

28 February 2021

Kia ora tatou

I hope everyone had a good day yesterday - well, until about 9 pm anyway. You will all know that we are now in Level 3, and that we will be staying at Level 3 for the whole week. The outbreak does still appear to be quite limited, though, so I'm hopeful that we will be back in the school grounds as soon as possible.

Our Level 3 arrangements will be the same as they were the week before last.

This means that school will be closed to all students all of this week. The only students who may come to school are those who cannot be looked after at home because their parents are essential workers. **If you have children who need to be at school, you should contact me as soon as possible today.** We will make arrangements for their safe care at school. After School Care will not run, so we will be able to care for children between 8 am and 4 pm. Please let us know if you need us to provide additional care beyond these hours, and we will see what we can do.

We will, therefore be moving to remote learning on Monday morning. From 8.45 am tomorrow, your child will need to be able to access online learning. This means that he or she will need to have access to a computer, and to be able to log into Microsoft Teams in the way we did it two weeks ago.

Online learning will work the same way as before:

In **Primary**, Pinehurst School Online will run like this:

- Communication between parents and teachers will be through Seesaw as usual
- All online teaching and learning will be done in the Teams app
- Teachers will teach online, answer questions and give feedback from 8:45 am to 3:15 pm every day. We will provide a full online teaching programme, as if we were in the classroom and actively teaching, so students will be able to have questions answered and able to communicate with teachers throughout the day (with ongoing feedback given) as they work through their lessons.
- Lessons follow the **normal daily timetable**. Students will also be using Reading Eggs, Maths Whizz and other online programmes that they already use.

In **College**, Pinehurst School Online will run like this:

- Communication between parents and teachers will be through email and Schoolbox as usual
- All live online teaching and learning will be done in the Teams app
- Schoolbox will contain all the resources needed for teaching and learning, and will operate in other ways as it usually does.
- Teachers will teach online, answer questions and give feedback from 8:45 am to 3:15 pm every day. We will provide a full online teaching programme, as if we were in the classroom and actively teaching, so students will be able to have questions answered and able to communicate with teachers throughout the day (with ongoing feedback given) as they work through their lessons.
- Lessons follow the **normal daily timetable**.

Unfortunately, this also means that we will have to cancel or postpone some events:

The Year 9 Parent Information Evening on Tuesday is postponed.

The Year 6 Positive Puberty Information Evening on Wednesday is postponed.

All other in-school events this week are postponed or cancelled.

All sports practices and matches are postponed or cancelled.

And, sadly, our Foundation Day on Wednesday and our 30th Anniversary Garden Party on Friday are postponed. We will definitely be re-arranging these events and will be in touch about new dates as soon as we have confirmed them.

I know this is disappointing for all of us. In particular, I am feeling right now for those staff who have arranged events and fixtures and other one-off activities for our students. But we will all, I know, rally and support our children and our families.

Please do ask if you have any questions at all. And please ask us for help if you need anything from us. We know how important it is to keep in touch, to make connections, to reach out: we are here for you and for your children, and a small team of us are also available at school.

On that: because this a seven-day lockdown, your child may need essential books or equipment. We are not able to permit you to come into school to collect these directly from classrooms, but if you really need something, you are able at Level 3 to come to Reception, let us know what you need, and we will try to help you. Please only do this for **essential** equipment and resources. And please observe physical distancing rules, wear face coverings and sign in with the Covid app in Reception.

My very best wishes. I will be back in touch with more information as I have it, and will check in again tomorrow anyway. Your teachers and other staff may be in touch during the day and all week with extra information, so please keep an eye out for emails from the school.

Nga mihi

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