



4th January 2021

To our Parents / Caregiver

“The tests we face in life's journey are not to reveal our weaknesses but to help us discover our inner strengths. We can only know how strong we are when we strive and thrive beyond the challenges we face.” - Kemi Sogunle is a certified professional coach (life coach and relationship expert), international speaker and multi-award-winning of Life and Relationship books.

We have started the academic year again under much pressure and what I will call ‘Mandnation’.

It will be a new word, a description of a condition that arose during the 2019s and beyond, a condition that has dominated our lives and it involves the act of doing something by statutory law, without question or consultation.

From here we have the other common word called “exemption” which refers to the grey area.

I have to thank my staff for their huge effort in preparing for the opening of school, for adapting and for their actions for without their work and effort we would not have opened on time. As it was, we had to take the unusual step of starting with our Year 7 students on Wednesday and then welcoming in our Year 8s on the Thursday.

Thank you to all our parent group for also helping and understanding our needs.

For supporting us by joining our laptop programme for sorting out the uniforms and stationery and for your support when you couldn't come in and join us with our enrolment days. Appreciate very much the support.

We have had very few issues but if I don't clarify somethings then they will become big issues:

1. Taupo Intermediate School does not have or been in negotiation with any organization to mass vaccinate our students and offering incentives. **NO** vaccine bus is coming into town. Let me be very clear that for students to be vaccinated at school they will need to have signed permission from their parent or caregiver, better still we would have you here to take them into the clinic.
2. The wearing of masks is ‘mandatory’ at our school and must be worn according to our school Kaupapa, the way we do things around here. If you want to seek an exemption, make sure that it is from a legitimate source and if in doubt contact the Ministry of Health for advice. We do not want to get into any discussions about the pros and cons. We are trying to implement a system that works for us at our school. It is one of the measures that will help prevent the spread of Covid in our school and community.
3. If you decide to keep your child home from school whilst I respect the fact that you may have concerns you have to remember that you are required to send your child/ren to school and again if you want to some sort of exemption or alternative form of education then please contact the Ministry of Education. We are only providing face to face - be that masked – education and are not providing any online learning. We are too busy trying to sort our new classes and new

teachers and this year a new timetable which we will send some information home about next week.

All I am asking is for you to support us and with 600 students and 38 staff onboard just let us get on with trying to keep us fully engaged and safe and healthy.

Have a good weekend and see you all back on Tuesday

William (Bill) Clarke

Principal