

OTAHUHU INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL



Dear Parents, Caregivers, Whanau and Students

Message from the Board of Trustees

Most of you are aware that the Minister of Education made an announcement last week regarding schools re-opening on Wednesday 17 November 2021. This announcement was received with mixed emotions by the Otahuhu Intermediate School Board of Trustees. While we are very excited about our OIS students returning to school after missing over 3 months of being in the classroom, we are very mindful that COVID-19 Delta is real, and still present in our community. Therefore, we are encouraging all our parents/caregivers and whanau to make a well-informed decision before sending their child(ren) back to school on Wednesday 17 November 2021.

Our Board of Trustees encourage you all to think about the safety of all your child(ren) and whanau at this time. While it would be easy to send your child back to school, we want to remind you that we are still operating at COVID-19 Alert Level 3 Step 2. At Alert Level 3 schools were open for essential workers children only. During Alert Level 3 we have had no students attending OIS.

Under Alert Level 3 Step 2 – We have been advised that schools will be re-opening for students. We believe that at Alert Level 3 Step 2 we should be catering for essential workers children and any child(ren) that cannot be suitably supervised because of businesses reopening. Please consider this in your decision making. We want all our whanau to be as safe as possible.

The announcement also stated that schools would open part-time and each school should do their best to meet the needs of their community. We have asked our Leadership Team and Staff to consider the best way to cater for the needs of our students and the community

Otahuhu Intermediate School Re-Opening

Thank you to the parents/caregivers who responded to our text messages, emails and teacher's phone calls regarding the return of your child on Wednesday 17 November 2021.

Currently we have received notification that we will have 120 students returning on Wednesday 17 November and continuing for the rest of the year.

Guidelines for Students Returning

- If your child is going to return to school for the remainder of the year, ***they must return to school on Wednesday 17 November.***
- If your child does not return on Wednesday 17 November 2021, we will expect your child to remain at home (in your care) for the rest of the school year.
- If circumstances change for you, then you will need to meet with a member of the Leadership Team before your child can return to school.

School Hours

- School hours will be 8.45am to 2.00pm each day.
- All students are expected to be at school by 8.30am each day.
- Classes will begin at 8.45am each day.
- Kauri Syndicate students will finish school at 1.50pm each day.
- Rimu Syndicate students will finish school at 1.55pm each day.
- Kowhai Syndicate students will finish school 2.00pm each day.

NOTE: School will finish at 2.00pm each day, which will enable teachers to clean their rooms, review COVID-19 plans daily and prepare for their students next day's teaching and learning.

Expectation on Students Returning:

All students returning on Wednesday 17 November 2021 are expected to attend school full-time every day until the end of the year.

Every day they must:

- Wear full school uniform
 - Wear a mask all day
 - Be at school by 8.30am
 - Bring their PE uniform
 - Bring lunch and water
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- If they received a school device during lockdown, they will need to bring their school device back to use for their learning in the classroom

Tuck Shop:

Our tuck shop will be operating for our students during our break between 11.00am to 11.45am, but we will have limited supplies as not all our distributors have returned.

Stationery & Uniform Shop:

This will be open from 8.30am – 9.30am daily.

However, if you wish to make a purchase, you will need to report to the school office first. One of the administration staff will then assist you.

Please do not go directly to the Stationery & Uniform Shop.

Drop off and Pick Up:

Please do not drive into the school grounds.

We are asking all our parents/caregivers to drop their child off and pick them up daily.

While this may not be possible for all our parents/caregivers, we are trying to minimise the risks related to COVID-19 before school and after school.

Your support related to this will be appreciated.

Visitors:

All visitors to Otahuhu Intermediate School will need to report to the school office.

You are required to scan the COVID-19 QR reader or sign it using our COVID-19 register.

All visitors onsite are required to wear face masks at all times.

School Bus Service:

The Panama Road bus service will not be running on Wednesday 17 November 2021, Thursday 18 November 2021 and Friday 19 November 2021, as we are unsure on the number of students returning from the Panama Road area.

We will review this over the first three days and if there are sufficient numbers, we will organize with the bus company to recommence the service starting Monday 22 November 2021.

We are aware that there are a number of school expectations being put in place for our students and whanau relating to Otahuhu Intermediate School re-opening for teaching and learning. It is our aim to provide and maintain a safe, caring and COVID-19 free learning environment for our staff, students and community.

Your child's and your support in following these expectations will be greatly appreciated.

NOTE: On Wednesday 17 November 2021, we will be updating you on what the learning will look like for all students over the upcoming three weeks.

Together we have got this!



Brent Woods

PRINCIPAL