

CENTENNIAL PARK SCHOOL

“Live Truly”



50 Te Kuiti Road,
Te Kuiti 3910

Phone: (07) 878 7709

email: principal@centennialpark.school.nz

16th November 2021

Letter #9

We will be in Level 2 when kura starts back tomorrow (17th Nov) – so what will this mean?

Kia ora e te whānau,

Monday afternoon's announcement from the Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern confirmed the Waikato region will be moving to Level 2 on Wednesday 17th November. This announcement includes us in our region of Te Nehenehenui. For a lot of you this is great news as it free's up opportunities to move around with less restrictions. For some however, you maybe still feeling unsure because of the positive cases in our town and next door in Otorohanga.

We want to continue to work with whaanau to reassure you, there is no pressure to have tamariki return to kura if you feel it is unsafe. If you wish to keep your tamariki home to continue distant learning, we will respect that wish and continue to work with you and your child.

The Gov't have mentioned the change to Level 2 has come as a result of the increase in vaccinations of the Region to help safeguard the spread of the Covid 19. They are therefore claiming it is safe to return under Level 2 guidelines. Whaanau, you have a choice to make and we will continue to work with you.

A number of whaanau have confirmed already to our staff their tamariki will be returning on Wednesday and we're really looking forward to seeing them all again. Some whaanau have confirmed their tamariki will not be returning – for now. And that's o.k.

As a kura we will be working under Level 2 guidelines but taking it a little further:

- Tamariki will arrive at kura and be expected to go straight to their classroom
- We will continue to keep the classes separate and they will break for interval and lunch to avoid mixing classes
- At the end of the school day, all students will be expected to leave for home as soon as possible (unless waiting for older sibling) junior students will be let out from 2:45pm (earlier) with the seniors let out at slightly later but no later than the normal home time.
- School buses will be operating as normal. It is requested all 12-year-olds and above are to wear face masks on the bus – if possible, it is suggested for all other students to wear masks as well
- We will be promoting hand washing and sanitising regularly
- We will ensure classrooms are well ventilated with open doors and windows – with the summer weather and warmth, this will be easier to manage
- Face masks are not required to be worn in Level 2, but if you wish to do so, that is great. (All staff working during the normal operational school hours are vaccinated).

There is not much time left in the school year. Unfortunately, there were things that had to be cancelled. No Athletics; No Mini ball; No Technology for Yr 7 & 8 students; No physical assemblies which includes end of year assemblies.

Final Assembly: We will be celebrating Final Assembly via zoom. We will be acknowledging the efforts of our tamariki through the social platform. This way our whaanau can tune in and enjoy the celebrations – this way, no one misses out.

Reports for the end of year will be celebrating how tamariki have engaged with learning through the School Values and Key Competencies. It seems very unfair to expect reporting on Reading, Writing and Math during a season of uncertainty and unsettled focus. We hope whaanau appreciate this way of reporting for this year. Other curriculum areas will be covered in the report.

In the meantime, what you can do to help:

- stay at home if you or your child is sick
- drop off tamariki at the school front gateway if travelling by vehicle
- stay in or near car for pick-ups at the end of the school day
- if you need to come onto school grounds to drop something off, report to the School Office and please do not go directly to classrooms, we will arrange for this
- avoid catching up with other parents, children and whānau at the gates (2 metre distancing outdoors)
- wear a face mask when required and maintain a two-metre distance from people not in your household bubble
- get advice from your doctor if you or your child has complex medical needs (and please get in touch so that we can support your child to return onsite, wherever possible)

Please continue to talk to your child about what our plans are and why this is happening. There are regular changes, and we all have to adapt under these challenging conditions.

We will continue to support learning from home for those tamariki who will not be attending onsite. If there is a sudden change back to Level 3, we will communicate with you to let you know of the next steps and what will be the expectations.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact either me or your child's Kaiako.

This verse by Hirini Melbourne along with this interpretation of the translation is relevant under the differing circumstances we are all facing at this time. It links in nicely with Te Nehenehenui.

E tu Kahikatea Hei whakapae ururoa Awhi mai, awhi atu, Tātou, tātou e.	Kahikatea stand together Their roots intertwine, strengthening each other. We all help one another and together we will be strong.
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Many thanks for your support.

Ngā mihi nui, Ngā manaakitanga

Kevin Ikin,

Tumuaki / Principal

Te Kura Rautau – Centennial Park School