



Update to parents – 24 July 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I trust you have enjoyed some special time with your children over the holiday break and are looking forward to them returning to school. This week we have received communication from the Ministry of Education regarding the current winter illnesses and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education strongly recommend that all students in Year 4 and above wear masks indoors for at least the first four weeks of Term 3. As we have composite Year 3 and 4 classes at Henley School, we ask that all Year 5 and 6 students wear a mask when indoors and encourage students in Year 3-4 classes to wear a mask if appropriate. We understand for some Year 3-6 students this is not possible and we respect this. We also know that in some situations wearing a mask is not practicable such as while eating, drinking, playing certain musical instruments and indoor sport. Masks need to be well fitted and we do have a limited supply of masks for students that will be available in Year 3-6 classrooms if you are unable to supply your child with one from home. The public health advice clearly shows that mask wearing is a strong tool in the defence against the transmission of COVID-19 and other airborne respiratory viruses. Wearing masks can reduce new cases of the virus by as much as 53%. It works alongside other measures including good ventilation, hand washing, staying home when sick and vaccination.

We continue to track the daily COVID-19 case numbers in our school. It is still important that you monitor your children and if they develop symptoms, please ensure you keep them home and get them tested. If your child or a member of your household receives a positive test result, please email our school office as soon as possible office@henley.school.nz and include your child's name, classroom and the day self-isolation begins (day 0).

Please remember that anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 will still be required to isolate for seven days, along with all of their household contacts. Household contacts who have previously tested positive and are recovered, have 90 days before they have to self-isolate again as long as they are symptom free. Day 0 is the day symptoms began or the day the positive test was taken (whichever came first). Positive cases will isolate for a full seven days and are free to return to normal activities on Day 8, if they are not symptomatic. Anyone who has had COVID-19 previously must test after 28 days have lapsed if they are symptomatic.

In the event that your child is self-isolating at home and is well enough, please find the Home Learning links on our school website <https://www.henley.school.nz/assets/PDF-files/Learning-from-Home-10-days-work.pdf>

We encourage everyone to continue wearing masks when on the school grounds while COVID-19 is still active in our community. Please only enter classrooms and school buildings if absolutely necessary and if you do, please wear a mask.

Thank you for your support as we continue to manage COVID-19 and winter illnesses in our community. We appreciate all you are doing to keep our community safe.

Ngā mihi nui
Natalie Doty
Acting Principal