

*Kia ora koutou, talofa lava, malo e lelei, kia orana, fakaalofa lahi atu, bula vinaka, greetings*

The staff and I are very much looking forward to welcoming students back to school on Tuesday 8 February. I know that some of you will be concerned about the current increase in Omicron cases however we will be implementing procedures to ensure that school is as safe as possible. We have moved fully into the new traffic light framework for all our school activities and events this year. At Red setting, we are able to support everyone learning onsite.

The start of a new school year is an exciting time but can also be a bit scary and overwhelming. We are aware that many of our students have not attended onsite since August last year. To support students in returning to school we are offering the opportunity for students and parents to come and briefly meet your 2022 class teacher. This will be held on Thursday 3 February from 11.30am - 1pm.

To maintain safe physical distance during these visits we ask that you enter through the gate beside the Wiri Community Hall (behind Room 17) and exit through the Inverell Avenue gate. All adults and children in Year 4-8 must wear an appropriate face covering and a staff member will assist you to scan or sign in at the gate on entry to the school. At Red setting, all staff and students in Years 4 – 8 must wear an appropriate face covering when inside at school.

On Tuesday 8 February we will not start the school day with the usual assembly and powhiri. Students will go straight to their classrooms. School staff will be available to greet students and help them find their classrooms and teachers. Free school lunches will be provided every day however fruit for morning tea will not start until 14 February. Students should bring their own snack for the first week of school. Don't forget to let us know if your child has any food allergies or special dietary requirements.

In 2022 the school will be providing all students with their initial stationery packs at no cost to families. The Board and staff are committed to supporting students to return to school. Over the next few weeks I will continue to keep you informed about what's happening at school and look forward to catching up with you again soon. As always, please don't hesitate to contact me or any of our staff if you have any queries.

*Ngā mihi*

*Jan Donaldson*

*Principal*