

Alert Level 4 Notice

Dear parents, Whānau and friends of the school,
Kia ora koutou,

We are now all in Alert Level 4 which means that our school will not be open onsite tomorrow, for any students. This follows someone being identified with COVID-19 and who has been in the Auckland and Coromandel communities while believed to be infectious.

It is really important we do everything we can to keep our community safe. Alert Level 4 means we need to stay home in our bubbles and avoid any travelling as much as possible. Supermarkets, pharmacies, foodbanks and other essential services will be open – but remember to wear a face covering if you are out and about (even a scarf wrapped around your mouth and nose will help). Check in using the NZ COVID Tracer App wherever you go and please also keep a distance from people you don't know and wash your hands well and often, especially before and after using any public facilities.

Our distance learning plan will therefore kick into action and you will be contacted by your child's teacher regarding the programme for their class over the next three days. With such short notice we weren't able to hand out devices or hard packs to students in order to support distance learning. Your teacher will be in touch tomorrow with some information to support learning from home.

Please go to the Ministry of Health website if you have recently visited Auckland or the Coromandel region.. There is a [list of locations](#) the confirmed case has visited while they were considered to be infectious. If you were at one of those locations **and** at the same time as specified on the website, then please follow the relevant instructions to isolate and potentially to get tested. Please keep checking that webpage as new locations may be identified over time.

Our focus as always will be to support the learning, safety and wellbeing of our students and we continue to be here to support you as well.

When you are contacted by your child's teacher tomorrow, you might be inclined to create a minute-by-minute timetable for your children. You may have high hopes of hours of learning, including online activities, science experiments, and book reports. You will plan to limit technology until everything is done!

But these are the things we want you to consider...

Our children are just as unsettled as we adults are right now. Our children not only hear everything going on around them, but they feel our constant tension and anxiety. Although the idea of being off school for a number of days sounds exciting for some, they are probably picturing a fun time like the summer holidays, not the reality of being trapped at home and not seeing their friends.

Over the coming weeks, you may see an increase in behaviour issues with your children. Whether it's anxiety, or anger, or protests that they can't do normal things - it will happen. You will potentially see more meltdowns, tantrums, and oppositional behaviour. This is normal and expected under these circumstances.

What children need right now is to feel comforted and loved. To feel like it is all going to be okay.

That might mean that you need to tear up your perfect timetable and focus on giving them lots of love and attention.

I know this may be hard if you have the added pressure of trying to work at home with the children there. Please try to play outside and go on walks. Bake biscuits and paint pictures. Play board games and watch movies. Do a science experiment together or find virtual field trips of the zoo.

Create a fitness circuit in your garden. Start a book and read together as a family. Snuggle under warm blankets and do nothing.

Don't worry about them regressing in school. Every single child is in this boat and they all will be okay.

When we are back in the classroom, we will focus on their learning and meet their educational needs. Teachers are experts at this!

Don't pick fights with your children because they don't want to do any activities.

Don't scream at your children for not following the timetable.

Don't insist on 2 hours of learning time if they are resisting it. See if you can make learning fun through their play.

If we can leave you with one thing, it is this: at the end of all of this, their mental health will be far more important than their academic skills. How they felt during this time will stay with them long after the memory of what they did during this Covid-19 pandemic.

So please keep that in mind, every single day we are in lock down.

Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or me, if there is something you need assistance with.

Warm regards

Ngā manaakitanga

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henk Popping".

Henk Popping
PRINCIPAL
18 August, 2021