



**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2021.**

Kia ora koutou; Kia orana, Tolafa lava, Malo e lelei, Fakalofa lahi ahu, Ni sa bula, Namaste, Ni Sa Bula; Ni Hao; As-salamu Alaykum; Greetings to our Sir Keith Park School community

**SIR KEITH PARK SCHOOL (Base & Satellite classes, Outreach) IS STILL CLOSED**

**KA KATOA TE KURA O SIR KEITH PARK**

I hope you have had the opportunity to enjoy the sunshine outdoors within the limits set by Level 3 restrictions. It certainly has been a different break to what we hoped for, or are used to.

The Prime Minister has announced on 11<sup>th</sup> October that:

- Cabinet has decided **NOT** to open Auckland schools on 18 October – term 4, week 1.
- ALL learners will remain home and continue with their 'Learning From Home' programme for at least that week.
- On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October further information will be given regarding Levels and schools.

Both the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education are committed to keeping our learners safe, and with this in mind they have strengthened the health measures in all school. Information is coming out daily, but here is what we know to date:

#### **Vaccinations:**

Vaccinations are what will reduce the risk of serious illness in our community. If most of us are vaccinated we can reduce the risk of outbreaks which lead to lockdowns and put our health system under pressure.

It is now legally required that we hold a COVID-19 vaccination register for all eligible students and staff. This information will support public health authorities in their rapid risk assessment if there was a confirmed case of COVID-19 in our school.

Staff Most of the staff at Sir Keith Park School are fully vaccinated already. There is now a mandatory requirement for anyone working in the education sector to be fully vaccinated by 1<sup>st</sup> January, with their first vaccination by 15 November. We will be working with staff to ensure we meet the Ministry of Health requirements.

Students: The Ministry of Education has asked schools to record the vaccination status of all students aged 12 years and over with regard to COVID-19. We will therefore need to know if your child has had their first or second vaccine dose or is exempted from being vaccinated. This information will be held by us in accordance with the Privacy Act and will only be shared with public health authorities. We would like to start getting this information in as soon as possible in readiness for the register. We will be in touch with parents, whānau and carers over the next week.

#### **Mandatory Testing:**

All school staff who work in schools and kura in Auckland and other Alert Level 3 regions are required to have returned a negative COVID-19 test result before they can return to working on site. This is regardless of their vaccination status. We will let you know as we receive more information.

## Face Coverings:

At Alert Level 3, students and staff who are in registered schools that provide secondary education (state, state integrated and private) are required to wear face coverings when indoors. This is also encouraged for Primary Schools.

There will be new requirements to wear face coverings on school transport for ages 12 and over. We will notify you when this takes effect following inclusion in the Health Response Order.

Some of our students are unable to wear masks and that is OK.

Information on face covering exemptions can be found on [the Unite Against COVID-19 website](#).

To request an exemption card, please contact the Disabled Persons Assembly NZ on 04 801 9100 or [info@dpa.org.nz](mailto:info@dpa.org.nz).



**Please note** that at any time the situation might change if the guidance we receive from the Ministry of Education changes. We will update you as more information evolves across the coming days / weeks.

Stay safe, Stay in your bubble and Be Kind,

Kia Kaha.

Kathy Davidson, Principal / Tumuaki

Rebecca Wood: Board Chair

