

21 April, 2020

Kia ora koutou

We hope that Term 2 and our distance learning programme has been a success for you so far. We know there will have been any number of challenges for you to deal with but we have been getting some great feedback about the learning that is happening and we thank you for all your support.

Yesterday the Government decided that we will move into Alert Level 3 on 28 April. That means we will be open to receive students from the 29 April. We will start to prepare our site from for this to happen.

The key message for you is that if you can, you should keep your child at home. You should only physically send your child to school if you need to. If your child has a health condition that means they are at a greater risk of a severe illness you must keep them at home. If your child is sick please also ensure you keep them at home.

In order to ensure the safety of those children and our staff who do come to school, we will be operating with strict enforcement of health and safety measures.

I want to assure you that we will continue to support your child's learning at home and in all probability, the programme at school will be exactly the same as the one sent home. There will not be different programmes running for those at school. We have not finalised the detail yet but it would seem that those at school will be separated in the classroom by physical space, will not be able to mix with children from other classrooms and will potentially have break and lunch at different times to other classes in the school. Given not all our staff will be onsite the teacher in the room may well not be your child's usual classroom teacher who will be providing the work remotely as we are now. The class bubbles of no more than 10 will likely be a mix of children from different classrooms depending on how many families need to send their children to school. It is important to realise that the school programme that operates until at least May 11 will not be normal school life but a vastly different experience. These are the constraints and realities of working at Level 3 as we follow Ministry of Health and Education guideline so as to look after our pupils, staff and parents.

It is also important to know that if you need to send your child to school, they will be welcomed – there is no stigma associated with having to be at school nor having to stay at home. We simply need to work in this complex bubble and the realities it presents.

We will contact you later this week to find out whether you can keep your child learning from home, or need your child to attend in person.

The Ministry of Education has advised that they are working closely with health to develop clear guidance that will support schools to safely re-open their premises to

students and staff. This will help us work through the public health requirements that we all need to meet. As you will be doing, we want to be sure that what we do will keep our community as safe as possible.

For now, we will continue to support your child's learning by distance while we progress our planning for what Alert Level 3 will mean for you and for our school. We will be in touch again soon with more information. As you have been doing, please keep connecting with your teachers with any questions you might have.

Grace and peace

Mark Richardson  
Principal