

## Special Newsletter (2) - COVID19

### 24 March 2020

Kia ora koutou

With yesterday's announcement by the Government, our school is now shut until at least Wednesday, 22 April. The date for resumption of classes is yet to be confirmed. The school holidays have been moved, to cover the period 30 March (next Monday) to 14 April (Easter Tuesday). Students will have access to home-based learning activities at other times.

As outlined in yesterday's special newsletter, we are implementing our plan to support your child's learning from home. Children of essential workers are welcome at school tomorrow (25 March), although **no buses will be running**. A list of essential worker positions can be found at <https://covid19.govt.nz/government-actions/covid-19-alert-system/>. We continue to ask that children who are not well, do not attend school.

Our school has been preparing for off-site learning and teaching. Students at all year levels already have work to get on with. Those in Years 7-13 will be contacted by teachers via their school email addresses to confirm ongoing arrangements. 'See-Saw' will be used as the initial communication tool for students in Years 0-6.

Workbooks, textbooks and other resources have also been made available. These may be collected from the school library today or tomorrow (24-25 March), if it has been arranged with your child's teacher.

If you need to have your child cared for by someone else you will need to identify that person or people as part of your self-isolated group. This must be done by midnight Wednesday and the group must remain the same for the whole 4 week period. The caregiver's own group (eg, their partner and children), your child and your own group (eg, your parents and other children) become one group. This group needs to be limited to minimise any risk of spread and should be no more than 20 people.

While the current situation will be causing significant disruption, I would like to offer the following advice to whanau:

- Maintain routines (including regular meal times and chores)
- Maintain physical activities and healthy eating
- Prioritise 'book time' every day. Regular reading is important for all ages.

- Ensure students are checking their school email regularly for messages and links from their teachers. Primary parents should keep an eye on SeeSaw.
- Encourage the learning of new skills - eg a musical instrument, chess. Learn together.
- Stay positive! Reassure your children. We are fortunate to be in the best place on the planet at this time, even as we move into uncharted territory.
- Ensure accurate information about the pandemic is shared with your children. [Talking to children about COVID-19](#) and the [www.covid19.govt.nz](http://www.covid19.govt.nz) websites are the best sources for this.

I would encourage all parents to use the website [www.learningfromhome.govt.nz](http://www.learningfromhome.govt.nz) as a source of advice and learning resources while students are unable to get to school.

As noted by the Prime Minister these restrictions are our best chance to slow the virus in New Zealand and to save lives. We *all* have a clear role here to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Kia kaha

Ngā mihi

Grant Burns  
Principal