

13th May, 2020.



Dear Whanau and Caregivers,

Well here we are! Alert Level 2! What a huge learning curve we have been on, about ourselves, our children, our country and our capabilities.

I love how as a community, we have banded together, held each other up, shown each other grace and compassion, and have shoulder charged through COVID-19.

On Monday the 18th, we warmly open our school gates to you all. If you are not returning at Alert Level 2, we do need to hear from you, and talk about any concerns you might have. Distance Learning will continue to be available for a short time, but this won't be sustainable for our staff long term. We ask that for Week 6 (next week), your child completes any work not finished, explore the learning channel, and delve into the learning packs. Once we are settled at school, and know who we are catering for (for a short time), we will contact you with work for your child for the following week.

We would like to assure you that our school has safe and sensible practices to maintain the health and safety of everyone on the school site.

As described by Dr Payinda in his [NZ Herald article](#), “*Covid's not measles or chickenpox, it doesn't hang in the air for hours waiting to infect passers-by. It travels on invisible drops of spit. You don't have to cross the street to avoid anyone. Just avoid getting in their 'moist breath' zone*”.

We all just need to remember to have some breathing space and we will be encouraging students to keep an arms-length.

If you come into the Office, please be aware that you may be asked to space yourselves out when you are waiting - please don't be offended, we are very keen to see you and chat, and are also mindful of keeping everyone safe.

Under Alert Level 2 parents and caregivers will HAVE to sign into the office when coming onto school grounds for ANY reason that brings you in for more than 15 minutes. We wish to encourage a ‘kiss and drop’ off and pick up approach, to restrict the number of ‘adults on-site’. Where possible there should be one person designated for pick up and drop off.

**If you are dropping /picking up your child and coming into the class/school, you will be required to sign the Contact Tracing Register, in your child's classroom, for at least the next 2 weeks.**

I have included in this email an attachment outlying the specifics of how we will keep us all safe at Alert Level 2.  
**We sent 30 laptops out into homes.**

**We need these back from Thursday this week please and thanks. The office will be open for you to drop them in and pick up a treat in exchange.**

**We are so very excited that we get to see you all on Monday!!**

Nga mihi,  
Briar Scott and Waihi East School Team

