

CENTENNIAL PARK SCHOOL

“Live Truly”



50 Te Kuiti Road, Te Kuiti 3910

Phone: (07) 8787709

Email: principal@centennialpark.school.nz

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(Letter #8)

Kura re-opens for learning, however we need whaanau to make a decision before then!

Kia ora e te whānau,

The Minister of Education Chris Hipkins, this afternoon released information about the return to kura for Primary School students Yr 1 to 8 and for High School students Yr 9 & 10. The date is confirmed as **Wednesday 17th November**. Some of you may still be feeling a little anxious and concerned about your tamariki returning to kura.

Before this happens, you, our whaanau have a choice to make.

We need you to make the decision of either:

1. **Having your tamariki return to kura for the next 4 weeks of the year,**
or,
2. **Having your tamariki continue to learn at home using the hard packs that have been provided and maybe some online learning.**
(This maybe until you are ready for them to return).

We need you to let your child's Kaiako know if you are going to send your tamariki to kura or not next week so we can best prepare the learning program. Our Kaiako will be asking these questions to you over the next day or so. We thank you for making an informed decision based on safety and wellbeing. We are here to support you and your decision.

If your child has been involved with the online learning with either a chrome-book or i-pad, this may look different as it currently is. The time to teach in class and online at the same time would be very difficult and challenging so a class schedule will need to be made. This is one reason why we need your decision as soon as possible.

We understand the best learning for tamariki is in with their classmates kanohi ki te kanohi rather than consistently online, however, this has proved to be an effective tool whilst ensuring safety is maintained during this uncertain time.

You can be assured we will do our best to keep everyone safe. All teaching staff who will be working with your child are vaccinated.

We look forward to starting to bring children back on site. For tamariki returning we are likely to need to manage the numbers of students attending to keep everyone safe.

This will be done similarly to the last time where classes were managed individually and not mixed. Especially for times such as interval or lunch breaks. Students will need to come to kura and go straight to class.

With the Delta variant, the risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools is low because of all the public health measures we will have in place. We will be working through more details but as a starting point some of these factors will be done:

- we may need to limit the number of tamariki to approx. 20 students per classroom
- we will keep those onsite in separate groups / classes
- we'll ensure our classrooms are well ventilated – with open windows and doors
- we'll continue to practice physical distancing where possible.

In addition to this, all staff and children in Years 4 and above will now be required to wear face masks indoors (unless they have an exemption), and we'll ensure all staff (and external contractors) who are on site are vaccinated.

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 do not go to classrooms, we will arrange for things to be given to tamariki
- avoid catching up with other parents, children and whānau at the gates
- wear a face mask 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)
- avoid having playmates inside your whare with children from other families at Alert Level 3.

We would encourage you to talk to your child about what our plans are and why this is happening.

Please note, we'll continue to support learning from home for those tamariki who will not be attending onsite.

If you have questions or concerns, you can contact me or your child's kaiako by phone, text or email.

As more information comes through from the Ministry of Education, we will update you and let you know. We will send this out to you as it comes to hand.

Many thanks for your support.

Ngā mihi, Ngā manaakitanga

Kevin Ikin, Tumuaki

Te Kura Rautau