

Kia Ora Koutou Katoa

Friday 27th March 2020

As the weekend draws near I wanted to again wish you all the best and thank you for the support you are providing your children.

Most importantly I want to pay tribute to the essential services that will continue to provide for us all during this time. Our supermarket staff, doctors, nurses, police, ambulance staff, home carers, and any others I have missed, are all so vitally important to us all now. We are so thankful to you all and appreciate what you are doing for our country.

I really want to acknowledge the staff who will be keeping in touch with you, and your child/children, and supporting you all through this time. The staff have been working on the various ways to keep in contact with you and to provide you with home support for well-being and learning.

The school holiday break has been brought forward and will now be observed from Monday 30th March to Tuesday 14th April. Staff will be with their families at this time taking care of their well-being as we move into the new term.

I have included the staff email contacts again for you, at the end of the newsletter.

If you wish to make contact with your child's teacher, this week or after the holiday break, you can do this via email.

The Board and I will keep in touch with you via the school app, the website and by bulk email.

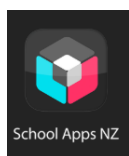
School Grounds:

The school grounds will be closed while we are at Alert 4. Please do not come into the grounds at all during this time, this includes playgrounds, sandpit and the bike track.

School App:

We are using this communication tool for all correspondence from the Board and Principal. The information will also be emailed and on the website. Teachers will not use the app for communication so you will not be inundated on this communication tool with home learning.

If you have not yet downloaded the app we encourage you to do this now.



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. Select newsletter group to get the alert as items are loaded.

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

Please take care of each other, stay safe and be kind to everyone. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school when we are advised we can reopen.

Ngā mihi

Cathryn Naera – Principal

Updates from the Ministry of Education:

We continue to receive updates from the Secretary for Education – Iona Holsted, and I include some of her recent newsletter.

KEY DATES REMINDER:

26 March	Alert Level 4 commenced
28 March	School holidays begin
10 – 14 April	Easter including the Tuesday after Easter
15 April	Term 2 begins (through distance learning)
22 April	Current date for ending of lockdown period
27 April	ANZAC Day observed

Information and resources to support wellbeing and support learning at home

- The Ministry of Education has developed a resource for parents, caregivers, whānau and family - <http://education.govt.nz/school/health-safety-and-wellbeing/pastoral-care-and-wellbeing/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-coronavirus/>.
- The Ministry of Health's website includes [Top ways to look after your mental wellbeing](#) during the Covid-19 lockdown.
- I AM HOPE is the youth and community focused support group run by The Key to Life Charitable Trust, started by Mike King - <https://www.iamhope.org.nz/>
- Nathan Wallis has some helpful videos on his Facebook page for parents and whānau - <https://www.facebook.com/nathanwallisxfactorededucation/> -
- Tips on looking after mental health and wellbeing during COVID-19 from the Mental Health foundation <https://www.mentalhealth.org.nz/get-help/covid-19/>
- a website by the Health Promotion Agency to help New Zealanders recognise and understand depression and anxiety - <https://depression.org.nz/covid-19/>

Although overseas-based this is a good list and highlights some things particularly important for children. Remember the rules of New Zealand's level 4 lockdown still apply - [25 Mental Health Wellness Tips during Quarantine from Eileen M Feliciano, Psy.D.](#)

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