

Preparing our tamariki  
with the skills to shape their world



## **Orange Traffic Light Setting**

Kia ora koutou,

You'll be aware that Minister of Education Chris Hipkins announced the move to Orange at 11:59pm last night. This decision to move to Orange was made on public health advice, but schools had little warning that this was going to occur.

Today at school we have asked kids to wear masks as usual, as we want to prevent students and staff from getting sick and then spending the term break in bed! Hopefully we will remain at Orange as we start back in Term 2 (starting Monday 2 May).

### **MASK WEARING AT ORANGE:**

You will note that at Orange, face masks are no longer required at school. However public health advice is that masks continue to be strongly encouraged when indoors. Wearing a mask is a key health measure that slows the spread of COVID-19 in indoor settings.

- **STUDENTS**: It will be up to every single parent to decide if you wish your child to wear a mask when indoors at school during Orange.
- We also ask that your child (if they are Year 5+) continues to bring a mask to school every day. There may be times that we'll ask them to wear a mask, too – for example, when we are having an assembly in the hall. If there are a high number of cases at school or in the community, we may ask that masks are worn in classrooms again for a time.
- At Orange, students aged 12 and above are still required to wear a face mask on school or public transport.
- **STAFF**: School staff will support your decision making on this front. Staff will also be allowed to decide for their own personal wellbeing whether they wish to wear a mask at school as well.
- **VISITORS**: At PBS we would also prefer that visitors to the school, including parents and whānau, wear a mask whenever they are indoors on school grounds.

We will continue to keep all the other health measures in place at school that we know slow the spread of COVID-19. These include ensuring our indoor spaces are well-ventilated, maintaining good hand hygiene and cough and sneeze etiquette, appropriate physical distancing whenever we can and, most importantly, staying home if we are sick.

We are looking forward to a few less restrictions and returning to school life that is a bit closer to normal.

Ngā mihi,  
Jess Ward