayfever, please let your child's teacher know. Spring is an unfortunate time for some people as runny noses, coughing, sneezing is an all too common symptom
- Assemblies will be held online and sent out to classes/our community

Before your child/ren come back to school, please remind them of the hygiene needed back at school

- Cough/sneeze into elbows and/or how to use a tissue
- How to wash their hands

- Avoid touching their face, if their hands are not clean

What is Postgate doing?

- Classes will have a supply of hand sanitizer. Glenn has been busy filling hundreds of bottles at school
- We have a large supply of face masks for those entering our school that needs them
 - We have a number of COVID Tracer QR sign-ins around our school
- Tomorrow we have a Health and Safety hui to do over our Alert Level 2 plan and discuss any potential issues
- This will include helping children transition back into school especially those who were not involved with Distance Learning

I think that is all for today. We are still waiting to hear from the Ministry of Education around what Alert Level 2 looks like in schools, so if they tell us something we haven't thought of, we will let you know.

Thank you for being awesome and keep being awesome.

Catch up very soon.

Malo 'Aupito

