

16 August 2020

Kia ora koutou katoa

I hope you've had a good weekend and that you and your families are in good health. I just wanted to send a quick message before the start of the week to confirm our arrangements at school, and to talk briefly about what we see happening over the next couple of weeks. My apologies that I'm repeating some information here.

The first thing to say is that the news about Covid-19 from the Government over the weekend has been pretty much what we expected, and it doesn't change any of the arrangements we've made. The 19 new community cases over the last two days seem all to be connected to the same cluster, and the numbers suggest that the Level 3 restrictions may have been put in place quickly enough to stop the outbreak getting too large. That said, the numbers also make it clear that we did need to reintroduce restrictions, and that we will need the next 7-10 days to make sure that the outbreak is under control. I know there has been concern about the fact that we have cases in our part of Auckland, but I do want to remind everyone again that if we follow the Level 3 rules carefully, physically distancing, practising good hand hygiene and restricting our movements, the outbreak should be brought quickly under control.

This week at Pinehurst:

- Online lessons continue as planned, and students should be present for all lessons that are running (and that now means virtually every lesson). There will be a mixture of live teaching and work to complete in nearly every lesson.
- School is open to the children of essential workers. **Please just email me if you need to send your child to school.** All students will be in either our Primary bubble or our College bubble. All students will sign in at Reception, be temperature-tested, and taken to the Library (College students) or After School Care (Primary students). We will increase the number of bubbles if we go above 20 students in either Primary or College.
- Parents or students may come in to collect essential equipment if they need to. They will need to sign in at Reception, wear a mask, and will then be accompanied to the classroom they need to go to. They will not be able to see teachers in school (most of whom are at home anyway). School is open between 8 am and 4 pm.
- All school events are cancelled or postponed until the evening of August 26th.

And just to let you know that we are carrying on with all of our forward planning, enrolments for 2021, recruitment of new teachers (Maths interviews this week!) and everything else we need to do to continue to develop the school. Our planning for Level 2 is also pretty much in place. We will keep letting you know what's going on, and teachers will be in direct contact with students as well, of course. Please keep writing to us too. While we are not physically together, it's even more important for us to take every opportunity to connect. Every single member of our staff is working, and welcomes your questions or ideas. And look after yourselves! Please let us know if you're worried or concerned about your children, or if there's anything at all we can do to support you. I know we're all ready for this, and I know that we will get through together, as we did before.

Take care

Alex

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