

## Returning to School Term 4 2021 @ Alert Level 3 continued.

14 October 2021



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I hope you have managed to have some sort of break over the last two weeks as we attempted to be on holiday after our third term. As you will now know, Auckland continues to be in Alert Level 3 as we begin our new term and so distance learning will continue from home.

Online learning will start this Monday 18th. Teachers will continue to deliver a distance learning programme for your child. I know they are in contact with your child regularly and are happy to respond to your questions. We do want all of our children to continue to be engaged in their learning so if this is becoming difficult for you, please let us know. If Monday's announcement states that we will be staying in Level 3 and closed for a further week, your child's kaitiaki will be in contact with you about their ongoing learning programme. Thank you for continuing to support your child's learning at home.

At Alert Level 3 we would prefer all students to be at home and to be safe. If there is an adult at home, your child should be at home. If you are needing to send your children to school, because you have to work and you have no other child care options, please email me directly by email [principal@stjosephs.co.nz](mailto:principal@stjosephs.co.nz) before 2:00 pm Friday 16th October so that staffing can be organised to welcome them on Monday 18th. Students will not be able to attend if they are unwell at all.

Parents, who need to have their children at school, because they have absolutely no other option, will need to drop off and pick up children at the school gate at 8:45 am and 2:45 pm. No parents or whānau will be able to enter the school site. You need to clearly understand that we cannot enforce physical distancing rules at school. With the reduction of available staff, and continuing distance teaching and learning, we will not be organising a usual school day or teaching a usual school programme at school. The names of students needing to attend will be on our Alert Level 3 register.

Students who are at school will continue their distance learning programme or what they can manage. Our staff on-site will have been tested for COVID-19 before they get back to work and we are moving toward having 100% of our staff vaccinated – so we are all playing our part in keeping our community safe. We know you will be reassured by the news that adults in education facilities will need to be fully vaccinated before January 2022.

We are proud of how our community has responded to this outbreak, but the mahi isn't yet done. Please continue to follow all the alert level requirements including staying at home, getting tested for COVID-19 if you are feeling unwell, and for your own sake and for the health of your whānau, please get vaccinated. I've included some [information about vaccinations](#) to support decision making. These are the very best things we can do to keep our community as safe as possible and get everyone back to school.

As I'm sure you're aware, Super Saturday is happening this weekend, our national day of action to get more people vaccinated. We encourage you to get vaccinated if you are not already.

Pope Francis says, "Vaccination is a simple but profound way of promoting the common good and caring of each other, especially the most vulnerable. I pray to God that everyone may contribute their own small grain of sand, their own small gesture of love"

Let's hope we are all back at school very soon.

Keep well and God bless,

Ursula Hall  
Principal