

Kia Ora Koutou Katoa

Friday 20th March

The Board of Trustees met last night so that we were able to discuss the school procedures and responses to all that is evolving at present.

With so much information and misinformation swirling around about COVID-19, I wanted to share with you what will happen if we were to have a case in our school community. We have been planning for this and are in a position to respond quickly.

- As soon as a case is confirmed in our immediate school community (eg. a student, staff member, or member of their household), the Medical Officer of Health and Ministry of Education will inform me about this, and we will work together to get quick and clear messaging out to you
- If there was a case confirmed of someone in our school, we will likely be asked to close temporarily by the Medical Officer of Health. This will allow time for close contacts to be traced, appropriate testing to be undertaken, and a careful clean of the school to be undertaken.
- If our school does need to close temporarily, we have a plan in place to support student's learning.

We know COVID-19 feels scary and of course people are concerned for the wellbeing of our children. Please be assured that with no case confirmed in our school, your children are safe here.

Good hygiene is a priority at our school, and we are reinforcing this regularly with all students and staff. We know that practicing good hygiene is still the best thing we can all do to prevent illness.

We are getting the most up to date advice and guidance so that we can confidently make informed decisions about the safety and wellbeing of our school community.

Communication: School App:

We will be using the school app to get information out to you and encourage you to download this to your phone. There was further information in the school newsletter about this yesterday.



You can download the app by searching for SchoolAppsNZ.

This is the logo you need to be looking for.

Once you have downloaded this app you will be prompted to search for the School.



You will be asked to select groups you wish to receive alerts from. At this stage there is a Netball alert group and a Newsletter alert group.

You will be able to notify the school of student absences via the app either by phone, email or text.

Self-Isolation:

There is the advice from the Ministry of Health in regard to self-isolation.

“If you are in a home where the others who live with you haven't travelled or been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19, you should minimise close contact with them by avoiding situations where you have face-to-face contact

closer than 1 metre for more than 15 minutes. The other household residents do not need to self-isolate provided these precautions are followed.

You should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, pillows or other items with other people in your home.

If your children don't need to self-isolate, they can continue to attend school and other normal activities. You should try to reduce your contact with them, but that may not be possible, particularly with young children."

As a school we are relying on your good judgement. It will be very difficult for you to maintain no contact with your young ones, if you are self-isolating, and we ask you to keep your children at home if this is the case.

Unwell Children:

If your child is unwell, for any reason, we ask that they stay home with you. Please let the office or class teacher know your child is unwell. If it is for self-isolation, please let us know so we can support you and your child while in isolation. We thank you for your continued support.

School Camp Payment Reimbursement:

The Board of Trustees will be reimbursing families for any camp payments that have been made as we cannot guarantee that venues can be booked for later in the year. The school does not hold cash so we will need you to email the following information to office@ohopebeach.school.nz so we can work through these reimbursements.

Reimbursements will be made into your bank accounts. If you do not require a reimbursement, please let us know to the same email address.

We thank you for your patience and consideration as we work through this.

Account Name for reimbursement:

Account Number for reimbursement:

Updated Details:

Next Monday we will be sending home the record of the contact details we have on file for you and your child. We ask that you review this document and return it to the office with any changes noted on it. We need your most up to date details for any contact that we may need to make.

Thank you, if you can have this back to us before the end of the week, we would be most grateful.

The school staff are keeping to our regular routines and if changes have to be made, we are looking for ways to accommodate these.

Today we carried out our PRIDE draw over the sound system with a student making the draw. I will go around the classes each Friday morning and present the PRIDE certificates to the students and their classmates can congratulate them. This worked very well today.

Be sure to look after yourself, your family, friends and neighbours, especially those who are alone as they will begin to feel very isolated. We have a great environment which we can continue to enjoy with our families. Have a good weekend everyone.

Healthline contact number if you need it is: 0800 358 5453

Nga mihi

Cathryn Naera - Principal