



Te Kura O Boulcott Boulcott School

Stand tall, fly high, together.

Kia tū kaha, kia maia, kia rere ki te ao.



Boulcott School at **RED** setting

Kei aku nui, kei aku rahi, tēnā koutou katoa i roto i ngā āhuatanga o te wā.

Welcome back after what we hope has been a wonderful summer for your whānau.

Our Boulcott team is feeling refreshed and ready to go for the 2022 year and can't wait to welcome everyone back onsite.

Firstly, I wanted to give you an update on our property developments. Our building contractors have continued to work over the holiday period and have made great progress, including additions to Kōwhai deck and renovating in Kahikatea classrooms. There is still plenty of work to be done, so in the meantime, our Year 5 and 6 classes are set up in temporary spots. A reminder of where these classes will be based for the start of 2022:

Room 1 - Molly Weaver: Room 8

Room 2 - Melissa Coton: Library

Room 3 - Corrina Rayson: Room 10

Room 4 - Luke Dentice: Room 14

A reminder also that access to the school will be limited to the main entrance and car park entrance. The entrance by The Cottage is off limits as this is for contractors access only.

In regard to COVID-19, we have moved fully into the new traffic light framework for all our school and kura activities and events this year. You will be familiar with all the health measures we had in place in 2021 and it is good to know that at Red setting, we are able to support everyone learning onsite.

There are some differences with RED compared to our previous setting at LEVEL 2. Below are the most relevant restrictions that apply to your tamariki and whānau. It is important to note that these restrictions are all aligned with the guidance that is set by the Ministry of Education and Health. We anticipate that this guidance from the Government will change as

the situation develops so we will ensure to keep you up to date with any changes when we receive them.



Events and activities

Large hui and gatherings especially when indoors continue to be one of the riskier activities we can undertake. We have therefore reviewed all our events and activities for the upcoming term to ensure we meet the health guidance for Red. In light of this we will continue to host 'virtual' assemblies later in the term and our start of year Pōwhiri to welcome new whānau has been cancelled.

We plan to restrict movement and interaction of staff and students between syndicates as much as possible so we will be providing staggered play/break times throughout the day to support this.



Face coverings

You may have heard in the media that under the RED setting all children (and staff) in Years 4 – 13 must wear face coverings when inside at school. Our Kōwhai classes are all Year 3 and 4 composite which present a challenge under these restrictions. After following up with Ministry of Education representatives, I can confirm that the face coverings requirement is to apply the requirement based on the youngest year group in the class. Therefore the following requirements apply for Boulcott School:

- **Kahikatea staff and students (Year 5 and 6):** Face masks are required to be worn indoors.
- **Kōwhai staff and students (Year 3 and 4):** Face masks are **not** required to be worn but are encouraged. Staff will support students who decide to wear face masks while at school.
- **Harakeke staff and students (Year 1 and 2):** Face masks are **not** required to be worn but are encouraged. Staff will support students who decide to wear face masks while at school.

If your child/ren is part of the Kahikatea team and they have a medical exemption to not wear a face mask, please provide this information to the classroom teacher as soon as possible.

Cloth masks are acceptable for students but we **recommend** that masks worn at Boulcott School be a 'blue' medical-grade mask that many New Zealanders are already wearing.

The school will have a limited supply of these masks for students to utilise but we encourage families to provide their own supply of face masks for their child in Year 5 and 6. (This is

similar guidance to our sunsmart policy where whānau are required to supply hats for their child/ren).

We appreciate that this new requirement is going to create some challenges for students and staff during teaching and learning programmes. The classes will be utilising the outdoor spaces across the school as much as possible to make this as manageable as possible.

The teachers will be providing guidance to students on how to effectively wear, store and reuse masks early in the term and we encourage you to do this at home too before school starts next week.

For those of you with children who might be reluctant to wear a face covering, there is some [helpful advice from Michigan Health](#), including using simple, specific explanations about why they need to wear a face covering, adults being the role models, providing small rewards for wearing them, bringing face coverings into play such as drawing face coverings on characters in colouring books, or letting them choose/make the mask.



Visitors on-site and Contact Tracing

There is little change to these requirements from last year.

We are continuing to restrict adults visiting school.

- Please drop off and pick up your child at the school gate.
- If your children are older, think about making a meeting spot away from the school gate to avoid congestion. Don't forget our Walking Pou located in Ariki Street.
- Exceptions made for parents of new entrant children and other students that may struggle with settling in. Please use external doors for this process.
- **Please do not arrive early for pick up or linger after drop off.**
- If students are waiting to be collected after 3pm, they will be directed to wait outside the main entrance of the school.

Please avoid visiting the school office.

- Think about ringing or emailing the school office/classroom teacher instead. School Office is 566 3058, email info@boulcott.school.nz
- If you need to collect your child early, please ring/email ahead. We are happy to collect your child from class to come meet you at the front gate..
- If you do need to visit the school, please enter through the school office and sign in using Vistab, our online visitor system and the QR code.
- Please wait on the lines marked outside the office if you are waiting.

Parent Interviews

- Our annual beginning of the year parent interviews will be rescheduled until later in the term. As an alternative, Seesaw communications will be utilised between home and school. More information about this will be shared at a later date.
- If meetings are required for particular children or whānau there will be options for phone calls or video conferences if needed.



Contact Tracing

This will be an important tool for the school if we do have a positive case of Covid-19 in our school community. If you do have to visit school please ensure you:

- Scan in using the QR Code if entering the school grounds.
- If you are onsite for a meeting or work please ensure you sign in using the VisTab tablet in the School foyer.



Ventilation

We have used the Ministry of Education self-assessment tool to review all our ventilation in readiness for the start of the year. Providing good old fashioned fresh air remains the most important thing we can do in our learning spaces to minimise risk for ākongā and kaiako (and the same goes for you at home). We will also be receiving a CO₂ monitor in the coming weeks to further support our ventilation plan.



Distance Learning

We have all seen the very large numbers of cases overseas and we will very likely see much larger numbers of cases in Aotearoa than we have previously experienced in the last two years. While Omicron is more transmissible than previous strains, most people who get COVID-19 will have a mild to moderate illness and will fully recover in their own home.

However, some of our community who are immune compromised, are ill or have other vulnerabilities, even when they are fully vaccinated, could be more affected by Omicron. So, we all need to continue to play our part to minimise the spread of the virus.

If Omicron does become widespread it is likely that there may be students, staff and whānau that will be required to isolate at home. Our staff are already preparing for the possibility of activating our distance learning programmes again, based on Ministry requirements. During the first week of school, your child will receive a 'home learning' booklet that can be used in the initial stages of home isolation if required - **please only utilise this if your child is required to home isolate and not before**. If further learning is required beyond that for your child, we will move to our online programme of learning grids using:

- **Seesaw:** Harakeke & Kōwhai students
- **Google Classroom:** Kahikatea students.

It is important to note that at this stage, we will only offer distance learning to students who:

- Are required to home isolate but are well
- Are health compromised and are unable to attend learning on site.



Stay home if you are sick.

Play it safe. Stay home if you're feeling unwell. Don't come to school and keep unwell children home from school education.

If you or anyone in your whānau have symptoms of COVID-19, call Healthline on 0800 358 5453, 24 hours a day for advice. Someone will talk with you about your symptoms and arrange for you to be assessed.

Healthline or your General Practice team will tell you what you need to do if you need to be tested.

- Staff are to observe children on arrival, checking for symptoms. Those who present as unwell will have it arranged to be picked up. Teachers will notify the office.
- If a student becomes unwell at school, they will be directed to the medical room. Admin staff will notify the parents/caregivers to come and pick the child up. We will bring the child to their designated Gate to be collected and taken home.
- If your child has been unwell, stay home and get tested. We require them to stay home for at least 24 hours after their symptoms have gone, then they can return to school.

Vaccination for five- to 11-year-olds



Vaccination, including a booster shot, remains an important tool to help prevent the most serious harm from the COVID-19 virus. If children and young adults who have been vaccinated do develop COVID-19, they are far less likely to get seriously ill and less likely to transmit the virus to others.

The free five- to 11-year-old vaccination programme is now underway and more than 100,000 children in New Zealand have had their first dose.

There is some helpful information available to support you on the [Unite Against COVID-19 website](#) including [How to book a vaccine for your five – 11 year old](#) and [some great videos](#) on the Kids Health page that can support you to talk to your tamariki about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Managing cases in our school

We have a good contact tracing system in place so that if there is a confirmed case who has been at school while infectious, we can quickly identify who was a close contact of that person. We will then quickly advise those contacts of what they need to do.

Only if the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Education advises to do so, would we consider closing a physical onsite school and moving to distance learning for everyone. At Red we will keep everyone learning onsite for as long as we can.

Please make sure your contact details we have on file are up to date, so we can get in touch with you if needed.

Getting ready to return to school

The Ministry of Education has some helpful information on their [Parents and Whānau website](#) to support your tamariki to get back to school. There is also a very important reminder about how you can [take care of yourself](#).

While this might all feel a little overwhelming at times, we know that all these measures will help our children return to school, reconnect with whānau and friends and do what they enjoy.

We are also here to help. Please get in touch if you have any concerns or need help in any way.

We are looking forward to seeing all the Boulcott tamariki On Wednesday 2nd February!

Nga mihi nui,

Stu Devenport
Principal