

Dear parents,

We are happy to confirm our school will reopen for all of our children on **Monday 18th May**. We are looking forward to greeting our children and welcoming them back to school. While we are reopening, it must be noted that school will be different from the 'norm'. We have put in place the requirements of the Ministry of Health and Education to allow us to reopen safely. If your child will not be returning at Covid-19 Level 2, please email Judi in the office to let us know (office@greenhithe.school.nz)

I would like to thank the staff at school for their hard work in getting us to a position where we can reopen. First and foremost, our teachers are excited to be welcoming your child back to their class. Each teacher will have the health and well-being of your child at the centre of everything they do. I know they are thoroughly looking forward to seeing their classes again and setting new class routines and expectations.

Level 2 is not a return to school as we were. There will be several changes to our school systems, all being employed to meet our obligations from the Ministry of Education and to keep our children and community safe. Obviously we will be implementing rigorous cleaning and hygiene routines in the classrooms. Under Alert Level 2, we advise any students and staff to stay at home if they are sick, and we will send anyone home immediately if they show any symptoms.

Some of the changes to normal school practice:

- Drop off and pick up routines will change substantially. **Further information regarding these substantial changes will come later in the week.**
- Heightened cleaning within the school.
- Heightened hand washing and sanitising routines in the classroom.
- Social distancing where possible in the classrooms (*in schools this means children and staff maintaining a physical distance so that they are not breathing on or touching each other*).
- The office will remain under a 'one in, one out' basis, **anyone** entering the site at any time, will need to complete the contact tracing form. Please email any enquiries rather than physically coming to the office while under Level 2.
- There will be staggered break times for children.
- Water fountains will remain closed.
- No assemblies.
- BYOD where possible in years 5 and 6 (allowing children to only handle their own device).
- Children will be permitted to bring in individual educational items for personal use only (e.g. pencil cases, a reading book and devices in year 5 and 6). No additional items from home will be allowed (balls, toys etc).

While these sound strict, I know you will support our actions to keep your child safe at school. I would ask you to have a talk to your child about some of the changes, such as no hugging friends, keeping distances where they can and the importance of handwashing and hygiene during the day.

All these measures will be put into place so we can ensure a safe environment. I will be in touch later this week to share some more of the planning and system changes that allow us to meet our obligations and keep your child safe and well. We are really looking forward to seeing and supporting your child.

Thank you for your continuing support of our school in these unusual times.

Ngā mihi

Stephen Grady
Principal
Greenhithe School