



# TE RAPA PRIMARY SCHOOL

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022

Good Afternoon Te Rapa families

### Current Situation

Te Rapa Primary School Resumes .....

**Day #1 Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2022** - Classes commence at 9am

### Please Note

- \* Students in Yr 3 to Yr 8 are to bring their own face mask from home, and must wear it when indoors
- \* Parents / carers are asked to not come into the school and / or onto the school grounds
  - \* Exception : stationery sales in Multipurpose Rm (parents / carers welcome to visit MPR)
- \* If a student is not feeling well, they must not attend school, so please keep them at home
  - \* We will send anyone home immediately if they show any sign of not feeling well
- \* Students to bring their togs / towel from Day #1
- \* School canteen is CLOSED on Day #1 Tuesday (it opens on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb)
- \* During Term 1 ... if we do not have sufficient staff onsite to meet minimum requirements we may need to close a classroom, a section of our school or perhaps the entire school and move to "learning from home" for a period of time
- \* COVID-19 vaccinations are now available for children 5 years old and over

### Courtesy Update ..... **OMICRON : TRAFFIC LIGHT "RED"**

I am sure you have followed with interest the announcements made by the Prime Minister over the school holiday period, and more recently as we start to manage "omicron". You will be carefully considering how the Government guidelines might impact on you and your family and / or your workplace.

Our role at Te Rapa is to ascertain how this all impacts on us as a school, and also on the rest of our community beyond the school gate too, and how we will implement the mandatory measures in our school setting, and how we will cope if things get worse.

As Principal it is important that I keep you well informed, and share up-to-date information with you as it comes into our school. I have endeavoured to do this throughout the COVID-19 & Delta Variant pandemics, and I will continue to do so with Omicron too.

Please read the information published by our school so you are well placed to work with us in our school setting. Information will be shared via. school notices, fortnightly newsletters and also on-line via the school APP and / or the school website.

The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education have determined that schools are safe environments for children and staff, and that additional public health control measures are in place to reduce the risk of Omicron spreading.

Under Traffic Light "Red" parents / carers are able to make decisions for you and your family based on the public health guidelines. Your family comes first, so please let us know if you are planning on keeping your child at home at any stage.

At Te Rapa Primary School under T.L Red .....

### Wearing Masks in Schools

Is now a .... **Legal Requirement**    **Masks increase protection**

There is strong evidence that the correct use of masks decreases the risk of Omicron transmission, and some types of masks are more effective than others in decreasing risk. The Government has strengthened the requirements and recommendations for use of masks in the community and also in schools. It is now a **legal requirement** to wear a mask when indoors at school and / or in a public-facing role. Students and staff are **not required** to wear a mask when playing sport or engaging in recreational activities outdoors.

#### • **Children attending Te Rapa Primary School**

Whenever masks are required to be worn (for example, by Year 4-13 students when indoors at school ... or at supermarkets, retail stores, cafes, public transport, school transport) they must be the type that attaches to the head either through an ear loop or a head loop. Note - **Bandanas, scarves or t-shirts pulled up over the mouth and nose are not acceptable.**

- **Composite Classes (Year 3 – 4 Classrooms)**

We will adopt a cautious approach given the benefits of wearing masks to reduce risk, so students and teachers in our Year 3 & 4 Syndicate classes (Rooms 8, 9, 10 & 11) are to wear masks in an indoor setting as is required by students and staff in our upper school classrooms (Rooms 12 – 21).

***Children attending from Year 3 and above are required to wear their mask when they are indoors at our school.***

- **Junior Classrooms (Year 1 – 2)**

There is no requirement for masks to be worn in Years 1 - 2 (Rooms 1 – 7) but anyone who chooses to wear a mask in our junior school will be supported to do so.

- **School Staff**

All Te Rapa staff are required to wear a mask while indoors with students or in a public-facing role.

Note - masks are not required in staff rooms or offices, but are encouraged in an indoor setting if people are in close contact.

### **Staffing**

Even with careful planning and with every health mitigation in place, we may experience staff shortages that require our school to change our normal operations. If we do not have sufficient staff onsite to meet minimum health and safety requirements, we will need to close a section of our school, and move to learning from home for a period of time.

Our school must endeavour to provide sufficient :

- qualified teaching / learning personnel to safely supervise all the children / students attending onsite
- first-aid staff
- staff to respond to an emergency

Decisions will need to be made that are pertinent to our particular school's circumstances, so decisions may vary from school to school. The important thing will be to give our community as much information as soon as possible about a decision(s), and we certainly will do this, and I would ask that you show understanding and patience around any decision we must make.

### **Personnel On-site**

Keeping track of people who enter a school is a requirement of both the individual themselves and also the school. It is a challenging task, and if we must do this we do so through our onsite attendance register, timetable(s) and our visitor register.

Parents / carers should not come onto our school site during T.L Red, so please drop your children off at the gate / driveway and allow them to walk to their classroom(s) by themselves. Teachers and support staff will be available and on-hand to support your child.

Parents / carers must wait at the front of school to collect students after school too please.

**Stationery Sales : 9th – 11th Feb.**

Multipurpose Room

Avoid visiting the office. Please use the phone or email where possible.

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

Cash Only ... sorry no EFTPOS

### **Hygiene Practices**

Maintaining good hygiene practices is paramount, and as we have in the past we will continue to prioritise good practice.

Children and staff are to maintain a physical distance so that they are not breathing on or touching each other, and where possible staff will look to review the layout of our workspaces to try and create more space for the students and staff, and provide good ventilation.

As always ... we will be taking appropriate measures to keep everyone safe.

### **Booster Vaccinations – Required for all NZ School Staff**

All Te Rapa Primary School staff are fully vaccinated, and all staff will be getting their *booster vaccination* ASAP once they are eligible.

**Please stay safe and stay healthy.**

Kind Regards

**V W Franklin – Principal**