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Sunday 15 May 2022

Kia ora e te Mātai Rangatira Whānau,

Thank you for your support for the first two weeks of term with mask wearing indoors, good hygiene practice, and staying at home if your child is sick, a household contact or has Covid. The [Orange Traffic Light setting](#) continues for the Canterbury region and we need to continue to protect our school community and those who are at risk of getting Covid whether they are vaccinated or unvaccinated, young or old or have had Covid and may get it a second time. Under the Orange Traffic Light setting in educational settings for ECE and primary schools:

- Face masks are encouraged, but not required, when inside at school.
- All ākonga aged 12 and up must wear face masks on school transport.
- All parents, caregivers, whānau, and other visitors are encouraged to wear face masks on site.
- You do not need to wear a face mask when at special interest education, such as music lessons, art groups and girl guides, however we encourage you to do so.

To date we have had 50% of tamariki and 60% of staff members test positive for Covid. We continue to manage and maintain our class teaching and learning programmes, and not move into gatherings (formerly called bubbles). I would like to keep it this way, as part of keeping everyone safe and healthy and the school carrying out daily operations and teaching and learning programmes effectively. However, we must also be realistic about mask wearing and therefore we have modified the conditions at school.

The Ministry of Education has let schools decide whether Year 4 - 6 students and staff teaching these classes should wear face masks indoors. This is dependent on the school's risk assessment and its unique vulnerability. Masks remain an important tool to reduce the spread of Covid and public health strongly encourage their continued use. **After discussion with staff and knowing our own school community from Monday 16 May, until a change in traffic light setting, the school will require the following conditions:**

- When indoors, **wearing face masks for assemblies** for Year 4-6 students and staff teaching these classes. Year 3's in Rm 1 are recommended to wear face masks in assembly, as well. **Parents/Caregivers and guests at assembly will be required to wear face masks.**
- **Optional face mask wearing** for tamariki, staff, parents/visitors/guests when indoors, except in assembly situations where there exists a large gathering involving the whole school.
- Face masks are not required on the school bus for Year 4-6 students. The bus driver will wear a mask.
- Parents/visitors/guests must continue to sign-in on the register when entering a school building for Health and Safety reasons.
- When outdoors face masks are not required to be worn.

Further to this, at Glentunnel School:

- **Stay at home if you are sick or unwell.** Please keep your child at home if they display any symptoms; please also test your child (Free RAT tests are available from the school office). Call your doctor or Healthline 0800-358-5453.
- **Use hand sanitiser at school entry and exit points.**
- **Increased ventilation in classrooms will continue** - windows and doors open, more outside breaks etc.
- **Large gatherings with tamariki will occur outside where practically possible.** School assemblies, events, Kapa Haka and Bible in Schools will occur (outdoors will be the preferred option).
- **Cleaning & Hygiene practices** - Tamariki will use hand sanitizers coming in and going out of school, and when entering and exiting classes. Juniors in Rms 2 & 3 will wash their hands in the classroom basins instead of using hand sanitiser. Cough and sneeze etiquette into the elbow.
- Tamariki wash their hands before going to the toilet and after going to the toilet for 20 seconds.
- At the end of the day class desks and surfaces will be 'sprayed and wiped'. Regular cleaning also occurs.

We will continue to follow good practice to keep everyone safe and healthy. Thank you for playing your part to ensure this is the case.

Ngā mihi nui,
Ed Trotter (Tumuaki/Principal)