



31st August 2021

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of our School,

I have to admit that during the weekend it was very nice to not have to spend all day looking at a keyboard and screen. Although there wasn't much we could do at home it was a good opportunity to pause and spend some time doing the things I enjoy.

Anyway, its back to work and back to Level 4 lockdown again but possibly only until Thursday night.

I know that this is a difficult time for some of you so once again I want to reiterate that the staff and I are here for you and your children. Please appreciate that you and your families wellbeing is the most important thing right now and if the schooling side of things is difficult then take a breath, do something fun with your children, get some perspective and try again when the time is right. Please note that we will do our very best to catch up and support your children and their learning when they return to school.

Yesterday, we learnt that provided there is no evidence of Covid in our community we will move to Level 3 on Friday. Should this be the case then we can begin to put some plans in place.

Level 3 will enable more people to go back to work. This also means that schools will be open for those children who need to be at school because they cannot be supervised at home. The key message for you is that if you can, you should keep your child at home.

The following notes have been prepared for those children who do not have adequate supervision at home and need to come to school. I apologise in advance if these measures seem harsh and very pointed but they are written on the advice of the Ministry of Health.

Important Information For Our School Community Under Level 3

Provided that the Ministry of health confirms that there are no traces of Covid in our community it is likely that we will move to Level 3 on Friday the 3rd of September.

Once clarification has been received from the Ministry of Education tomorrow I will inform you of the return date to school for children in bubbles.

For children who are returning It is important that we all understand these points:

- ***In order to ensure the safety of those children and our staff who do come to school, we will be operating with strict enforcement of health and safety measures as determined by the Ministry of Health.***
- ***Please respect that if your child or children do need to come to school, the day will be very different from a normal school day. The following information is to inform you of the measures that will be put in place to help keep your child/ren safe.***

The school day:

- Children at St Francis Xavier Catholic School will, wherever possible, continue to work on their Home Based Learning programmes while at school. There may be some other programmes implemented, however, this will depend on the number of children who return, the range of age in each bubble and the number of staff on site. It is our intention that your child will be doing the same distance learning as the students who stay at home.
- Children will be in bubbles of no more than 10 throughout the day and the children will be in family groups wherever possible.
- Children are to be dropped off at school at 8.45am just prior to the bell, as children are not allowed to mix in the playground before school.
- All children, in their bubbles, will be taken to various points in the Parish car park at the end of the day for pick up. They must be picked up at 2.50pm. Parents dropping off children at school or picking up children are to remain in their vehicles at all time please.
- Children who arrive late are to remain in their parents vehicles while the parent phones the school office to advise that their child has arrived. A staff member will meet your child in the carpark.
- Children attending school are to be enrolled for the full day. Unless absolutely necessary please do not request that your child leave school early. If however the child has an appointment you will need to phone ahead to the office and your child will be walked to the car park to meet you.
- Children cannot mix with other bubbles or staff members.
- There will be limited equipment available to children. No physical education gear, balls, ropes, scooters or senior / junior playground, as there is to be no sharing across the bubbles.
- Children will be advised as to where they can and cannot play. Teachers will be encouraging social distancing of two metres outside and one metre inside the classroom.

- Children will not necessarily be in their normal classroom or have their regular classroom teacher. There will be staff on site to ensure we have the ratio required, but not all staff will be at school. Some teachers will be engaging with the children at school and those who are still at home, making it a challenging situation for all.
- Staff still have to maintain their contact with all those children who are still engaged in Home Based Learning.
- Children are asked to bring any device they have been using at home if that is possible. It is not possible to share classroom devices.
- Children are to wear their uniform, bring their lunch, water bottle and reading material. The library and drinking fountains are closed. They can wear masks but this is not compulsory.
- Under NO circumstances are parents to send children to school if they are unwell.
- If a child's behaviour is unacceptable you will be asked to collect him / her as we will not have adequate staff numbers to provide the level of support required.

If your child is returning to school because no one is able to supervise them at home then **please complete the Return to School Registration Form by following the Google link below.**

[Alert Level 3 Enrolment Form](#)

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Craig McKernan

(Principal)