

EMAIL TO PARENTS 23 MARCH 2020 – COVID 19 UPDATE

Kia ora koutou

With today's announcement by Government, we are implementing with urgency our plan to support your child's learning from home. We appreciate this is a sudden and significant change, and will be heavily disruptive to many people in our community.

Our school is closed tomorrow and Wednesday except for children of essential workers. Essential workers include those in areas such as health, police, fire, food supply as well as several others. Please check if you are considered an essential worker - <https://covid19.govt.nz/government-actions/covid-19-alert-system/> We continue to ask that children who are not well, do not attend school.

Students attending school on Tuesday and Wednesday are to meet in the Auditorium at 8.55am to coordinate their plan for the day bearing in mind the new physical distancing expectations outlined by the Ministry of Health.

For all other children, we will be supporting their learning at your home through the Hapara (Year 7-8) and Google Classroom online platforms. If students have particular questions or requests for their teachers they are to email them directly. There will be further communication forthcoming regarding online programmes.

We realise students may wish to collect books, folders, computers and other learning resources from classroom or lockers. Students are able to do this at any time between 10am and 12pm tomorrow by checking in first with staff in our A or B common rooms.

- Year 7-9 - check in at the B common room.
- Year 10-13 - check in at the A common room

Our school office remains open until Wednesday evening. We ask that any parent coming to school does so through the school office.

Your child will be looking to you for guidance about this decision. 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.

School holidays are now being brought forward so that they are completed within a 4 week period between Monday 30 March to Tuesday 14 April inclusive. 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.

I appreciate that this situation is hugely disruptive, challenging and unsettling for families. My thoughts are with everyone in our school and wider community as we manage such an unprecedented event.

We will continue to communicate with you over the coming days.

Ngā mihi nui

Mason Stretch
Principal