

Level 2 changes at GELC



The teaching team have been working hard to ensure GELC is as safe an environment for our tamariki, our whanau, our community and our team, but like Jacinda says "we are a team, and we all need to do our bit."

Here are some changes we've made and some ways you can help save lives at GELC.

Before arriving at GELC:

- Have read the Enrolment Agreement Form Addendum and have information ready to complete it before dropping your child off at centre
- Ensure person dropping off child and child attending are well and healthy, and that as few people as possible are coming to drop off or pick up your child.
- Talked your child through some of these changes below so it doesn't come as a big shock to them
- Ensured your child has a named water-bottle (the water cooler will be covered for safety)
- Shared via email or messenger any relevant updates for your child that we will need to know about (are they toilet training? Have they been sleeping well? Have they started any new behaviours?) Normally we would have these conversations in person, however we are wanting to minimise the number of adults in the room with all the children so this will help us greatly if we already have the gist of what is happening for your child.

On arrival at GELC:

- Please enter using the car park entrance – these signs are for other centre users so that they can sign in at the office.
- Please wait in your car rather than gathering in room 8 to reduce crowding. If you didn't arrive by car, do feel free to use room 8, but apply social distancing with anyone else waiting there and ensure little hands don't touch anything.
- If you came by car, please let the initial rush of families who are in room 8 enter, and then slowly come in to avoid large groups of people at one time in small spaces.
- When entering room 8, sanitise your hands, your child's hands, and anyone else with you.
- While we love that our parents value seeing each other and reconnecting after this time, we ask that you maintain social distancing, and if you want to chat, do so outside where there is more space around you and others can avoid being too close to you.
- Please allow extra time for these processes, it may mean arriving a little later to be sure of getting a car park.



On signing in to and out of GELC:



- Please remember to do this! Not only has this always been a requirement from the Ministry of Education, it is now our tool for contact tracing (which means you don't have to leave your details on display where everyone can see them).
- Please use a clean pen from the jar and after use pop it in the 'dirty pens' jar so we can sanitise it for use again later. Or feel free to bring your own pen if you prefer.
- Please add your first name (legibly) to the comment section next to your child's name so we can identify exactly who entered the centre if needed. If you have others with you, their first names will need to be recorded as well.
- Use the sanitiser at the entrance before entering the GELC room.

You're in – what's next?

- Please help your child pop their bag into a cubby-hole (or onto a chair at the table if at midday) and take or direct them to the bathroom to wash their hands thoroughly with soap before rinsing and drying well.

- If it is between 9am and 9.30am, help them to mat-time; if it is an afternoon session they will put their bag at the lunch table and wash hands to eat just the same as before
- After the morning mat time, all these children will wash hands and then come together to have their morning tea at the tables. Children who may need extra support will sit closer to a teacher. After eating, children will put their items away and wash hands before going to play.
- This is the time that outside will be opened up. It is a Ministry requirement that tamariki wash their hands after playing outside **every time they come inside**. We will leave the main doors closed so that the children come through the entrance closest to the bathroom to help us spot and support them in achieving this. We will teach the children this at mat times and as the opportunities arise during the day – and your support in letting the children know this before they come would be very helpful.

What else is different?

- We have removed play-dough for the meantime as we can't guarantee that it could be germ free for more than 5 minutes even under super careful supervision!
- Many resources have been temporarily removed for various sanitary reasons.
- Other resources have been sorted into different 'days' so after use they can be thoroughly cleaned, dried overnight, and then left for at least 4 days before using again so that any virus that could be remaining will die in that time.
- During the morning, there will be either no or minimal art – pencils, chalk, brushes etc. are obviously high touch areas and too easy to get to the mouth! We will do some art with the older children in the afternoons, but this is likely to be more structured and have more teacher involvement than previously for these reasons.
- We will also avoid activities that are sensory and communal in nature such as finger-painting on a shared surface or dinosaurs and mud (wet sand and water) in the trough. Our sandpit will be open for business though.
- Water play will be restricted due to the lack of rain filling up the Auckland dams.
- Parents are still welcome to use our toilet and kitchen – please read and follow the signage in those areas before using.
- We have increased our cleaning at 11.30 (previously just the children's bathroom area) to include high-touch areas such as handles, doors, tops of shelves etc.
- We have increased the minimum inside temperature to 18 degrees Celsius as per Ministry of Education Regulations in response to COVID-19 and this is checked during the day and documented at various times during the day.
- We have completed the property checklist for reopening from the Ministry of Education.
- We have had the carpets, couches and soft chairs all cleaned – thanks to Kylie's Carpet Cleaning.
- We have revamped our cleaning schedule and resources to include sanitising all surfaces at the end of each day, including outside equipment and surfaces.
- We have removed the hat, shoe and warm clothes baskets and will return items taken off during the day to each child's bag. Please help us by naming EVERYTHING! This will be a huge help ☺

End of session pick up and leaving GELC:

- Please be mindful that after a long period at home, your child could initially be quite tired starting back at GELC. It would help if you are able to pick them up a little earlier for a while if this is the case.
- We also want to avoid crowding at the peak time between 2pm and 2.30pm so please just be aware of others and maintain social distancing at these times as well. We may have a teacher directing this process if needed, we will be refining and reviewing our practice and procedures daily.
- Please again use the car park entrance to avoid coming into contact with other centre users, and sanitise on your way out.

Finally – thank you for your support. I know this is a lot of information to take in and to some it may seem over the top, yet to others not so much. We know that this situation has affected everyone – but we can't know the impact of it on everyone. I am grateful that our GELC community is one that is kind rather than judgemental towards others and I just wanted to remind everyone to be kind to themselves too. Kia kaha.