

School Notice

Tuesday 9th November

Kia ora koutou,

Tonight's newsletter explains what some of the recent law changes mean for our school, and starts telling Good News Story #2.

New Laws for Schools

As you know some new laws have been put in place for schools. Here is a summary of some of them and what they mean for our school.

Recent Negative Covid Test

Every adult 'worker' who could possibly interact with a student (e.g. staff, contractors, Board members etc) must provide evidence of a recent negative Covid test before they first start working at the school.

This **does not** include parents, caregivers and whānau who come to the school office reception area. Parents, caregivers and whānau are always welcome.



Also, every staff member who has not yet had 2 vaccinations must also provide evidence each week of a recent negative test result.

This is a Level 3 requirement only. If we drop to a lower level (e.g. "red traffic light" etc) this will no longer be required.



Student Vaccine Register

Every school must keep a register for all students recording their Covid vaccination status.

Until last week, when Health authorities got prickly and less co-operative, we had expected that we could use Health data to complete our register.

We now know that this is not going to happen. So, soon there will be a form coming home with students and by email etc for whānau to complete please telling us your child's vaccination status.

This information will go into a register that is confidential and only accessible by 3 staff in our school: our Senior Nurse, Business Manager and me.

This is a permanent ongoing requirement.

Mandatory Vaccinations for School Staff

Every staff member (and some others who work in and around schools) must provide their school with proof that they have had their first vaccination by Monday next week, 15 November, and proof of their second vaccination by 1 January 2022.

We have over 200 people on our "list" and most of them have already provided this evidence to us. We are working through the last part of this process now.



You may have heard in the media about some (usually small rural primary schools) who may struggle to have enough staff for the rest of this term. This is not the case for our school.

This is a permanent ongoing requirement.



Staff Vaccine Register

Every school must also keep a register for all their staff and 'workers' recording their Covid vaccination status. This is also confidential and managed by the same 3 staff. We are compiling this register now.

This is also a permanent ongoing requirement.

Does Your Child Need to be Supervised While You are at Work?



Our school is still open to students who can't be at home because their parents or caregivers are working.

If you need to have your Year 9 or 10 child (our student) supervised at school during the day please contact me by text or call me on 021 336 328. Or email me on principal@jchs.school.nz

Good News Story #2

Recent ERO Report: Part 1: Background (part 1 of 4)

Last night I shared our NZQA good news story. Tonight, our good news story is from the Education Review Office, usually called "ERO".

Mid-2016 the then Board Chairperson and I visited ERO and formally asked for a whole school review. ERO (finally) arrived to do this at the start of 2017.

Our 2017 ERO report was challenging and confronting.

ERO, the Board and I agreed on what we needed to address and this led to 4 extremely busy and productive years for our Board and our staff as we worked together to turn things around for the benefit of our students.

The Ministry of Education (MOE) got involved and they put in place additional expertise on our Board and helped with some additional staff and advisors. NZSTA came alongside for a while and ERO have been providing critique and feedback throughout. Each time telling us what had improved and giving us feedback on what we thought our next steps should be.

We also became one of a handful of schools in a national trial to see what it takes to turn a school around (called the *Turnaround Schools Pilot*).

Two weeks ago, the Board received from ERO the draft (unconfirmed) report from an ERO review earlier this year (before this lockdown).

Aside from a couple of small things (typos, omissions) the Board has accepted the report in full. So, the final report, which is publicly accessible, will be very similar to the draft that we are sharing with you, our community first.

Coming Next:

- Tomorrow: Part 2: What has Improved?
- Thursday: Part 3: What are Our Next Steps?
- Friday: Part 4: The Verdict.

Ngā mihi,

Grant
Grant McMillan,
Tumuaki • Principal

