

Monday 25th May, 2020

Kia ora e te whānau,

The return to school has gone really smoothly and it has been brilliant to see how excited our students and employees have been to get back to their learning.

Our whanau have been EXCELLENT! I have enjoyed welcoming everyone in the morning and farewelling you all in the afternoons. Your positive, smiling, resilient mindset is perfect adult modeling of Aumangea. Collectively we are a very united school with strong values and vision. Kia Kaha



**Key messages from the Ministry of Education:**

- We know some of our families and whānau are still feeling a bit anxious about sending their children back to school which is understandable given everything we have been through these past 2 months.
- It's really important children do return, not just for their education but also their health and wellbeing.
- Instances of COVID-19 in New Zealand are very low and here in the Waikato we have no cases, with the last case reported on 10 May.
- We're aware of concerns out there that people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus. The Ministry of Health has advised us that there is no instance in New Zealand of someone spreading the virus without ever having symptoms.
- Our schools, kura, kōhanga reo and early learning services are safe. Even though there is such a low risk of the virus getting in the gates to start with, we will be keeping up our hygiene practices and other public health measures as an extra precaution for as long as we're at Alert Level 2.

Here are some beautiful highlights from some of our students and kaiako from last week...

- Comment from a 6 year old as we all walked together out of the school at 3pm, 'It's like we are all brothers and sisters!'
- "I'm so happy to be back at school, I love playing and working with my friends."
- Comment from a student in Kārearea Toru - "I was counting down the days until we could come back to school. I missed the teachers, my friends and learning"
- Comment from the first child back into class on Monday morning "I LOVE school! I'm so happy to be at school! I missed school."
- "This muffin tastes like a smile."
- Students in Kererū Rua made small marae scenes- some started to make tiny plasticine vegetables for the marae garden. So creative!
- A student asking... "Can we write?"
- Kererū tamariki supporting Pīpī Manu in getting back to class after a play break
- A highlight has been seeing how happy the children are to be back at school with teachers and friends and how quickly and easily they have adapted to all of the changes! It's been so easy to get back into it!

### **Leaving School in the afternoon**

**We will continue bringing all our students out to the front of the school even if it is wet.** Please bring an umbrella. We expect that all our students go directly home after school.

Thank you to our whānau for supporting us with this.

If you are going to be collecting your child/children please be at the front of school on Deanwell Avenue at the following times

**2.50 - 3.00pm OHU Kōkako and TŪT and their SIBLINGS go home**

**3.00 - 3.10pm OHU Kererū, Kārearea and PŪPŪ Manu go home**

We would really love to have all our tamariki back at school. If you have any worries or questions please feel free to send an email or give us a phone call.

Kia manawanui, kia manaaki, kia haumaru!

Pam