

Alert Level 2

Return to School for MSS Community

COVID-19

Update

14 May 2020

On Monday, the Prime Minister announced that New Zealand will move into Alert Level 2 from 11.59pm on Wednesday 13 May. That means from Thursday Alert Level 2 criteria apply.

MSS is preparing to open its doors and welcome back all students on **Monday 18 May 2020**. Parents and children may well be anxious about returning but I can assure you that wellbeing is our first priority in planning for our children's return.

The Key Principles for Alert Level 2 Are To:

- Reduce the risk of someone getting infected in the first place
- Ensure we can identify and contact anyone who becomes infected
- Understand that Level 2 is not business as usual.

At Alert Level 2 we will continue to focus on:

- **enabling good hygiene practices** – regular washing and drying of hands and good cough and sneeze etiquette remain fundamental to preventing spread of illness such as colds, flu and COVID-19
- **ensuring people with COVID-19 symptoms stay away** from school
- **maintaining physical distancing where practicable** - in schools at Alert Level 2 this means children, young people, and staff maintaining a physical distance so that they are not breathing on or touching each other (there is no minimum distance requirement for schools at Alert Level 2)
- **keeping track of people that enter our school** – through our attendance registers, timetable and visitor register. This includes all visitors and parents who enter the site.

We have put a number of conditions in place to ensure the safety of our staff and students.

We ask for your support in abiding by these and also reinforcing these with your child(ren).

Parents are reminded that in the following circumstances children should not be at school if:

- they have an illness. Any child attending school when they are unwell will be sent home. We trust you will not put us in the position of having to ring you because your child arrived at school unwell.
- they have compromised immunity, an underlying health condition, or someone in their immediate bubble has compromised immunity or an underlying health condition.

Please note that as all our teachers will now be classroom based our teaching & learning programme will be school based. **A limited online Home Learning programme** will be available to support children that are required to stay at home at Alert Level 2 because underlying medical conditions place them at higher risk.

Staff Attending Under Alert Level 2:

All staff, except those who are significantly at-risk health wise, will be back on site.

Children Attending Under Alert Level 2:

- All children, except those with an illness of any kind, are able to return to school on Monday 18 May, 2020 **from 8.30am. Please do not send your child along to school earlier than this.**
- All children, except those with health issues, are expected to attend from Monday 18 May 2020.
- Children will be back in their normal classroom and with their usual teacher(s).
- Parents of children who have significant health factors to consider, particularly those with a compromised immune system, need to contact their child's Team Leader, Linda Beatson (Junior School), Laretta Haskell (Middle School), Jill Harrison (Senior School) to discuss the return to school for their child.
- Contact details are:
 - Linda Beatson lbeatson@motuekasouth.school.nz
 - Laretta Haskell lhaskell@motuekasouth.school.nz
 - Jill Harrison jharrison@motuekasouth.school.nz

Children With Anxiety Or Other Health/Wellbeing Issues

- Parents of children experiencing significant levels of anxiety or 'reaction' to the COVID-19 scenario please share this with your child's class teacher.
- The school aims to assist and support children and parents as much as possible during the transition back to school and beyond. If as a parent you are concerned about the transition back to school please make contact with your child's class teacher.

➢ Room 1:	Jody Drummond	jdrummond@motuekasouth.school.nz
	Linda Beatson	lbeatson@motuekasouth.school.nz
➢ Room 2:	Sandra Riordan	sriordan@motuekasouth.school.nz
➢ Room 2B:	Jill Price	jprice@motuekasouth.school.nz
➢ Room 3:	Leanne Jolly	ljolly@motuekasouth.school.nz
➢ Room 4:	Nadia Walter	nwalter@motuekasouth.school.nz
➢ Room 5:	Deanna Ferguson	dferguson@motuekasouth.school.nz
➢ Room 6:	Georgina Christie	gchristie@motuekasouth.school.nz
➢ Room 7:	Laretta Haskell	lhaskell@motuekasouth.school.nz
➢ Room 8:	Louise Wileman	lwileman@motuekasouth.school.nz
➢ Room 9:	Jill Harrison	jharrison@motuekasouth.school.nz
➢ Room 10:	Debbie Walker	dwalker@motuekasouth.school.nz

Children Will Be Expected To:

- Enter the school grounds and move directly to their classroom and hang up their bag. **NB:** Older siblings can escort younger siblings to their classroom.

- No adventure playground or sports equipment to be used before or after school. However, they may use their own scooter or skateboard, etc.
- Eat their own food and consume their own drink... no sharing of food or drink. Drinking fountains will not be used under Alert Level 2.
- Hand sanitise/wash hands regularly as instructed (including when entering and exiting a building or classroom)
- Follow teacher instructions and directions, including following health and safety requirements as taught to them.

Return To School – Essential Items:

- School Stationery
- Devices loaned to you by MSS or the Ministry of Education
- Something for morning tea
- Lunch
- Drink Bottle (drinking fountains will not be working)
- A clear understanding about after school arrangements.
- Optional: Scooters/Skateboards

Students will sit outside their own classrooms on fine days to eat morning tea and lunch

Parents Are Asked To:

- **Remain outside the school grounds.** Preferably we encourage you to drop off your child at the school gates, unless there is a valid reason. However, we are mindful that some students (and some parents/caregivers) may be anxious about returning to school. In this situation you may walk your child to the top of the Courtney Street or the High Street pathways. A staff member will be there to welcome your child (maintaining appropriate social distancing) you will be recorded on a register as having entered the school grounds – a requirement for contact tracing purposes. We have marked social distancing spacing at the top of the pathways. **Parents/Caregivers are not permitted to enter beyond these points.**
- **Parents may only enter the school if a prior arrangement has been made** – please contact the school office:
 - Telephone: 03 528 7533
 - Email: admin@motuekasouth.school.nz
- **Make contact with teachers via email in the first instance**
- **Text the office on arrival in the carpark**
- Keep social distances at all times with other parents/children and staff
- Hand sanitise as requested by the school when invited onto the school site.
- Record their contact details in the Contact Tracing Register when invited onto the school site.

- Not to congregate outside the school gate or carpark in groups to socialise/chat before or after school

Contact Tracing

We are required to maintain Contact Tracing Registers detailing which children and adults are on site, in each teaching space, including recording if there is a different composition of children and adults during the day.

We are also required to record all visitors invited onto our site, **including parents.**

Entry and Exit Points

Morning Entry:

- **Rooms 1 to 5** - Courtney Street entrance (entry will be controlled)
- **Rooms 6 to 10** - High Street entrance (entry will be controlled)
- Gates to open at 8.30am
- Parents remain outside the school grounds and maintain physical distancing of 2 metres
- Once inside the grounds children are to move to their classroom, using the hand sanitising units before entering the classroom.
- No adventure playground or sports equipment to be used before school.

Afternoon Exit

- **Rooms 1 to 5** - Courtney Street exit (exit will be controlled)
- **Rooms 6 to 10** - High Street exit (exit will be controlled)
- Parents remain outside the school grounds and maintain physical distancing of 2 metres
- Senior students with younger siblings to be released at 2.50pm to collect younger siblings from classrooms and then move to either the top of the High Street pathway (outside the administration block) or to the top of the Courtney Street pathway (by the sports shed) ready to be released at 3.00pm.
- **Please make clear to your child(ren) arrangements for after school and which gate they are to use to leave the school grounds.**
- Children in Rooms 1 to 5 who do not have older siblings meet Mrs Haskell at the Courtney Street exit and children in Rooms 6 to 10 meet Mrs Harrison outside the Administration block (by the boulder garden). Mrs Haskell and Mrs Harrison will release these children.

Student Absence

A reminder that when your child is absent from school the school must be notified. You can do this by:

- Texting our absence line 027 758 0419 or

- Leaving a message on our answer phone 03 528 7533. Please state your name, your child's first name, surname, their room number and reason for their absence.

Lunch Orders

- Thursday Subway Lunch orders **WILL** continue to be available
- Friday Sausage and Juicy Lunch will **NOT** be available until further notice

Full School and Team Assemblies

These have been placed on hold until further notice. While these gatherings are allowable under Alert Level 2, our priority is getting children back into classrooms and their normal learning routines before returning to large group celebrations. Smaller group celebrations may occur within and across teams.

School Office

The school office will open to parents and visitors by appointment only. Office staff can be contacted by telephone or email. Parents and visitors need to contact the office if they wish to discuss a need and make an appointment to come onto the school site.

Contact details are:

- Telephone: 03 528 7533
- Email: admin@motuekasouth.school.nz

If these requirements are not followed by children and parents/caregivers it makes the day-to-day running of the school under COVID-19 health requirements even more difficult.

It is important that we all show patience and understanding under these very different circumstances. It is important that we keep things 'tight' so that we do not inadvertently lose the gains we have made as a country as to minimising the Covid-19 spread.

The MSS Team, including the Board of Trustees, is working hard to ensure health and safety requirements are met. We also aim to provide as welcoming a school environment as we can for our children under these unusual circumstances, but with the understanding we are working under a clear set of Government requirements.

Kind Regards



Michael Harrison
Principal