



Hello Everyone,

By now you will all be aware that there is a growing wave of Covid 19 across the country. This is accompanied by the normal (but it appears, more aggressive) influenza and winter colds leading to widespread illness and an increased strain on the health system.

It is important that we all do our bit to slow down the transmission of Covid 19 and other winter illnesses. With this in mind when school resumes next week we will be returning to the mask and visitor settings that served us so well in Term 1.

This means that:

- All children in Rooms 1, 2, and 3 must wear a mask when travelling on the school bus and when inside at school. All school staff must also wear a mask when inside.
- The school drop off point will be reinstated and unless absolutely necessary, parents and caregivers are asked not to enter the school grounds.
- Scheduled visitors to school will be asked to postpone their visits, and trips out of school will also be postponed.
- If a child is unwell then they should stay at home and any child that presents at school as unwell will need to be picked up from school as soon as possible.

Unlike in summer when we were able to take advantage of the warm weather, winter brings its own challenges to providing ventilation in classrooms and getting outside. We are currently considering same and how best to maximise any opportunities to do so. We would ask that children come to school dressed as warmly as possible, perhaps with an extra sweatshirt or jacket, as we seek to manage the balance of keeping classrooms as open as possible with their being warm.

Challenges such as this appear to be problematic at first glance but with a bit of creativity and a positive approach we will get there. Hopefully, this little act will help to keep our children and community safe from the worse effects of Covid 19 and will allow us all the opportunity to contribute to making our way through this phase of the pandemic. This approach will be reviewed at the end of August when, hopefully, spring will bring warmer weather and a reduction in the amount of illness across the country.

So, from Monday the 25th of July 2022 when school recommences, if your child is in Rooms 1, 2 or 3, please ensure that your child wears a mask on the bus and when they enter school. Cloth masks are not permitted, and it is recommended that a Type IIR/Level 2 mask or above is worn. This includes the widely available 'blue mask'. We will have supplies available for children if they need a mask. In addition, children will need to use hand sanitiser when entering school at the beginning of the day and as they leave school for the journey home and we will be further increasing cleaning and hygiene practices across the school.

Thank you for your understanding and support, we look forward to welcoming children back to school next Monday. Please get in touch should you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

Paul Barker,
Principal,
Kaeo School.