

SENT: 31 JAN 2022

Kia ora tātou whānau,

CONFERENCES TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY

All parents and students attending conferences need to wear a face covering. If you have an exemption or simply do not wish to then your conference can not proceed face to face. If this is going to impact you please email us so we can offer alternative solutions for you. **IMPORTANT:** For conferences you and your child should go straight to the classroom. Please scan in at the class and sanitise. Staff will be socially distancing and masks need to remain on at all times. Our teachers are there to get to know you and learn more about your child. Please do not debate the decisions in this document with teachers. Come and see me (Wayne) if you have any concerns.

FACE COVERINGS AT SCHOOL

We know that the majority of you will support the mandate requirement to wear face coverings (Masks) in our classrooms. If your child has a genuine exemption we would ask that you make contact with us so we can have a conversation with you about how we can best support them in their learning at Ross.

Our only interest is to ensure that all our ākonga (students) have an amazing and safe start to the year.

Please help us to help your child by talking to us about your concerns or exemptions to mask wearing. The more we know about your child the more we can support them. Please do not send them to school unsupported without a mask. If you do not have a mask we can provide one for your child.

We also require ALL adults to wear face coverings when coming into the school grounds. Apart from the scheduled conferences, we require you to check in at the school office on arrival to our site. Do not go straight to the classroom unless you are attending a conference on the 1st or 2nd February.

We will be making contact with you and discussing matters relating to mask wearing should your child not have one and refuse to wear one. Until we have had a conversation they will not be able to be in their classroom.

Any exemptions to mask wearing need to be approved by the principal and students with approved Ross exemptions will have a pass to indicate this so they can carry on and focus on their learning.

Please direct any concerns regarding this to wjenkins@rossintermediate.school.nz. We appreciate your anticipated support of this mandated requirement.

WHAT HAPPENS IF WE HAVE CASES AT ROSS

We are currently working on how we will manage any cases at Ross. The Ministry of Health and Education have developed support material and guidance that we will follow. We will communicate with our community as and when this is required.

Finally we are here for the sole purpose of education. We are doing the best we can to support your children through these challenging times. We know that many of you have concerns and are facing your own challenges. The more we can work together the better this will be for our ākongā.

We also received the following advice to pass on from the Ministry of Education:

CONTACTING US ABOUT ABSENCES

It is really important that we be kept well up to date with where students are at. Please record your absences using the School App, this is the preferred method. We need to know if it is Self Isolating but well, Sick or Family reasons. The Covid self isolating is important as this helps determine how we can best cater for student learning. If you are not able to use the app then please text us on 021 157 2739, you need to include the student's name and the reason for the absence.

CARE IN THE COMMUNITY: Financial help to buy food

Work and Income has a range of [supports available for individuals and families affected by COVID-19](#). Parents and families who need financial help to buy food may be able to access assistance, even if they are not receiving a benefit.

Local foodbanks may also be able to help. Local foodbanks can be found by searching on the [Family Services Directory website](#) or contacting a local community social services provider. [Please find more info here](#).

People who have COVID and need assistance can also call MSD on 0800 559 009 to find out what help is available to them.

Ngā mihi,

Sent on behalf of **Wayne Jenkins**

PRINCIPAL | TUMUAKI

