Kia ora tatou

I hope you're well, that your children have had a good week, all things considered, and that you're looking forward to the weekend. If at all possible, try to take eyes off screens over the next couple days. With a bit of luck, the rain will fade away.

I won't repeat everything I said in the newsletter earlier today, but I did want to check in briefly this afternoon. As I'm sure you know, the Level 4 lockdown has been extended for the rest of New Zealand until Tuesday evening, with a view to moving to Level 3 after that. For Auckland and Northland, however, Level 4 is still in place, and there will be a decision about how long we will be in Level 4 on Monday. We're still not completely sure what will happen after that point, but the Prime Minister has strongly signalled that we are likely to have our Level 4 lockdown extended for a further two weeks after that.

This means that we now know for certain that we now expect to be continuing to run our online programme for the whole of next week, ending Friday 3rd September and for the whole of the week afterwards, ending Friday 10th September. This would suggest that there is a chance that we will move to Level 3 in the week after that, beginning. If we are at Level 3, we may be able to look after the children of essential workers at that point, but we'll wait to see what the exact rules are at the time. We have our plans in place for this, as you would expect, and are ready to put them in action.

It isn't great news, of course, but I'm still hopeful that we will be back in school before the end of term. I'm missing the children, the teachers are missing the children, and I'm sure that the children are missing their teachers and friends. I also know, though, that the children are continuing to learn really well, and that our whole community is showing its strength and commitment to each other. We will get through this, and we will continue to work together.

This weekend is for families. We'll have a full week of online learning next week, with a few changes here and there in the Primary School to break things up a little. So do try to get a break and enjoy the time together. Eat well, mix veggies with your baking (!), and take care of yourselves. Please feel free to contact me at any time with any questions you may have.

Kia kaha Alex

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