

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa

I hope you're all well, and that the weekend was a good one for you and your whanau. I hope today has been good today as well, and that the online lessons went well. I know we're all feeling a little stir-crazy right now, and some of our energy levels may not be quite as high as they were, but I also know that we will find ways through. Changing things up helps, of course: exercise in a minute, then hot pot!

As you will know, the Prime Minister has just announced that Auckland will remain at Level 4 for another week. We expected this, I think, after a few days where new cases have kept emerging. She has, though, explained that she is expecting Auckland to move to Level 3 at midnight on Tuesday 21st September, in just eight days time. Although this isn't a certain move, and we may be biting our fingernails a little between now and then, it's still promising and suggests that we are moving in the right direction.

So just to give you an indication of what this is likely to mean for us:

- We will remain teaching a full Pinehurst Online curriculum for all students until the end of term, Friday 24th September.
- This Wednesday, 15th September, is a Teacher-Only Day: no lessons or meetings will take place.
- If we move to Level 3 on Wednesday 22nd September, the school will open to children whose families have to work, as before, in strictly-limited bubbles. Masks will be compulsory, and all staff will work to strict physical distancing rules. When we make the move, I will outline in fully the rules and procedures. We will not be open to children during the holidays, though, and the Holiday Programme will not operate at Level 3.

And a few reminders:

- We will run Primary Parent-Teacher Conferences next term (presuming we are at Level 2 or Level 1)
- Year 11-13 assessments finish tomorrow. Marks will be in by the end of next week, and marks-only reports will be released in the first week of the holidays
- If we are at Level 2, and the Cambridge exams are confirmed to be going ahead, we will run the tutorial programme from Thursday 30th September. These will not run if we are at Level 3 or Level 4.

With a bit of luck, we will move to Level 2 at some point during the holidays, which means that families and staff will be able to get out and about a bit before term starts again. We are currently planning to be at Level 2 when Term 4 starts, which means that all teaching will be in person and at school, with, as you would expect, our usual cautious approach to health and safety. I'll go through all of those measures with you again before we get to that point. We are planning to be at Level 1 within a week or two of the start of Term 4 - we always take a positive approach - but have contingency plans if Level 2 lasts longer.

As I said last week, there will be a decision about Cambridge exams in a couple of weeks. We're still planning for external exams to take place in the usual way, but we've also planned for School Assessed Grades should we need to get to that point. More details on that when we get to that point, but the work students are doing now is essential for both options, as we will run school assessments in Term 4 that cover the same material as the exams would have. This also applies to Checkpoint.

So we're all ready for the next stage. As I'm sure every one of our parents is! Have a lovely evening with your families, eat something delicious and dance around the house, either with your children (if they're smaller or more exuberant) or deliberately embarrassing them (if they're awkward teenagers who like to roll their eyes). Very liberating! And please let me know if you have any concerns or questions. I'm always keen to be able to explain in more detail.

Ngā mihi

Alex Reed