

5 May, 2020

LATEST UPDATE FROM SCHOOL AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dear parents, Whānau and friends of the school,

Kia ora koutou

We wanted to give you a quick update on how we are doing under Alert Level 3.

Our distance learning is working well. While it will certainly have challenges for you at home balancing work and care for your children, we are getting a lot of great feedback too. It is exciting to see the innovation that has been happening as staff, students and parents adapt to this online forum for learning.

We were also excited to be able to reopen our premises for staff and students onsite this week and look forward to welcoming more of you in person very soon.

We also just wanted to provide some reassurance that our school is a safe place for your child to be and safe for our staff too.

We have closely followed the public health measures that have been put in place for Alert Level 3. These were set by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education to minimise spread in the unlikely event that someone in our community is confirmed with COVID-19.

This means our small school bubbles are in place, our staff and students are staying 1 metre apart inside and 2 metres outside, our cleaning programme fully aligns with Health guidance, only essential visitors are coming into school and we have systems in place similar to supermarkets and dairies, to prevent those people from congregating.

We have hand sanitiser at the school entrances, in classrooms and lots of reminders to students and staff to undertake good hygiene practices such as good cough and sneeze etiquette, and washing hands frequently. Most importantly, the children on site are enjoying being back with their peers, even though it is in quite a different way.

The Ministry of Education also reminds you that COVID-19 is not an illness that impacts heavily on children and young people. An article by Dr Gary Payinda in the NZ Herald highlights this:

- The young are less likely to get infected, less likely to get seriously ill, and less likely to spread the infection to others.
- When kids are affected, the illness is almost always mild. Luckily, unlike flu or many other infectious diseases, children with Covid are not super-spreaders.
- Covid's not measles or chickenpox; it doesn't hang in the air for hours waiting to infect passers-by. It travels on invisible drops of spit. You don't have to cross the street to avoid anyone. Just avoid getting in their 'moist breath' zone.
- Make hand hygiene a habit - more than being scared of runners passing by, touching groceries, or standing in queues at the supermarket, we should be afraid of our own hands.

You will also be interested to know there have been no confirmed instances of a person with COVID-19 who never developed symptoms spreading the virus. For more information on how COVID-19 is spread go to the Ministry of Health website.

Staying home if sick, physical distancing, good hand hygiene, not touching your face, good cough/sneeze etiquette and regular cleaning of high-touch surfaces minimises any

potential spread of the virus, if we were to have a case in our community. Our school's health and safety system is all set up to ensure this happens.

Please get in touch if you have any questions, including about our health and safety management for children, staff and visitors coming onsite.

Warm regards

Ngā manaakitanga

Henk Popping

PRINCIPAL

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Nau Mai, Haere Mai!

The school Board of Trustees met on Thursday 30th April, outlined below are some highlights from that meeting:

We were pleased to be able to meet online to discuss the many ways our school has come together to manage the pandemic Covid-19. We have all heard the word 'unprecedented' used in discussions around this topic - looking at the huge body of work schools have undertaken to prepare themselves for distance learning certainly highlights just how challenging this journey is.

We would like to acknowledge the work of the Leadership team; Henk, Richard, John and Assistant Principals for their efforts in moving the school forward in such a way so as staff were able to facilitate learning through the online portal.

We are very grateful to those staff who volunteered to front a 'bubble' of on-site learners during phase 3 of the Covid response. Your commitment to maintaining a culture of learning for these students throughout this time is to be commended.

Similarly to the support staff who continue to work behind the scenes maintaining the grounds, administration tasks and providing learning support. We thank you all.

The school's finances and resources continue to be expertly managed. The roll remains unchanged and plans continue for building modification and refurbishment in and around classrooms.

Argyle Uniforms are working on the production of our new school Uniform and we hope to be able to view samples at our next Board meeting.

We have approved the purchase of an electronic video wall for the school hall. We are all excited to see this leading-edge technology installed for students to enjoy when they return to school.

We plan to meet again at 7.30pm on Thursday 28th May in the Learning Centre where physical distancing is possible.

Nga Mihi Nui,

Fiona Matthews

BOT Secretary