



23rd March, 2020

Kia ora koutou,

COVID-19 (coronavirus) continues to dominate the news and our thoughts. We have regular updates from the Ministry of Education and are cautiously following their guidelines. We have introduced extra cleaning procedures and have increased our stocks of cleaning products, including hand sanitiser, soap and tissues. Following ministry guidelines, we have also cancelled assemblies, trips and interschool sports. Our drinking fountains have also been turned off - please ensure your child brings a bottle of water to school every day.

We are focusing on maintaining physical distance from and between students at school, encouraging “elbow bumping” and “foot shaking” instead of hugs or high fives. In order to minimise unnecessary exposure, we have also decided to cancel any outside agencies from working with staff or students as well as activities with whānau helpers. The teacher who is in self isolation as a precaution continues to be coronavirus symptom free.

We appreciate that the decision about whether to keep your child at home or not can be difficult. The message from the Ministry of Health is clear - if your child is feeling unwell please keep them home. This information from the Ministry of Health may help guide your decision.:

- A dry cough and a high temperature are common to both flu and COVID-19.
- Sneezing is not a symptom of COVID-19.

Further information from the Ministry of Health is that children with serious existing medical conditions are asked to remain at home. These conditions include:

- A compromised immune system.
- Liver disease.
- Cancer.
- Kidney disease.
- Heart disease.
- Diabetes mellitus.

Several people have asked about the possibility of school closures. Medical Officers of Health have the authority to close a school but they would only do so if there was a medical reason for this, **or**, if after a confirmed case in the school, they need to close it

for a short period of time while they determine if there is any risk to others. If there was a confirmed case linked with our school, we would be quickly advised of that and the Ministry of Education would work alongside and guide us through the process. We are planning what learning at home may look like for our kura if needed and we will keep you informed as we work through this.

We have been made aware of a special internet package that is available for parents of school aged children called Spark Jump. It's \$10 a month for 30GB that lasts for 30 days and you top up using a skinny prepay voucher. Anyone can sign up for a Spark Jump modem as long as they've got a school aged child and they don't have an existing broadband connection at home. Spark Jump is an affordable prepay broadband with no contracts, credit checks or setup charges. Here's a link for more information - <https://steppingup.nz/get-jump/>

In the meantime, school continues as usual but with some extra precautions in place. Please be reassured that the health and safety of our tamariki as well as our staff is at the centre of every decision we make. We appreciate your support in this unprecedented and difficult time. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.



Kia kaha - Be strong  
Kia haumarū - Be safe  
Kia mākohā - Be kind

Ngā manaakitanga,

Kathryn Arbon

