



12 November 2021

Kia ora koutou

Now that our plan has been sent through, I'd like to cover off a list of other items of information regarding returning to school next week. Our staff had a full briefing yesterday afternoon to cover health and safety

All staff are double vaccinated, and all staff will have returned a negative Covid-19 test prior to returning to school next week. This test will have been conducted within 5 days of physically returning. Our staff have been amazing in supporting this.

Mask wearing – this is compulsory for all students and staff inside. Masks may be chosen to be worn outdoors but are not compulsory. We will be encouraging staff to wear masks at all times. There are no specifications around make/model/style of mask – however they need to cover mouth and nose. We have a supply of masks available should anyone require one.

Break times will be outside, unless raining. Morning tea and lunch eating times will also be outside, and masks do not need to be worn for eating times.

Physical distancing: Inside, students will be physically distanced by 1 metre. Furniture in rooms will be configured to support this.

Physical distancing: Outside, there is no longer a space requirement – however we will be aiming to maintain at least a metre between students of each class/bubble and at least 2 metres from anyone outside their immediate class/bubble.

Playground and fitness trail: These will remain open, and will be available for students to use however they will need to respect distancing rules and we will be cleaning daily and monitoring. These may close if necessary (would be a real shame though).

There won't be any group activities such as kapa haka, choir, bands, sports teams. No external employees i.e., coaches, music tutors will be on site. There won't be any team sports practices, games or competitions.

We have put up new signs in all areas to promote the messages of:

Hygiene – mask wearing – distancing – contact tracing

All classrooms have surface disinfectant and clean cloths so surfaces can be cleaned regularly.

Our cleaning company is ensuring the whole site is clean and safe and ready for next week.

For any parents who need to visit – please come directly and only to reception. Scan outside the door and maintain distancing when/if inside. If there are other people at reception, please wait until they have left. Please avoid the need to drop off or visit. All staff members are happy to be contacted by email or phone and remote meetings will still be arranged.

Carparking on site: Our new carpark is in the final stages however not yet completed, so there is still significantly reduced carparking onsite. Please park in a street park or at Countdown should you have to visit.

For parents/caregivers who are meeting students to collect at the end of the day – please wear a mask and respect distancing.

For parents/caregivers who are picking up students by car at the end of the day – please do not double park or park on the cycling lane or yellow lines on Lake Rd.

Vaccine register – although not compulsory, if your child has been vaccinated for Covid-19, and you haven't already sent this through, please email to admin@ni.school.nz. Students 12 and over do not need to be vaccinated to return to school.

Ventilation – all our classrooms have decent opening windows and doors – so rooms will be open. Students will need to dress accordingly.

Should your child have any respiratory symptoms, and you have not already notified us, please contact Mr Zane Cooper on zanec@ni.school.nz

Student vaccination status – thank you to those who have already sent this through. Although not compulsory, it is highly recommended that you do send this through. We are collecting this information and adding it to a secure page of our student management system. Please send any student vaccination information through to admin@ni.school.nz

School assemblies and gatherings – there will be no physical assemblies or gatherings. Assemblies will continue to be conducted through video streaming/recorded.

Singing and music practice – unfortunately there won't be any singing or music practice for groups or brass/woodwind/reed instruments.

Sports and PE – Our sports shed will remain closed so there will be no general issue of equipment. There may be some equipment used by some classes, which will be cleaned with disinfectant before and after use each time.

We will however be encouraging as much outdoors time and physical activity as possible. Will singing / music practice be allowed? How will this be managed safely if so?

On the days when students are not onsite, i.e. alternate days students will have been set self-directed learning by their teachers. This will include project work, writing tasks, online learning tasks including Maths Buddy and Education Perfect tasks. We expect this to evolve after the initial reconnection and socialisation resettling takes place.

Shaded areas – over the last three years we have added a considerable amount of shaded areas including shade sails in front of the hall, tuck shop, Rooms 9 – 1, as well as our shade shelter in the front and awnings over rooms 15 – 22. We also have the option of raising our marquees should we need extra shade shelter. We are also fortunate enough to have good tree shade.

Sunblock – classrooms have sunblock however we do suggest you providing your own, particularly if your child has sensitive skin. Self management of sun smart practices is an essential skill for NZers

Students should also be wearing hats when outside. Please ensure your child comes to school with a blue or school hat.

Drink bottles – students need to bring their own named drink bottle. We have added extra outside water filling stations this year.

Lunches and food for students: There will be no lunch service provided. Students need to bring their own food and pack their own litter to take home.

Sanitising of hands – we have done a thorough check of the school and there are sanitiser stations in all classrooms, toilet spaces and admin areas. Students and staff need to sanitise when entering classrooms and before and after eating/being outdoors. As with sunblock, we provide generic stock, however it is wise for parents to consider providing students with their own, particularly for students who may have sensitive skin.

Students with mobile phones – any students who bring mobile phones to school should scan in if they use the Covid-19 tracer app. However, as we will be taking the school roll twice a day, it is not compulsory – but highly recommended as good practice. We will continue to collect any student phones in – however will be wiped before and after collection with a sanitising wipe.

We do not have CO2 monitors in our indoor spaces.

We do have air conditioning units and heat pumps in all our spaces however they do not all have HEPA filters -as it is summer we will be using natural ventilation

Our guidance counsellor, Jenny Jackson is contactable on: jennyj@ni.school.nz and we have added a second guidance counsellor to our team – Keri McNaughton who is also keen to support. At this stage, work through Jenny who will triage and share any students who need support

Our Social Worker, Pam Ryder, will not be onsite throughout but will continue to offer support. Should you or anyone you know benefit with Pam's support, touch base with either your child's classroom teacher, me or Zane Cooper.

Here is a visual timetable for the next fortnight:

The image is a visual timetable for the next fortnight, titled "At School Learning Days". It features the Northcote Intermediate School logo in the top left corner. The timetable is presented as a 2x4 grid of colored boxes, each representing a day and the year level being taught. The days and year levels are: Wednesday 17 Nov (Year 8), Thursday 18 Nov (Year 7), Friday 19 Nov (Year 8), Monday 22 Nov (Year 7), Tuesday 23 Nov (Year 8), Wednesday 24 Nov (Year 7), Thursday 25 Nov (Year 8), and Friday 26 Nov (Year 7). The text "Year" is written in a cursive font, while "YEAR" is in a blocky, outlined font.

Day	Date	Year Level
Wed	17 Nov	Year 8
Thu	18 Nov	Year 7
Fri	19 Nov	Year 8
Mon	22 Nov	Year 7
Tue	23 Nov	Year 8
Wed	24 Nov	Year 7
Thu	25 Nov	Year 8
Fri	26 Nov	Year 7

Other information to note (previously shared):

Friday 12th and Monday 15th November: online teaching continues

Tuesday 16th November: Staff will be back on site so this will be a **teacher only day**. Teachers will set up students with self-directed tasks on Monday. Staff have a lot to discuss and process, as well as preparing their classrooms after a long time away from them. Those students who have been in the bubble or who need to attend may do so and will be supervised.

Wednesday 17th November: Students to return to school on alternating days, starting with Year 8's on Wednesday 17th then the Year 7's on Thursday 18th. We have scheduled this until 26th November and will review and communicate any changes ASAP.

Our initial focus will be on the basics - routines, relationships and reassurance.

- The school day structure will remain the same, with school starting at 8.45am. At the end of the day we will dismiss pedestrian/cycle/scooter/parent pick up students at 2.50pm and bus students at 3pm to allow for distancing
- School buses will be operating as per normal. Masks need to be worn on buses

Thank you to those of you who have already let us know that your child will not be returning to school next week. For students who are remaining at home full-time when school resumes on site they will be coordinated by our Learning Support Coordinator, Mrs Alyce Keith. Please email Alyce directly on alycek@ni.school.nz if we have not already been notified.

Thanks also to those whose children need to attend every day. Please let me know if you haven't already done so.

Hopefully the above information paints a fuller picture of what returning to school will look like.

I am acutely aware that this is a time when you need information and there will still be some questions unanswered. Email me and I assure you I will respond ASAP to ANY school-related questions.

principal@ni.school.nz

Best regards,

Phil



Phil Muir

Proud Principal of Northcote Intermediate School