

Government announcement – moving to Alert Level 3 for 48 hours and then Level 4



Dear Parents & Whanau,

School Closure The Prime Minister has today announced we are moving to Level 3 for the next 48 hours and then from Thursday 26 March we move to Level 4 in the [COVID-19 Alert Level](#) structure for a further period of 4 weeks where people are instructed to stay at home.

As a result of this announcement, all schools will be closing in 48 hours. Schools will be open for Tuesday and Wednesday this week **for children of essential workers ONLY** (see link below). We will continue to support good hygiene practices with these students and also undertake physical distancing as much as practicable. **All other children will be at home. School will be closed to ALL STUDENTS from Thursday** for the rest of the term.

Childcare 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 will need to 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.

Anxiety Your child will be looking to you for guidance about this decision. Parents, caregivers, whānau and teachers will have a particularly important part to play in reassuring children at this time. If you haven't already done so, you may wish to read the information put together by the Ministry of Education to support your conversations with your children – [Talking to children about COVID-19](#)

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.

Essential workers A list of essential businesses can be found here - <https://covid19.govt.nz/government-actions/covid-19-alert-system/>

School holidays brought forward School holidays are being brought forward so that they are completed within the 4 week period. Holidays will now begin from Monday 30 March to Tuesday 14 April inclusive (a reminder that the Tuesday after Easter Monday is always a closed day for schools).

At the end of the school holidays, schools will be open for distance learning but not physically open for staff to work at the schools. *Please note the instruction to stay home (Alert Level 4) will continue beyond the new school holiday period but schools will be technically open for distance instruction. Teachers will be working offsite.*

Supporting learning from home Some children who are already away from school due to risk-factors, have today been given a small 'home learning pack'. This pack contains reading books, their online Maths login details and assorted generic Numeracy and Literacy tasks. In the coming day, teachers will be providing suggestions for activities that children can work on at home, and ways that you can continue their school learning at home. Obviously online learning is easier for our Year 5-8 students (where internet and a device is available at home, and who already have a Google account), however we will have plenty of suggestions for 'offline' learning too! For our Year 1-4 students, those who have not had a 'home learning pack' given to them, parents can request one. Otherwise, in due course, teachers will make contact with the parents in their class.

Today the MOE have launched Learning from home and Ki te Ao Mārama, two new websites to support teachers, learners, parents and whānau so that learning for children and young people can continue. The websites include resources for parents and whānau, teachers and leaders. Resources span the learning pathway from early learning through to senior secondary, and more resources will be added as they're developed. The information and resources are available at <https://www.learningfromhome.govt.nz/> and <https://www.kauwhatareo.govt.nz/ki-te-ao-marama/> Hard copy packs are being prepared for learners and whānau who don't have connectivity at home.

We will continue to communicate with you over the coming days. Thank you for your ongoing support of our school staff and school community.

Sonia Mudgway

Principal

Matt Henry

Chair, BoT