

## Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October

Tena koutou whanau ma - warm greetings to everyone

You will no doubt be aware by now that schools have until Thursday to open for instruction - We pleased to confirm that we are ready to go and will open on **Wednesday 20th** under Level 2 conditions. Thank you for your good will, grace and patience at this time.

There is a great deal of uncertainty in our school community about health and safety, mandatory vaccinations, access to school and access to children. Going forward the Ministry of Education have expressed confidence that there is no community transmission of the virus in Northland which in turn gives us confidence at the moment, to go on with 'school as normal'. As we work together to understand our roles in this pandemic we will seek your feedback about the wider implications of decisions that have been made for the education sector. Important discussions about community health, individual rights and how can we better prepare for distance learning and what happens next are all on the table.

In the mean-time we welcome you back with open arms and look forward to (and are praying for) a clear run to the end of the term, which is December 10th.

King David had this to say in Psalm 91

**1**Those who live in the shelter of the Most High

will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

**2**This I declare about the LORD:

He alone is my refuge, my place of safety;

he is my God, and I trust him.

**3**For he will rescue you from every trap

and protect you from deadly disease.

**4**He will cover you with his feathers.

He will shelter you with his wings.

His faithful promises are your armor and protection.

## Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October

Tena koutou whanau ma - warm greetings to everyone

As we near the beginning of Term 4, there is much uncertainty, and across many fronts. Teachers and support staff being vaccinated, parents and whanau on-site, distance learning, Level 3 to name a few.

School is open on Monday under Level 3 conditions - for both campuses. To date I have had not received any notifications that students of essential workers will be attending school. As noted on the school website and Facebook pages, please contact me directly if you are an essential worker with no alternative care options, and therefore needing your child/children to attend school - please email me [davidr@kcs.school.nz](mailto:davidr@kcs.school.nz)

A small number of staff will be on site preparing to deliver learning devices and materials should we not move to Level 2 next week. Please feel free to communicate with your child's classroom teacher at this time for any queries or concerns.

With the Mandatory Vaccination and Testing orders in play now, we will have tightened procedures for any whanau wishing to come on-site. Until we have more clarity about our obligations, please do not enter either site unless you urgently need to. If you do need to come on-site then we have been given strict guidelines about how that may take place. In all cases, please report to the main office or reception area, be wearing an face-mask and observe physical distancing. We will have more clarity soon about the requirements for whanau to be vaccinated / tested, and anticipate that we will not be permitted to have any non-vaccinated people on site when children/students are present, going forward.

These are challenging times and in our Worldview we can see the biblical implications and impacts on our freedoms. We must seek the Lord in all matters and as we submit to His leading we will have confidence and the peace of God. Our comfort is that He is in control and has overcome the world.

## Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October

Tena koutou whanau ma - warm greetings to everyone

It is very disappointing to be stuck at Level 3 for the start of this term - I pray for a quick return to a more relaxed status.

Due to the Level 3 status, school will only be open for children of essential workers on Monday, with an Alert Level decision to be made that day for Northland to inform us about future arrangements. Please notify me directly if you have children who need to attend school on Monday because you are an essential worker AND there are no other care options available for your whanau - [davidr@kcs.school.nz](mailto:davidr@kcs.school.nz)

## School Opens - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September

To follow on from yesterday's message about re-starting onsite learning at school, I would like to share with you what it will 'look' like on our two campuses from Thursday onwards, and for all of the time that we are at Covid Alert Level 2.

There is quite a lot of information for me to share and much of it is taken from 'official' sites and reproduced here. The full FAQ is available here <https://www.education.govt.nz/covid-19/alert-level-2-faqs-for-schools-and-early-learning-centres/>

While the information below may seem a bit OTT, we want whanau to know we are committed to doing everything we can to protect our children, whanau, young people and staff, and to assist the Government to get us back to 'normal' as soon as possible.

We find in the Bible, in Romans 13, guidance from the Apostle Paul about obeying those who rule over us. He recognises that God has appointed the authorities to look after the people, and although (sadly) many governments use this power to govern in opposition to God's law, we are guided to obey our leaders in matters such as this. We are a witness to our community of the love of Christ and we are to reflect the in-dwelling Jesus through our conduct towards others.

### Key Points

- Our school will open on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September for all students. The only exceptions are children or young people who are sick or are in isolation awaiting Covid test results.
- School buses will be running.
- Students and staff will maintain appropriate physical distancing.
- Good hygiene practices will be observed – washing and drying hands, sanitising, safe coughing and sneezing protocols.
- Rooms will be temperature controlled to maintain temperature within the recommended range of 18 to 20 degrees
- Rooms will have good ventilation.
- Mask wearing is strongly recommended for students and staff.
- Regular sanitisation and cleaning of surfaces, rooms, high contact surfaces and equipment will take place.
- School Entrance Gates will be closed to vehicles. If parents are dropping students off at the gate, they do not need to contact trace (unless they enter the school grounds. For safety purposes we will designate a 'Drop-off' area at the Waimate Campus inside the gates.
- All visitors to the school will be required to sign in and out with the Sing-in App or filling in the Contact Tracing Register at the office counter.
- Visitors to school will not be given access to classrooms – whanau needing to pick children up must wait at the office for the children to be collected.
- All visitors will be advised that it is a requirement that they maintain physical distancing of 2 meters minimum.

For students and adults who are unwell there is an expectation that conversations will be held before decisions to send people home are made – this is particularly important for anyone who may have asthma, allergies, hay fever or other conditions with similar symptoms. We are advised that ...” Before a child, student or staff member is sent home, they should be feeling unwell and where relevant, there should always be a conversation with the caregiver to determine whether there is another explanation for their child's symptoms that may mean that they do not pose a risk to others and do not need to go home”.

We are thankful to be moving down the Alert Levels and ask you to join us in praying for our nation.

## **Covid-19 Update 6<sup>th</sup> September**

Tena koutou whanau ma - warm greetings to everyone

As you will have heard during this afternoons briefing by our Prime Minister, schools outside of Auckland will be open for onsite learning from Thursday onwards under Level 2 conditions. This is great news, especially for our senior students who have time pressures with their NCEA learning. As soon as I have the relevant advice from the Secretary for Education I will pass it on to you. We already have a robust plan for Level 2 procedures and will be ready to implement them from Thursday onwards to ensure the safe operation of the school.

## **Covid-19 Update 2<sup>nd</sup> September**

Tena koutou whanau ma - warm greetings to everyone

I hope you are all well and excited to be moving down the Covid Alert Levels.

I am sending this to whanau/families who have indicated their children will be attending school because there is no ability for them to be cared for at home during Level 3. You are confirming that there are no parents/caregivers in the household during the school day because all caregivers are required to work at their work-sites.

Kaikohe Christian School staff will be onsite on Friday (tomorrow) preparing the site to receive students. School will not be open to students tomorrow, however school will be open for students on Monday for normal school hours. Staff will be onsite and ready for supervision at 8:50am through to 3:10pm.

If you are able to make alternative arrangements for your children, please get in touch so we can update our supervision rosters.

## **Covid-19 Update 31<sup>st</sup> August**

Tena koutou whanau ma, warm greetings to everyone

Following up from yesterdays update in anticipation of Covid Alert Level 3, we need to have information about who will need to attend school once the announcement has been made. Please use this form to indicate to us that students need to come to school because are no possible Caregiving options in your household.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScTGGDRhlzWszIaX5yONZxoDIYVbSMiCTXZUbmzn-3YLB5SPQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScTGGDRhlzWszIaX5yONZxoDIYVbSMiCTXZUbmzn-3YLB5SPQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)