



## Special Newsletter Term 3 – Face Masks

22 July 2022

Kia ora everyone

I hope you and your family are well and that you haven't been too affected by Covid or various winter illnesses.

It is certainly a trying time - locally and nationally - as we all work towards coping with the latest Covid outbreak.

This morning, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education have **strongly recommended** that all schools require face mask wearing indoors for the **first four weeks** of Term 3 (i.e. until **Friday, 19 August**). We will support this recommendation. They have stated that face mask wearing may not be practicable for students in the following indoor situations: while eating and drinking; while playing certain musical instruments; while playing indoor sport; while singing or carrying out drama performances on stage; while in Physical Education activities; where it will have a significant impact on teaching and learning (for example, students with particular learning needs). In such situations, particular attention needs to be paid to ensuring good ventilation and physical distancing where practicable.

Parents need to make sure that students come to school ready to wear face masks. Students are expected to bring face masks from home – we are willing to supply from our stock of face masks when necessary for students who do not have face masks. We know that some of our students are exempt from wearing a mask - these exemptions will still be recognised and will remain in place.

Due to the pressure on our staffing hauora and well-being because of Covid, winter illnesses for staff and dependent children and internal relief cover, please note that **students will finish at the end of Period 4 each day from Monday 25 July until Wednesday, 10 August** (the second day of the Student Achievement Conferences). Teachers and Support Staff will still be expected to work their normal hours. Our school buses will run at their normal times and the school library will remain open until 4:30 pm every day. I will then review the staffing situation on **Thursday, 11 August** (the day of the Sports Photographs).

I have also made the following **permanent** change **effective from the first day of Term 3**: Form Time will now begin at **8:50 am** every morning rather than 8:40 am (there will just be one bell at 8:50 am, no second bell).

At this point in time, all other school activities and events will continue as close to normal as possible.

I look forward to catching up with everybody on Monday.

Nga mihi nui

**Martin McAllen**  
**PRINCIPAL**