

## Principal's Message

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Today was the mandate deadline for the education workforce to be fully vaccinated. All Ponsonby Intermediate staff are fully vaccinated and have returned a negative Covid test.

Thank you to the majority of you who completed the community survey swiftly last week. It was sent out on 11<sup>th</sup> November and had two purposes. We have been ordered to collect student vaccination status information and keep a register. The second part of the survey was to assist us in our planning for reopening on Wednesday. We used this information and the Ministry of Education guidelines to form the plan shared with you on Friday. What I didn't share with you was some of the thinking behind these decisions, so if you are interested please read on below. We are happy to trial and adjust plans weekly.

Auckland Transport has released information that school bus services will be returning to normal. We have advised them of our adjusted school hours for this week. However, in any case we will make sure we have duty teachers on the bus stops, or students supervised in their bubble play zone until 3:05pm.

Today I read an interesting article with some great advice for children returning to school...as a parent of school aged children, I found it useful.

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/lifestyle/expert-advice-for-alleviating-the-anxiety-of-children-returning-to-school/2DZEFYJQESXQYQQ4RHMP2QV6AU/>

*Below is some of the thinking behind the decisions the Leadership team are trialling this week:*

*MoE instructions were to open schools, with significantly reduced student/staff numbers and create safe, secure and stable bubbles. Everyone must wear masks indoors and maximise classroom ventilation. Each school must design their own programme.*

*We have cut the school campus up into 5 geographical zones (with play areas and toilets in mind). The 5 zones contain 2 classes and 3 staff. These bubbles will not cross. This is based on the Health advice, that when we get a Covid case they will close the bubble and not the school.*

*There was consultation with local primary and intermediate schools before any of our decisions were made.*

*A shortened day of 9am - 2pm is to be trialled this week to see how our students go in a secure bubble for five hours wearing masks. It is break times reduced rather than teaching time to avoid potential transmission between bubbles.*

*Alternate Year 7 and 8 days at school were overwhelmingly chosen by community survey (over the half day option).*

*The number of essential workers children returning full time has increased 10 fold. We have almost 100 students to cater for in this category.*

*Very few families have chosen the option of not returning to school, and continuing with online learning.*

*With ECE, Kindergartens and Day Care facilities still not returning to full capacity, we have a significant number of staff compromised. Running secure bubbles of 2 classes with 3 staff and the 100 students of essential workers full time meant we needed Fridays to remain as an online learning day. This decision will be reviewed weekly - depending on staff capacity or MoE instruction.*

*There is another Government announcement for Education pending 29th November.*

*The leadership team and staff as a whole are okay with our programme in making the most out of an incredibly tricky situation. We realise this will not please every family in our community, however we will continue to adjust and improve as the days go on.*

Nga mihi

Nick Wilson

## Student Absence this week

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If last week you indicated that your child was coming back part time or fulltime, please ensure you report any absences on the online form found on our website or in the app if you are choosing to keep your child home on their designated days.

# Health and Safety Guidelines for Return to school

Please read through these guidelines with your child.

For Students	For Parents/Caregivers
<p>You are to enter school grounds, and go directly to your classroom, as soon as you arrive either by bus, car or any other form of transport.</p> <p>You must be wearing a mask on entry to the school grounds to ensure that everyone has one for the day.</p> <p>Each class must use the following entrance and exit:</p> <p><b>Room 25 Roller door on Clarence Street</b> <b>Rooms 12, 15, 21, 22, 23, 25</b></p> <p><b>Back Gate (Sheehan Street)</b> <b>Rooms 14, 16, 17, 18, 20, 30</b></p> <p><b>Front Gate (Clarence Street)</b> <b>Rooms 1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 11, 26, 28</b></p> <p><b>If you bike to school:</b> You can use the front gate as an exception, we have catered numbers for this. Please go straight to form class on arrival, once you have locked your bike, staying 2metre distance from others with mask on.</p> <p>Whenever you are moving around outside with your bubble, you are expected to maintain a 2 metre distance from all other people</p> <p>1 metre distance or more when in the classroom</p> <p>You can not interact with students from other bubbles</p> <p>You will continue with the same remote learning programme you were doing at home and teachers will supervise this. <b>However, there will be much more engagement with your peers and a focus on social and mental well-being while at school.</b></p> <p>You will be in your form class with your form teacher</p> <p>You will use the bathroom assigned to you during class time and break time, remembering to wash your hands and use available hand sanitiser throughout the day</p>	<p>Your child can only attend school on their allocated day unless you have notified the school and contacted the school office by 2:00 pm the day before - <a href="mailto:office@ponsint.school.nz">office@ponsint.school.nz</a></p> <p>Your child can not attend school during alert level 3 if they are considered a contact of a COVID 19 case</p> <p>Your child also can not attend school if they are sick, especially if they have any cold or flu-like symptoms, including a high temperature, runny nose or cough. If your child develops these symptoms during the day you will be notified and asked to come and collect them.</p> <p>Can you ensure your child comes to school as close to 9am as possible.</p> <p>Your child will be required to have a face mask every day. Please consider putting a spare mask in your child's bag in case they misplace or break their one.</p> <p>Students will be in their form class and this will be their 'allocated bubble' for their time at school</p> <p><b>Parents can not enter the school property</b>, please wait for your child at the front gate (Clarence Street) or back gate (Sheehan Street), keeping to the 2 metre distancing rule</p> <p>In an emergency parents may access the school office. Please scan in, wear a mask and maintain distance from others</p> <p>We would ask that your child bring their own device if possible, with headphones.</p> <p>The school is providing hand sanitizer and wash stations where possible. Please reinforce with your child the need to regularly wash their hands and sanitise while at school</p> <p>You will need to provide your child with their own lunch and full water bottle as our tuck shop and water fountains will not be available.</p>

<p>You will be required to wash and sanitise your hands prior to, and after, using shared equipment such as sports gear</p> <p>During break times, you need to stay in your allocated bubble, with the 2 metre rule in your designated area</p> <p>You will need to sanitise hands as you enter and exit the classroom each time.</p> <p>You will need to bring a full drink bottle and lunchbox each day as water fountains and the tuckshop will be closed. There are stations in each room to fill your drink bottle within your bubble.</p> <p>You will need to come to school in your fitness uniform each day. As the classrooms will have all windows and doors open you will need to bring a jumper on cold days</p> <p>Scooters and skateboards stay in your class</p>	<p>There will be locations for students to fill their drink bottles during the day</p> <p>If your child poses a safety risk by not following our strict alert level 3 Health and Safety procedures, you will be contacted</p> <p>Your child's allocated bubble will remain stable for the remainder of Level 3 and will not interact with any other allocated bubble</p>
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## Well-being Message

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### **A SPECIAL REPORT: Transitioning Back**

As lockdown restrictions are slowly being lifted to varying degrees, we are entering a time of transition and adjustment. The circumstances of this situation have significantly impacted us all. For some it has been an opportunity to reflect on what is important, whilst others have embraced the opportunity to learn new things.

Many young people may be excited at the prospect of restrictions being lifted; whilst others may be feeling mixed emotions. Reactions will differ depending on how well they cope with stress and change. Keeping a check on your child's mental health and wellbeing as they adjust to new routines, will be vitally important.

There is still a lot of uncertainty ahead of us, so focusing on the things you can control or enjoy doing, can help establish predictability and familiarity for the whole family. Adult carers need to provide young people with reassurance by acknowledging any concerns and fears they may have at this time. Consider this to be a normal reaction, however it may be best to focus more on their feelings and emotions, rather than the practicalities at this stage.

In this Special Report, we share a few ideas about how to help ease this time of transition. We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this Special Report, and as always, we welcome your feedback.

**If you do have any concerns about the wellbeing of your child, please contact Rachel Maitland-Smith our Guidance Coordinator to support.**

Here is the link to your special report:

[https://ponsonbyintermediate.nz.schooltv.me/wellbeing\\_news/special-report-coronavirus-transition-back](https://ponsonbyintermediate.nz.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-coronavirus-transition-back)





# Ponsonby Learning Pathway

## Our Vision

Articulate, energised achievers; ready for the future

New Zealand Curriculum

Ponsonby Community

At Ponsonby Intermediate we value:

### Growth Through Learning

We are open to change, treating each challenge as an opportunity to learn. As life long learners we strive to be the best we can be.

### Expressing Ourselves

We explore and share our thoughts, talents, feelings and beliefs because these make us who we are. We get the most out of life when we are true to ourselves.

### Making Connections:

As a member of a class, a school and a community, we are part of a whole. We come together from many different cultures to learn from each other.

### Showing Respect for other People

Because we have confidence in who we are, we are able to appreciate and let others be themselves. We care for, and support each other, inside and outside the classroom.

## Personalising Our Path

Habits of Mind • Quality Learning Circle • Te Reo • Gifted and Talented • SMART Target Learning Journals • Positively Ponsonby • Inquiry Model • Specialist Teaching Ponsonby Passports • Student Council • Art/Culture Weeks • Direct Vocab Information Landscape • R.E.E.P. • E.O.T.C. • ESOL • S.S.R. • Options • Camps B-Cool • Reporting to Parents • Professional Development • Appraisal Tools for Learning • Planning • Overviews • Curriculum Reviews • Mentoring Keys to Success • Critical Thinking • Kori • Habits of Mind • SMART Targets

## Key Competencies

### Mathematics

- Thinking
- Using language symbols and text
- Managing Self

### Humanities

- Thinking
- Relating to others
- Managing Self

### English

- Thinking
- Using language symbols and text
- Managing Self

### The Arts

- Thinking
- Managing Self
- Relating to Others

### Technology

- Thinking
- Relating to Others
- Managing Self
- Participating and Contributing