

Banks Avenue School



Principal Update - Alert Level 2

12 May 2020

Kia ora koutou

Yesterday the Government announced that we will move into Alert Level 2 on Thursday 14 May. This means we will be open to receive *all of our* students from Monday 18 May. This is really great news; we have missed our tamariki and we are really looking forward to welcoming them back to Banks Avenue.

In order to be ready to open school next week there are several things we need to do to prepare. We will:

1. Refine our health and hygiene expectations and protocols for Level 2. Teachers will be onsite from Thursday to allow us time to do this.
2. Focus on student (and staff) well being. We know many may feel anxious about returning to school and we know varying amounts of learning will have happened in homes over the last eight weeks. As a staff, we will be discussing ways of meeting individual and group needs. The time it will take for children and some staff to reconnect and relax will be different for everyone. *We believe wellbeing needs to be addressed before learning will happen.* For teachers it will be effectively like starting the school year over again with a focus on routines and relationships.

The two key public health principles we are focusing on at Level 2 are:

1. Reducing the risk of someone getting infected in the first place
 - a. Focusing on hygiene throughout the day.
 - i. Frequent sanitising of hands.
 - ii. Coughing into elbows.
 - b. Insisting all sick students or staff stay home; this will include minor complaints like coughs or sore throats. If in doubt get tested.
 - c. Maintaining some social distancing.
 - i. No assemblies or team hui.
 - ii. No gatherings of more than 100 people.

At Level 2, physical distancing in schools means students and staff maintaining enough distance so they are not breathing on or touching each other. *If you can smell or feel someone's breath you are too close.*
 - d. Ensuring surfaces are regularly wiped down during the day.
 - e. Asking that children bring their own drink bottles each day. The drinking fountains will not be in use.
 - f. Our school playgrounds will open at Level 2 and school sports will begin, however, risks from these actions will be mitigated by hand hygiene.

2. Ensuring we can identify and contact anyone who becomes infected.

Below are the guidelines we have received from the Ministry of Education in relation to parents being on site.

Physical distancing of 2 metres is recommended for parents and caregivers from people they don't know (to align with public health measures outside the school grounds). **Parents and caregivers who come on-site need to be noted in the visitor register.**

A reminder that you will already have contact information for parents and caregivers, so don't need to collect those particular details each time they come on-site. But will need to **record their name and their time in and out of the school, including any classrooms they entered.**

This is a challenge as on any *normal* day we can have hundreds of people on site dropping off and picking up children. Ideally, we want to keep to a bare minimum any parents who do come on-site, therefore:

- In the morning drop your child at the school gate.
 - If your child is in Team Totara, rooms 1, 2, 8, 9 or 10, then you may walk with them to one of the junior gates (by room 1 and room 7) and see that they pass through them safely. If you are on a school visit you must report to the office first.
 - If your child is in Team Totara at pick up time you can wait by the junior gates for your child to come to you.
- Where possible arrange to meet your child / children off-site after school. *This option is only viable* for older children. We have four school entrances, two on Banks Avenue and one on Bramwell Street and one on Strathfield Ave.
 - Use these entrances so we don't have everyone congregating on Banks Avenue.
 - Set up a meeting place with your child / children on a side street if possible.
 - **Consider safety**; if possible try not to have your children cross roads without you and don't call them across the street to your car.
- We will introduce **two alternate pick up times at the end of the day** to help with congestion.
 - Children whose family name begins with **A-L** will be released from class at **2:45pm**.
 - Children whose family name begins with **M-Z** will be released at **3:00pm**.

If the 2:45pm option does not suit you, email your child's teacher directly so they know you have defaulted to the 3:00pm release.

- Only if it is urgent should you come onto our school grounds at Alert Level 2. If you have information to convey to the class teacher, email them. If you have information for the office where possible email us. All teachers' email addresses are available on our school website.
 - If it is urgent and you come onto our school grounds you will need to report to the office and fill your details on our contact tracing register which sits at the front desk.

Distance Learning

We know some parents may still not feel comfortable sending their children back to school at Alert Level 2. If you are going to continue to keep your child / children away, we ask that you email the office before Friday 15 May to let us know this. Please email:

office@banksave.school.nz. Once you have notified us of your intention we will remove your child from our Level 2 roll and we will not contact you because they are absent.

As teachers will all be back teaching their classes there will be no distance learning offered by the school at Alert Level 2. The Government's home learning channel will continue until June 8 and may be extended to the end of Term 2. The MOE will be publishing details of the upcoming week's lessons on the [Learning From Home website](#). If you are keeping your child home during Level 2, use the learning channel to support you.

Devices

We loaned a number of devices to children during Alert Level 4. These devices need to be returned to school on Monday morning with your child. Please ask your child to take the device to Ms Thompson in Dudley block as soon as they arrive at school. Don't forget to also bring back the charger.

After School Programmes

After school programmes are allowed to resume at Level 2. Please check with your child care provider to check that this is the case.

Teacher Only Days

We had two *Teacher Only Days* booked in before and after Queen's Birthday weekend. We have **cancelled** both of these. We appreciate parents will want as little disruption as possible once we return to school. We also want to have time to reestablish our programmes and routines without disruption.

Mid Year Reports

Under normal circumstances children would get a written mid year report. This will not happen this year, however, there will be a written end of year report.

Toward the end of term 2 we will schedule *learning conversations* with parents and children present. We think this will be an opportune time for parents and teachers to work in partnership to discuss children's learning and to set mid year goals. We know many parents found our January meetings too brief so we will schedule longer sessions so we have plenty of time to talk about children's strengths and next steps.

Student Absence

As mentioned earlier it is vital that you keep your child home if they are displaying any signs of illness. It is also important that you contact the office by phone [3854 163](tel:3854163) or by email: office@banksave.school.nz to let us know you are doing this. If you leave a message please state, your child's name and what room your child is in and the reason for the absence.

Change of Circumstance

Having up to date contact details is really important to us as a school. If your phone number, email address or home address has changed please email the office to give us the new details.

In some households there may have been some other significant event that may impact a child's wellbeing. In many cases it helps for the class teacher to be aware of these circumstances, e.g., a grandparent or pet dying.

In Summary

- At Alert Level 2, from Monday 18 May, school is open for all pupils, however, it will not be business as usual.
- **Sick children must stay home.** We will be very proactive in sending home children who show any sign of being unwell.

Symptoms to monitor for are any respiratory symptoms such as a cold, a head cold, blocked ears, cough, sneezing, chills and a fever. Anyone with those symptoms should stay home and contact your doctor or **Healthline 0800 358 5453** for advice, which may include getting tested for COVID-19.

- If you are keeping your child / children at home during Alert Level 2, email the office to let us know. office@banksave.school.nz
- Home learning provided by the school will cease from Monday 18 May.
- Parents are asked not to come onto school grounds unless it is urgent. Any parents on the school grounds must report to the office to complete our contact tracing procedure.
- Drop your child off at a gate in the morning and wait outside the school grounds at pick up time.
- Children will be released in two waves at the end of the day. Children whose family name begins **with A-L will be released at 2:45pm**. Children whose family name begins with **M-Z will be released at 3:00pm**.

As a nation, as a school and as families, we have stepped up over the last seven weeks. We acknowledge how difficult things have been but we are really excited to be moving back to some normality. We ask that you continue to support us in this final phase.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please email me so we can endeavour to address them. Email: principal@banksave.school.nz

Toni Burnside
Principal