



# St. Peter's Catholic School

Quality Education in a Christian Community

11 May 2020

Kia Ora Koutou.

## MOVING TO LEVEL 2

Like me, I am sure you have followed with interest the announcements made by the Prime Minister today explaining what Level 2 will mean for all of us, and especially for schools.

The good news is that we will be ready to welcome all students and staff back to our school site on **Monday 18th May**, as it is now considered safe to do so.

We look forward to getting children back to school, to learning, to fun times and to their friends and teachers.

There is a lot of important information, and I have attempted to address any frequently asked questions below. Note, this information is based on the Ministries of Health & Education guidelines for schools.

### Who can come back to school?

Everyone (from **Monday 18th May**). Schools are open and considered safe to do so. The only exception will be anyone that is feeling unwell or sick, and we will send anyone home immediately if they show any symptoms. As the Prime Minister has said, set the bar very low on this!

### When will school start for all students?

The Prime Minister has said that schools **will not open mid-week** but will open on Monday 18th May under Level 2 conditions.

### Can I send my child to school this week on Thursday and Friday when NZ moves to Level 2?

**NO** In the current transition period from Level 3 to Level 2, **no new students can be added** to the small number of students and staff that have required schooling during Level 3.

They will remain in their bubbles under Level 3 restrictions for the remainder of this week. On Thursday & Friday staff will return to prepare and plan for the full school reopening on Monday 18th May.

Please support us and allow us the time we have been given by the Government to get the school and staff ready for Monday 18th May.

### Can I still keep my child home even when the school moves to Level 2?

Under Level 2, it is now deemed safe for everyone to return to school. We anticipate that some families may still be reluctant to send their child(ren) back to school, and we understand this.

If you **DO NOT** intend on sending your child back to school from Monday 18th May, please email me directly.

***Please note that with all of our staff back at school, teacher focus will be on the students at school.***

### **What Health and Safety procedures will be in place?**

The key principles for Alert Level 2 are to:

- reduce the risk of someone getting infected in the first place
- ensure we can identify and contact anyone who becomes infected
- understand that Level 2 is not business as usual.

Our school will follow detailed Ministry of Health guidelines to maintain the health and safety of everyone on the school site. This includes regular cleaning, use of sanitiser, handwashing, and reminding and helping children with those important habits such as coughing into their elbows, handwashing and drying. No one at school needs to wear any PPE.

### **Can parents and caregivers come on-site at school at Level 2?**

**Yes – but by appointment only and with some conditions.**

So we ask that **if you do come onto the school site...**

1. you sign in at the Office
2. you do not enter the classroom under any circumstance
3. you maintain a safe distance from other people within the school grounds
4. you also follow the necessary hygiene protocols around handwashing and use of sanitiser pre and post being on the school site

### **Drop off/Pick Ups**

Please drop your children off at the front of the school between 8.30am and 9am, or even better, have your child bike, scooter or walk to school to avoid congestion. There will be a drop off zone set up outside the school. Pick Up will be between 2.45pm and 3.15pm. **We ask parents not to enter the school site during drop off and pick up times.**

### **Will students be in “bubbles”?**

**No.** At Alert Level 2 the bubble system is not required. Students and staff will still avoid physical contact as much as possible and keep personal space.

### **Will students be using drinking fountains at Level 2?**

**No.** Please ensure your child has a personal water bottle.

### **Is the Playground open?**

**Yes.** Our focus will be on washing hands after every break time.

### **Will students be able to play sports and do PE?**

**Yes.** We are looking forward to sports and physical activity resuming within the school. We will await each sporting codes recommendations around winter sports.

### **Will there be School assembly / pōwhiri, or large school events?**

**No.** Although technically these are deemed okay, in the short term we will not be holding these, as they would be bringing together large groups of people.

**Will online learning continue this week?**

**Yes.** Our teachers will continue to connect with you this week. Next week all of our teachers will be back on site.

**Is there a plan to support the transition of students back into school?**

**Yes,** We're really mindful of the wellbeing and readjustment of children back to school. We know that students will have experienced this lockdown in many different ways. Wellbeing and relationships have always been our priority and our staff will take the time to focus on this, and to rebuild culture and relationships, in a manner similar to what we would do at the beginning of each school year. Wellbeing needs to be addressed before learning will happen.

We will share more specifics around what your children can expect in the first week back at school once we have met as both a leadership team tomorrow afternoon and the whole staff on Thursday this week.

**How can I notify the school if my child is going to be absent?**

Please use one of the following processes to advise of your child's absence:

- our school app is easiest
- phone 07 827 6623
- email [office@stpeterscatholic.school.nz](mailto:office@stpeterscatholic.school.nz)

**Will there be before and after school care?**

**Yes,** the Kids Rock team is working through their processes at the moment and will come out with their information ASAP.

**Is there a plan to support the transition of NEW students to our school?**

**Yes.** With an extended period of closure, we have a number of students awaiting to enrol at our school for the very first time! For our new entrant students, we will offer a shortened transition programme. For all of our new families we will work through enrolments as necessary.

**What time can my child be at school, and what time do they need to be collected or leave?**

Students **can't** enter classrooms until 8.30am (30 min before the bell), and so we suggest that students arrive at school from 8.30am. All students are to be off-site by 3.15pm unless their parents work at school or they are attending Kids Rock after school care.

We appreciate your support with this and understanding with this in these unique times.

**What can we do to support the school and our kids?**

Keep any students who are sick at home until they are well. Keep reminding them about the importance of hygiene and washing their hands. Ask about their school day and stay connected to us via Facebook and email as appropriate.

For more detailed information at Alert Level 2, you can visit <https://covid19.govt.nz>

If you have any further questions or comments please feel free to email me –  
[principal@stpeterscatholic.school.nz](mailto:principal@stpeterscatholic.school.nz)

Thanks again for all your support and understanding over this challenging period.

We are all looking forward to welcoming our kids and whānau back to school.

Nga Mihi  
Grant Stuart  
PRINCIPAL

---

22 Anzac Street, Cambridge 3434, New Zealand.

P : 07-827 6623

W : [www.stpeterscatholic.school.nz](http://www.stpeterscatholic.school.nz)

FB : [facebook.com/stpeterscatholic](https://facebook.com/stpeterscatholic)

