



VISCOUNT SCHOOL
65 Viscount Street, Mangere, Auckland 2022
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15th May, 2020

Dear parents, whanau and caregivers,

We are looking forward to welcoming your children back at school next **Monday, 18th May**. It has been a long 8 weeks. The Ministry of Education has said it is safe for children to return and our school like all others, has worked hard to make sure it is. Your child only needs to stay at home if they are sick.

We are asking parents to stay outside the school grounds but if you need to come in, you will need to come to the office and sign the register for contact tracing purposes. We also ask you all to support our messages of regular handwashing and coughing into elbows.

Children will keep breathing space but adults will be asked to keep a 1 metre distance inside and 2m outside. We have put a lovely video on our website to help children learn about this

Moist air zone

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZvt0Vrykb8&feature=youtu.be>

Some parents have been asking about devices

During the lockdown, the Ministry of Education worked hard to purchase chromebooks for schools because we told them that many students did not have their own one at home. The plan was for schools to then loan them out to students.

The Ministry of Education then decided to send the devices straight to children's homes because the staff could not come onto the school site and we all wanted your children to get on with learning during the lockdown. So, we asked you to update your address. Thank you for your help with this.

But across New Zealand, the Ministry of Education found

- many children did not live where the school thought they did
- many homes did not have an internet connection, and
- there were not enough chromebooks to go around.

As a result, very few devices were delivered straight to students' homes and those that were, now need to come back to school.

The Ministry of Education is now starting to send some devices to the schools. As we are no longer in lockdown, the devices will remain at school and once they are insured, set up and fitted with software, the devices will be used at school to help with everyone's learning.

If we need to return to Level 4 we will be able to issue a device to some students during a lockdown period. This will depend on how many we get from the Ministry of Education. Be aware that in that situation we will need to meet with you first to discuss the use of the device and arrangements for insurance while it is out on loan.

Ngā mihi
Shirley Hardcastle
Principal

