

14 May 2020

Kia ora koutou

As you know, we are open for all our pupils at ACS from Monday 18 May. I have sent a range of information to help get started. This letter contains more information you need as you prepare to send your child back to school.

New Info for today

There is a range of emotion about starting school again and reengaging with the wider community. Some are really looking forward to it, others are approaching it with various levels of anxiety and each person's response is understandable and individual to them. At school we understand this and we are here to help with that adjustment as best we can. Over the coming weeks we will be talking with the pupils about the way that our loving heavenly father is our source of strength and peace when we allow him to be. We will be sharing about how we can choose to make decisions that allow him to work in us in ways that allow his promises to be real, how he is closer than our breath every moment and how he never leaves us – not even when we are worried, scared or anxious and therefore supports us with those emotions.

If your child is health compromised

I have suggested you arrange to talk with your medical professional and work out a plan. Where you have advice that your child should not, for whatever health reason, attend school then let me, Mrs Lawn, Mrs Thomson or Mrs Phillips know and we will work out a plan that supports your child's learning from home. It would be helpful for us to have a letter from your medical professional to help us see the issues clearly. We will fully support any family in this situation.

If your child is nervous or anxious but medically well

This is totally understandable. Please communicate with your child's classroom teacher about this and let myself, Mrs Lawn, Mrs Thomson or Mrs Phillips know. We will be careful to look after them well. Part of working through worry is to take steps to challenge the cause of the worry. Returning to school and reengaging with classmates, teachers and learning can be a very good step towards facing the fear. We are here to help with that if you need us. Our distance learning programme will be for those who have medical advice and support to remain at home.

If you as the parents carry concerns

This is one expression of a parents love for their kids and I suspect we all share this burden. Any of the people mentioned in this letter would be happy to talk with you about this and help share the load. We live in uncertain times and we are invited to adapt to them, help our kids navigate the concerns positively and draw on the strength of our God and our community working together. I sometime reflect on the depth of God's emotion toward his kids if I as a mortal feel what I do for my two boys. He must love us deeply! Allow your child to be a part of school and feel free to reach out and talk.

Reminders from yesterday's letter

Devices

If you borrowed a school Macbook, iPad or Chromebook please drop this in to the school office on Friday 15 May (this week) between 9.30 and 1.00 pm. Remember the charging cord. We need to prepare and distribute these to the classrooms for Monday morning start. Don't forget to delete any photo's your child may have taken – it could be quite interesting at this end if you don't!?

Start times Monday 18 May:

Primary classes – children should be in class no later than 8.55am.

Middle School – pupils should be in their whanau class no later than 8.40am.

Year 9 and 10 – pupils will be travelling to MGS for their regular technology classes on Monday afternoon 18 May. Parents will need to arrange to pick up their teen from the MGS site as usual at 3.20 pm.

Parent drop offs and pick ups

At ACS we have determined that it will be fine for parents to drop off children to their classrooms as usual. Some schools are keeping parents outside the gate but we will welcome parents as usual. We feel that, especially for our younger pupils this will be an important thing for them. We do ask, for contact tracing needs, every parent who comes on site to drop off a child at the start of the day and pick up at the end of the day sign the contact tracing sheet at the classroom door. We will just need your first and last name. We have the contact detail in our database so you do not need to display these to the world. Please make sure you do this every time you are here.

If you would like to chat with other parents while at school, feel free but please remember the social distancing guideline – keep your social distance and enjoy catching up with other parents and whanau from the ACS community.

Visiting during the day

If anyone comes on site during the day for any reason or length of time they **MUST** go to the office first and sign in at reception – no exceptions.

If your child is unwell

Do not send them to school – we will send them straight back home again. This is a requirement of the Ministry of Health and an expectation from many of our families. We each have a part to play as part of the school community. We help to support each other by doing our part well.

Uniform

It is the winter uniform term. Many families may not have all the uniform items. You have three weeks from Thursday to source these. We will expect all pupils to be in winter uniform by Monday June 8. Please feel free to talk with me if this causes an issue for you, we are here to help as best we can.

Remember

- Physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease. Think 'moist breath zone'.
- Good hygiene practices and regular cleaning are important.
- Everyone should cough into their elbows and wash and dry hands frequently.
- Regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces is important.
- Please continue to remind your children of these practices so that are well practiced when they get to school next week.
- Any pupil or staff member must stay at home if they are sick, and we will send anyone home immediately if they show any symptoms of being unwell.
- For more information about the public health measures at Alert Level 2, you can visit the covid19.govt.nz website: <https://covid19.govt.nz/>
- I intend to send our full health and safety plan home on Friday via email. If you have any questions about our health and safety plan, or have a child who might be vulnerable to serious illness and would like to discuss a plan for them, please contact me.

Grace and peace.

Mark Richardson
Principal