

Wednesday 13th April, 2022.
Namaste

Kia orana, Tolafa lava, Malo e lelei, Fakalofa lahi ahu, Ni sa bula,

Tēnā koutou parents and caregivers

We have made it through term one!!

What a term this has been – certainly not what we hoped for, but not insurmountable either. A big shout out in appreciation to all our families for your support of the school, and our teachers. For those of you who cared for sick children – often when you were sick yourselves - we know how difficult that has been for you all.

COVID-19: Orange Level: Phase Changes

As you will have heard that Minister Chris Hipkins has announced that New Zealand will move to Orange from 11:59pm tonight Wednesday 13 April.

The decision to move to Orange has been made based on public health advice and reflects that New Zealand is showing clear signs that Omicron has peaked. As case numbers come down and our health system is more able to cope, it is appropriate to move to fewer restrictions. Evidence also shows that the risk of re-infection within the first three months after someone has had Omicron is very low.

Although the changes take place at midnight tonight, SKP School will remain at Red level for our last day of term tomorrow, and will re-open in term two at Orange Level.

Changes at Orange Level:

Mask Wearing:

- At Orange, face masks are no longer required at school.
- However, MOH / MOE **strongly encourage face masks that continue to be worn** by ākonga / students and staff in Years 4 and above when indoors if possible. Any student or staff member who wishes to wear a face mask at Orange will be supported to do so.
- Face masks (unless exempt) are still required to be worn on school and all public transport.
- Face masks are still required to be worn in retail settings, court, local government buildings and all health care services.

Indoor Activities:

- There are no limits on numbers of people attending indoor events.
- Education Outside of the Classroom (EOTC) can resume.
- Assemblies, Powhiri, swimming and other indoor activities may resume in well ventilated areas.
- Masks are advisable when attending large indoor gatherings

Visitors:

- There are no restrictions on numbers of visitors on site at Orange
- All visitors need to continue to sign in as usual on our visitor register.
- Visitors, including parents and caregivers, are strongly encouraged to wear a mask.

What stays the same at Orange Level:

Focus on health measures at SKP School:

- Good ventilation in teaching spaces
- Maintaining good hand hygiene
- Maintaining effective cough and sneeze etiquette
- Appropriate physical distancing as / when possible
- Staying home if we are sick.

Isolation:

- Household contacts of a Person who tests Positive must isolate at home for **7 days**.
 - The day the symptoms were obvious, OR the day of the positive result (whichever is first) is Day 0. The next day is Day 1.
 - If your child has no more symptoms, s/he can return to school on Day 8.

If Your Child is a Household Contact s/he still:

- Needs to isolate for the same 7 days as the positive person in their household
- Needs to have a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) on **Day 3** and **Day 7** of the isolation period
- Can return to school on Day 8, providing s/he is symptom free and shows a negative test result.
- Children who are household contacts should continue to be monitored for symptoms up to Day 10.

- If symptoms develop at any time during isolation:
 - Take an additional RAT
 - If the test is negative and symptoms persist or worsen, test again 48 hours after that negative test
 - If symptoms go away, there is no need for a further test until the required Day 7 test. If this is negative, they can return to school on Day 8.
 - If the test is positive...See above!

- If a Child who is a household contact has **new symptoms** on the day of release:
 - they should be given an additional RAT and stay at home while unwell
 - if that test is negative and symptoms persist or worsen, test again after 48 hours. If symptoms go away, there is no need for a further test.

- When there are new cases of COVID-19 in your household:
 - If your child has finished their period of 7 days of isolation, and a new case is identified in the household within 7 days, they do not need to isolate again.
 - If a new household case is identified 8 or more days after your child has returned to school, then s/he must start a new period of isolation at home for another 7 days.

- If your child has had Covid-19 and recovered:
 - S/he does not need to isolate again within **90** days of having the virus, if s/he becomes a household contact
 - S/he only needs to take a test **IF**, and when, symptoms of COVID-19 develop.

- SKP School will respond quickly and safely to any changes that occur in our community with regard to COVID. We shall keep you informed.

Advice for anyone who is unwell: As winter approaches we shall also be facing the 'usual' colds and 'flu viruses..

- Anyone who **is sick** should stay home until they are well.
- When a child has respiratory symptoms, they should stay at home and seek advice from their GP or Healthline. Staying home when unwell is key to controlling the spread of any virus in a school setting.
- Many children will have a long-lasting runny nose or cough after viral infections. If it is over 10 days since the onset of symptoms and they are no longer feeling unwell, they are very unlikely to be infectious and can therefore return to school.
- However, if they are continuing to feel unwell or their symptoms are worsening after 10 days, they should not return to school and a review by their Doctor, or a call to Healthline, is recommended.

What You Need To Do:

- Please send your child back to school. It is as safe as we can make it.
- Inform the school if your child is absent **and give the reason why** please.
- Promptly inform us if your child or family member has a positive test result or becoming a household contact
- You should monitor your child for symptoms of COVID-19 still AND
- If you have symptoms, get tested as soon as possible
 - Stay at home until you receive the result of the test
 - Inform Kathy of the outcome please as soon as possible

Poroporoaki / Farewell:

We farewell Keran, one of our SLTs, tomorrow. We thank her for her contributions to our tamariki's learning in the time she has been with us, and wish her well in her new ventures and future. Haere ra Keran.

Tomorrow is the last day at work for Chris Howlett, our executive officer. However, it will not be Haere ra tomorrow for Chris – only Ka kite! We intend (and she has accepted) to have her back for a full-on SKP farewell in term 2 – along with Judy Brown – as befits someone who has been part of our whanau for so long.

Term Break:

School finishes at the usual time tomorrow, Thursday 14th April.

We wish you all a very happy Easter and a good term break, with less restrictions on what you can do.

Please send your child back on Monday 2nd May.

Your child is special to us, and is the reason we come here every day. We look forward to teaching and learning with our tamariki in a term that is more like we are used to! Stay safe, stay well.

Kia kaha and faamalosi whānau!

Kathy Davidson

Principal / Tumuaki