

Dear Parents and Whānau

UPDATE RE START OF SCHOOL YEAR

I hope this finds you all safe and well. It is hugely disappointing that we find ourselves starting the year with Covid determining what we can and cannot do.

Students first day back at school is **TUESDAY FEB 1ST**.

Year 8 students need to go straight to their classes.

Year 7 students will be escorted by staff to their new class when they arrive at either the front or back gate.

Parents and Caregivers will not be able to come onto the school site unless they need to purchase uniform and stationery. This can be done next week from 9.30am at the School Office. We are aware that a number of parents are waiting on the delivery of Uniform that they have ordered. Please do not worry if this does not arrive in time. We understand how difficult this can be.

We are going to be having **staggered break times** for syndicates again, like we did last year. Students will therefore not be in large groups while out in the playground. They will also be going home at staggered times, basically 5 minutes apart to again, help reduce the numbers of children together at any one time.

The Ministry of Education has directed schools to make the **wearing of masks** compulsory for all children Year 4 and above, so this means all our students need to wear a mask. We know how these can be uncomfortable and for that reason, children will be going outdoors for breaks to be able to take masks off during the day.

Free Lunches will again be provided daily for all students at school. The Canteen will not be open until we move levels. **Children will need to bring a water bottle from home.**

At this stage, there has been **no mandating of vaccination for students**. I am aware however, that a number of you have already wanted to tell the School that your child has been vaccinated. This is a parent choice.

We are really looking forward to working with you this year. We remain optimistic that things will get better and our children will return to the normal school routines that we are all used to.

If you have any queries about anything at all, please email me or call me.

Warmest wishes

Mrs Wendy Esera

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF AND BOARD OF HIS.