

Ata marie Postgate School

The nature of the COVID-19/Coronavirus pandemic and its impact on our school and the wider community is likely to mean that regular communication over an extended period of time will be necessary. We are conscious of avoiding our communication with you becoming 'spam', like "What do they want this time?"

We will continue to carefully monitor information from the relevant New Zealand government agencies, mainly the ministries of Health and Education, respond to the expert advice we are provided with and communicate with you as necessary. Please be assured that your child's health and wellbeing and that of our school community and staff are of paramount importance to us.

LARGE SCHOOL GATHERINGS

Aligning with government advice restricting events and large gatherings, our school assemblies will be postponed for the time being and will resume once we receive advice indicating that it is ok to do so.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

We will continue to evaluate the risks involved with all scheduled activities that take students off-site. Where there is no increased risk should the activity still go ahead, we will continue with events as planned. The Rip Rugby Tournament planned for next week has been canceled and the Tackle Tournament the following week is also likely to be canceled.

The Zoo Trip is still going ahead on Monday for Years 2/3.

Again, please be assured that student and staff health and wellbeing is at the core of our decision making.

SCHOOL CLOSURE PLANNING

Yesterday we began planning for the possibility of school closures and what we can do to support students learning should such a scenario eventuate.

Thank you to the many families who have already returned their survey forms that were sent home yesterday. These are vital for us to start to develop a 'just in case plan'.

Please be aware that there is currently no advice indicating that school closures are either imminent or likely and any such decisions would be made at a government level. However, we do believe it prudent to be prepared should this scenario arise.

Please read and be familiar with the information below.

CURRENT MINISTRY OF HEALTH ADVICE

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid sharing anything that has come in contact with saliva
- Stay home if you are ill and seek medical attention
- Ensure sneezes, coughs etc are covered
- Get adequate sleep and eat well-balanced meals to ensure a healthy immune system

If your child is displaying any cold or flu-like symptoms (coughing, sneezing, sore throat, fever, or shortness of breath) then they need to stay at home. Please remember to ring us at school to inform us if your child is away from school. If your child presents with these symptoms at school, then they will be sent home.

STUDENT WELLBEING

We believe that it is important that your child is well informed about what they can do to keep themselves healthy and to reduce the anxiety that is likely to be building. The discussions you have with your child will play an important part in supporting both their physical and mental wellbeing.

- The Ministry of Education website includes a range of information for different groups including specific guidelines/suggestions so that parents can support their school-age children (ctrl + click or copy and paste into your web browser):

<http://www.education.govt.nz/.../talking-to-children-about-c.../>

- The Ministry of Health website includes a range of regularly updated information that will help parents/guardians to have an evidence-informed discussion with their children (ctrl + click or copy and paste into your web browser): <https://www.health.govt.nz/.../dis.../covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

WHĀNAU WELLBEING

We appreciate that the uncertainty and anxiety affecting a growing number of children will also be affecting other whānau members. We understand also that there will be far-reaching social and economic impacts for many in our community.

- Spend some time as a whānau developing an action plan – what routines can you put in place to minimise the risk of infection at home? How will you respond should a whānau member become sick?
- The Work and Income New Zealand website includes information about financial assistance that may be available to some whānau (ctrl + click or copy and paste into your web browser): <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/.../e.../2020/coronavirus.html>

Please remember, we are here for you and your family. If there is anything we can do, please let us know.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the above further, please contact me at school.

"Ma te mahi ngatahi, ka tu pakari te matauranga"

"Together, We Learn and Achieve"

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi Engari, he toa takitini;
Success is not the work of one, but the work of many

Nga mihi

Adam Campbell