

13 August 2020

Kia ora tatou

I hope your day has been going well and that your children are enjoying their first day of online learning. It's not what we wanted to happen, and I know that some of our students, staff and parents will be finding this return to Level 3 difficult. I'll remind everyone that our teachers, Deans, school leaders and our Counsellor, Debbie Stanaway, are all here to support you, so please get in touch if you need help. We have wonderful children in our school, supported by strong families and great teachers: we are a strong team.

I hope that the move online has been smooth and straightforward. Your child should have close to a full timetable, with a mixture of live teaching and work to complete in nearly every lesson, both in Primary and in College. I've been especially impressed by the extra work completed by our Primary teachers to increase the amount of live teaching that they're doing, and by all of our teachers for the way they've quickly adapted and prepared. If you remember, we made the decision to teach as close as possible to our usual timetable when we were in lockdown before, and this is still our philosophy. Please, though, talk to us if you have questions or concerns. There will always be teething issues, and our programme is stronger now because of the feedback we had from parents and students.

You will probably have seen that there were an additional 13 community transmission cases of Covid-19 reported today, and that everyone expects there to be additional cases reported tomorrow. These are all connected, and part of the same "cluster", but I do understand that the number is a little concerning. We are told that there will be two updates from the Government tomorrow: one at 1 pm and the other a little later in the afternoon. We expect the second of these updates to give us some guidance for next week, so I will write home again tomorrow evening once we have that information. I've had a couple of people suggest these past two days, by the way, that I may have inside information... I wish I did! The truth is that we receive information from the Government at exactly the same time as you do.

But at the moment we are working on the assumption that we are likely to be continuing to deliver online learning next week. This has a few implications:

1. If you need equipment or books to complete work next week, you may wish to come into school tomorrow between 8am and 4pm to collect it. You'll need to sign in at Reception, and to wear a mask or other face covering, and we will be able to unlock any classroom you may need to access.
2. We have cancelled Kidzplay this Saturday, and also our AS and A Level Options Evening on Monday evening. We haven't yet cancelled or postponed anything else, but it looks very likely that we will be cancelling all school events next week. We will confirm this later tomorrow and over the weekend. Please note, though, that we are **not** going to cancel events that are weeks away. I know that many of our senior students will be worried about the Ball, for example. We don't currently know enough to cancel this, so please be patient. Our principle is that we will keep events on our calendar for as long as we can. This includes, by the way, the Mock examinations!
3. If you or your child is struggling with online learning in any way at all, get in touch with us as soon as possible. The earlier the better, so we can support your child.

4. The school is open to the children of essential workers. We are operating a Primary bubble, a College bubble and we are also offering a creche for pre-school children of staff only. In the College bubble, students will be working online most of the time, but will be supervised by teachers. In the Primary bubble, children will be doing a mixture of play-based learning and some online work. They are supervised by the School Nurse and by one of our wonderful TAs. **If you need to send your child to school, you just need to email me to let me know, and then to bring them to Reception for temperature checking.**

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions: as I say, questions help us to continually improve what we do. Please look after yourselves and your families, be kind to each other, trust what the Government is telling us and please follow their guidance. If we all continue to stick together and support each other, we will soon get back to our normal lives.

I'll write again tomorrow evening. Take care and stay safe.

Kia kaha  
Alex

### **Alex Reed**

*Executive Principal  
Pinehurst School*

Phone: **+64 (0)9 414 0960**

Mobile: **+64 (0)21 194 8584**

Email: **[Alex.Reed@pinehurst.school.nz](mailto:Alex.Reed@pinehurst.school.nz)**