



Te Kura Maori o Nga Tapuwāe

SCHOOL STATUS REGARDING COVID-19

Friday 20th March 2020

Tena koutou e nga Matua,

We would like to thank all of the families who have followed the requests from Tuesday's newsletter including keeping unwell children at home. There is a lot of information and misinformation around regarding Covid-19. We would also like to dispel the rumours that we have been exposed to Covid-19. This is NOT correct and is merely gossip that we ask ceases immediately as our students are worrying unnecessarily. We do have families that are self-isolating due to imposed travel restrictions or their own safety reasons. However, we as a school have not been contacted by the Ministry of Education or the Ministry of Health notifying us of a possible close contact case.

We thought it would be good to share with you what will happen if we were to have a case in our school community. Please be assured that we have been planning for all possible scenarios and are in a position to respond quickly. If a case is confirmed in our immediate school community (eg. a student, staff member, or member of their household), the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education will notify me, and we will work together to distribute notification to all families as quickly as possible. It is more than likely be asked to close as was the case in Dunedin. This has provided them time for close contacts to be traced, testing to occur, and a careful clean of the school to be completed

As outlined in our previous newsletter the Board of Trustees has made the decision to withdraw from all sporting and large scale events until Term 2. This includes the cancellation of the National Ki o Rahi tournament, Ahurea practices and full school assemblies. We have also made the decision to cancel Whānau Hui that was scheduled to take place on Monday evening and Report Evening that was scheduled for the 1st April. In addition to this, we have just received notification that ERO and the Hawaiian visitors will not be here next week.

As you can appreciate the Covid-19 situation is continually evolving and we are receiving daily updates from the Ministry of Education to help guide us through this pandemic. We are currently doing all we can including:

1. Reminding students to wash their hands for 20 seconds regularly especially before and after meals.
2. We are contacting parents of students who are visibly unwell to take them home. As soon as these students are identified they are taken to the sick bay to wait.
3. We are disinfecting all hard surfaces during meal breaks.
4. Non-contact processes have been put in place at reception
5. We have cancelled/withdrawn from all sports, practices, assemblies and parent meetings
6. We have sent out Student Information Update Sheets and have received approximately 75% back to date. However, we need to meet our 100% target by tomorrow. If you haven't completed one please go to our website to complete it and either return it to school with your child or scan/email through to info@ngatapuwaee.school.nz

We have been surveyed by the Ministry to estimate the capability of our school to maintain learning programmes if a mandatory closure was to be enforced. Unfortunately, we have a number of students without internet access at home and/or access to devices so we have had to inform them that compulsory e-learning is not an option for us as a school. There will of course be some students who can continue with their online studies which is great but it is unfair to actively set work that will inevitably disadvantage others. There are also constraints around sending work via hard copy home as we may be opening ourselves up to an exchange of germs via physical documentation.

We have encouraged those who are currently self-isolating to create their own learning experiences with their children of which many are relishing. However, there are homework activities and suggestions on our website for isolated students to utilise if/as required. This distance learning plan is a part of the continually evolving situation that we all find ourselves in so we ask for patience and support as we work our way through this process following the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health recommendations.

I'd like to reassure you all is that we are doing our best to keep our children and staff safe. Our people are our first priority, so I am continually liaising with the Ministry of Education and our Board of Trustees to ensure we are making the best decisions and the impact of Covid-19 evolves.

Thank you all for your support by ensuring any of your children who look/feel unwell remain at home to recover even if it is just the common cold which is what a number of students and staff are experiencing at present. If you haven't returned your Student Information Update Sheet please do so immediately as this will be the fastest mode of getting urgent information to you all.

Lastly, we have been asked to remind everyone that from Monday 23rd March that they will no longer be accepting cash on any forms of public transport. If your child uses public transport to get to and from school please ensure they have an AT-Hop Card.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the office on Ph: 551 6161 or via e-mail: info@ngatapuwae.school.nz

Ngā manaakitanga,



Arihia Stirling
Principal