

Kia ora koutou e te whanau

## Welcome to all families for 2022

Kia ora koutou

Ko Drakensberg te māunga

Ko Indian te moana

Ko Tugela te awa

Ko Dromedaris te waka

Ko Bergville tōku marae

Ko KwaZulu Natal tōku rōhe

No Awhirikan ki te Tonga ahau

Nō Dairy Flat ahau

Ko Hettienne rāua ko Mike ōku mātua

Ko Andrew toku Tane

Ko Thomas rāua ko Caleb aku tamariki

Ko Michelle tōku ingoa

He tumuaki o te kura o (Ahuroa) - Marlborough



### Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi engari he toa takitini.

*I come not with my own strengths but bring with me the gifts, talents and strengths of my family, tribe and ancestors*

Ko tēnei taku mihi ki ngā tāngata whenua o te rohe nei

Ka mihi hoki au ki ngā tohu o te rohe nei

Noreira tena koutou, tena koutou, tena tatou katoa

Thank you to all the families that have greeted me so warmly at the gate each day. I really appreciate the welcome.

A little bit about myself. As you can see from my Pepeha, I am South African, born and bred. My husband Andrew and I have been living in New Zealand since 1997, so consider our 21 year old twins, Thomas and Caleb kiwis. I have a beautiful dog, Pepper, who is currently learning all the alleyways at Marlborough Primary School. We live on a Lifestyle Block in Dairy Flat. As I grew up in a small rural town in South Africa, and as my wonderful father always says, you can take the monkey out of the bush, but you can't take the bush out of the monkey – hence a yearning for a country lifestyle.

What drew me to Marlborough was the multicultural nature of the school and the community that sits around it. I have recently completed a number of Maori and Indigenous Studies Papers and am working on completing my Masters Degree. Covid however has had other plans for this current project.

I live by 5 key values: Honesty, Openness, Transparency, Respect and Fairness. And as such will bring those values to my role at Marlborough.

2022 will have many challenges for us as a school community, - not the least being the coming weeks as we see a rapid increase in the number of confirmed **Covid** cases both within our community and our school. So far we have been fortunate to not have any confirmed cases in our classes. We are operating on the premise that we will have cases. To help us with this we need you to do the following please:

1. We need to be alerted of all cases/close contacts through the Office. Either by phone call or email. If you receive a message from the Ministry of Health (MOH) informing you that you need to isolate, please send this through to the office – [office@marlboroughprimary.school.nz](mailto:office@marlboroughprimary.school.nz)
2. Please do NOT use Dojo or Skoolloop to alert us.
3. Please follow the MOH isolation timeframes, and send us confirmation of clear tests at DAY 5 so that your child can return to School on DAY 8.
4. Please **do not send your tamariki to school if they are sick**. We will be sending them home immediately.

Thank you to all the parents that are patiently waiting at the gates for their tamariki in the afternoons, and watching them walk in, in the mornings – your patience in this is very much appreciated.

Another challenge that we currently have is our **pick ups** in the afternoons, particularly in Wykeham Place and Lingfield Street. Please pay attention to the signs and markers on the roads. They are there to protect your child and others. We have already had a few near misses with parents who are parking on the yellow lines. This parking obstructs the road and our ability to safely cross the students. Our neighbours are really amazing, and patient, but asking them to wait to get out because we aren't all following the rules really makes for tricky conversations.

We do have a fantastic short, safe walk to school that would be a good way to get some exercise and fresh air. If you park at Marlborough Park, a quick 2-minute walk will see you able to use the Chartwell Gate. This also means you won't get stuck waiting in the one-way traffic to get out of Wykeham Place or Lingfield Road.

### **Swimming Pool**

After much toing and froing we have managed to get our school pool up and running again, so once we have completed our water test and have the all-clear we will be able to start swimming sessions. We anticipate that this will be from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February, however we will try to get this running as soon as possible.

## Covid Handy reference

### Explaining COVID-19 contacts (Phase 2)

*What is the difference between a positive case, Household/Whānau of a positive case and a close contact?*

**Household/Whānau** - People who live in your house with you

**Positive Cases** - Someone who has tested positive for COVID 19

**Close Contact** - Someone who has had contact with a person with COVID 19 when they were infectious

You or your child tests positive	Household/Whānau members of a positive case	You or your child are a <u>close contact</u> of a positive case	
Self isolate for 10 days (Your child and your household/Whānau will also need to self-isolate)	Self isolate for 10 days	<i>Close contact</i>	<i>Household/Whānau member of close contact</i>
Provide all necessary information to contact tracers to help them identify other close contacts	Test on day 5 and then again on day 8	The close contact must isolate for 7 days, get a test on day 5	All other members of the household/Whānau can continue as normal monitoring for symptoms
Test on day 5 and then again on day 8	You can stop isolating and RETURN to normal life once you have received a negative day 8 test and the 10 days have passed.	You can stop isolating and RETURN to normal life once you have received a negative day 5 test and the 7 days have passed	<i>If you develop any symptoms you should get a test</i>
You can stop isolating and RETURN to normal life once you have received a negative day 8 test and the 10 days have passed.	<i>You will be notified of your test result (negative or positive) by text</i>	<i>You will be notified of your test result (negative or positive) by text</i>	
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## CASUAL CONTACTS

STUDENTS COME TO SCHOOL & YOU CONTINUE WITH YOUR NORMAL ROUTINES

*Monitor for symptoms and get tested if feeling unwell*

# COVID-19

## Frequently Asked Questions

In light of recent cases in the local area this information is to support our families with any Covid-19 queries, and what you need to do.

In advance we know that this will end up in disruptions to your lives and work, and thank you for your understanding and support.

Please note that we are not the “health experts”, but do know that the Ministry of Health may be delayed in providing advice/guidance to you.

Please also note that this information is subject to change, based on any updated guidelines from the Ministry of Education & Health.

**Click on the question below to find the information you need quickly...**

- [Who do we advise if my child tests positive for Covid-19?](#)
- [What actions does the school take when there is a positive case?](#)
- [How do we work out who is a Close Contact?](#)
- [My child is a close contact. What does this mean?](#)
- [Do I need to provide anything before my child is able to return to school?](#)
- [If my child is a close contact, does the rest of our household also need to isolate?](#)
- [A member of our household is a close contact. Can my child still attend school?](#)
- [We received the letter saying that my child is NOT a close contact. What do I need to do?](#)
- [My child has tested positive for Covid-19. What does this mean?](#)
- [My child is feeling unwell \(e.g. cough, headache, sore throat etc\) Can I still send them to school?](#)
- [Is it safe to send my child to school?](#)
- [What are you doing to keep my child safe?](#)

- [My child is anxious or scared. What advice do you have?](#)
- [My child needs to isolate at home. What support will school provide around teaching and learning?](#)

## **Who do we advise if my child tests positive for Covid-19?**

Please contact Jodine Watts/Michelle Nell as soon as possible after you have been informed of a positive test result.

Contact: by email [office@marlboroughpriarmy.school.nz](mailto:office@marlboroughpriarmy.school.nz) [principal@sunnyhills.school.nz](mailto:principal@sunnyhills.school.nz) or phone the school 094810365

## **What actions does the school take when there is a positive case?**

We follow a response plan based on guidance from the Ministry of Education.

This involves:

- Seeking confirmation of the positive case, and when the infectious period was
- If this was on a school day, we then work through contact tracing
- We will advise classes that are close contacts, via text/email initially, and then a follow up phone call.
- If this occurs during a school day, we will request that you come and collect your child as soon as you are able to. Arrive at the main office, and we will bring your child(ren) out to you safely.
- Rest of school advised of the case, and becomes casual contacts

## **How do we work out who is a Close Contact?**

There is detailed guidance around this and a range of criteria. Without going into detail, because our students spend a long time in the same classroom, this then fits the criteria for being a Close Contact if they are unmasked.

## **My child is a close contact. What does this mean?**

- This means your child has had contact with a positive case at our school.
- They will need to isolate for 7 days and be tested on day #5 (Note - the 7 days start from the date that they were in contact with a positive case at school. Because of the time lag between the confirmed case/test results, this may mean that your child only needs to remain home for a smaller number of days).
- The day #5 test is likely when you would receive the notification of being a close contact.
- We will advise you further regarding testing and isolation dates.

## **Do I need to provide anything before my child is able to return to school?**

Yes please. For positive Covid cases or close contacts we would like to see the last negative test result please. Note: if your family chooses not to get the Covid test done, then the period of isolation will need to be extended.

## **If my child is a close contact, does the rest of our household also need to isolate?**

No, not for our region. We have received official direction from the Auckland Regional Health Board & Ministry of Education that this no longer applies to the Auckland region.

Please note: the Covid19 website still says that other household members of close contacts are casual contacts, and also need to isolate for 5 days, but this does not apply to the Waikato/Auckland areas.

## **A member of our household is a close contact. Can my child still attend school?**

**Yes**, as above. Your child is able to attend school.

## **We received the letter saying that my child is NOT a close contact. What do I need to do?**

Most importantly, **your child is still able to attend school**

- You and your Whānau should watch for symptoms
- If any develop, get tested immediately
- Then, stay at home until you receive the result
- Please keep an eye out for school communications
- If your Whānau hasn't been vaccinated, please consider doing so as soon as possible.

## **My child has tested positive for Covid-19. What does this mean?**

This will mean that your child will need to isolate. All family members will be close contacts and also need to isolate.

Ministry of Health will provide more guidance.

## **A member of our household has tested positive. What does this mean?**

This will mean that your child will be a close contact and also needs to isolate. Ministry of Health will provide more guidance.

My child is feeling unwell (e.g. cough, headache, sore throat etc) Can I still send them to school?

Because these are all symptoms of Covid, please do not send your child to school. While these may be the normal bugs/sniffles that occur, we encourage you to get your child tested.



### **Is it safe to send my child to school?**

Our processes involve working through a detailed contact tracing assessment. If your child is not a close contact, then school is still open for them and we encourage you to send them to school as much as you can. As you know, our students have missed a lot of teaching and learning over the past 2 years, and we really want to see them at school as much as possible.

Our school health and safety plan for Red does contain a large number of protections.

### **What are you doing to keep my child safe?**

- All staff, volunteers, contractors on site are vaccinated
- We are ventilating all our rooms
- Staff and students in Year 4 and above are wearing masks
- Mask wearing in YO-3 is encouraged
- We have staggered break times and areas to assist with contact tracing and minimising contact between large groups of students.

### **My child is anxious or scared. What advice do you have?**

Our onsite team are working hard to make school fun, safe and a place of learning. We encourage you to focus on the things that they can do to help - mask-wearing, washing hands, getting a test (if required)

This website has some useful tips - <https://www.kidshealth.org.nz>

## **My child needs to isolate at home. What support will school provide around teaching and learning?**

Our support and response will also depend on whether class teachers are also isolating at home. If our teachers are also isolating, they will be in touch to offer our remote learning support (virtual connections, activities etc)