

Morena Postgate School Whanau

We hope your Star Wars Day yesterday was a huge success. Star Wars Day? May the fourth be with you. Get it? May the Force be with you but yesterday was the fourth? Yeah? Ha ha?

A short, sharp interesting email to start your day.

Please don't forget to get the following items into us:

- Business details for the Postgate School Business Directory
- Your special/secret family recipe for Postgate School's Lockdown Cookbook
- Your Marble Run to Ms Rutherford

### **Looking Ahead**

Next week the Government will announce whether we stay at Alert Level 3 or move back to 4 or, hopefully, drop to Alert Level 2. Those people having parties and putting us at risk better pull their heads in or I'll be sending in the Postgate Heavy Artillery to have a few words with them all! Please remember, we are currently at Alert Level 3! Careless or stupid actions are putting not only the lives of our most vulnerable at risk but also people's livelihoods. I'm sure we'd all like to see as many businesses as possible open quick smart.

Our main priority continues to be the safety of our students and staff as well as supporting our Government in eradicating COVID-19 from New Zealand. This will mean continued restrictions at Alert Level 2 when we return to school. We are currently working on our Alert Level 2 Health and Safety plan. We will share the full plan with you when it is confirmed we are moving to Alert Level 2. However, we will share parts with you so you can be prepared as well, ahead of time.

If the announcement is to move to Alert Level 2 next week and knowing we generally have a days notice, we'd like to get on the front foot and plan ahead, for all possibilities. So, our plan is...

Next Tuesday 12th of May will be a Classroom Release Day for teachers. There will be no Distance Learning next Tuesday. The Government may announce that next Tuesday is a Teacher Only Day, however, we won't know this until Monday. Our thinking is better a week's notice for families than a few hours.

On this Tuesday staff will be doing one of two possible things. Either planning for all students to return to school on Wednesday or the following Monday. Or, planning for another extended period of Distance Learning. This may include changing the current timetable based on engagement first thing in the morning, more group teaching, less group teacher, more targeted support, who knows but we will look at what we currently know what works best for our learners.

So, in short, no Distance Learning next Tuesday 12th May.

### **Thank You**

Your engagement and commitment to your child/ren's learning have been fantastic. We know it hasn't been an easy period of time for families juggling many different things at home. We are very grateful that you have welcomed us into your homes and for the last couple of months made us part of your family. We are very humbled by your support of our staff and our wider school community. We appreciate that every bubble is different and you all would have experienced many different emotions during the lockdown period. Many families have different

challenges and obstacles to overcome; you guys are amazing and very brave. Keep being awesome.

Thanks heaps guys. Have a great day and if you need anything, please let us know.

FYI, if you have the time to read:

In the [New Zealand Herald](#) last week, Dr Gary Payinda responded to the question *what can a school teacher do to stay safe in the classroom when they return to work?* He notes:

- Teachers in general are not a high-risk group. The young are less likely to get infected, less likely to get seriously ill, and less likely to spread the infection to others.
- When kids are affected, the illness is almost always mild. Luckily, unlike flu or many other infectious diseases, children with Covid are not super-spreaders.
- Avoid contact with the highest-risk groups: the elderly, those in rest homes, and those in hospital - for your protection and theirs. Your fellow staff members are likely a greater Covid risk to you than the students.
- Avoid being near anyone who has a fever or a cough.
- Don't touch your face. Touching our mouth, nose, or eyes is one of the very best ways to give ourselves Covid.
- Covid's not measles or chickenpox, it doesn't hang in the air for hours waiting to infect passers-by. It travels on invisible drops of spit. You don't have to cross the street to avoid anyone. Just avoid getting in their 'moist breath' zone.
- One part bleach in 20 parts water in a sprayer bottle is a cheap, quick, and effective disinfectant. Make up a new batch every week. There is no need for stronger or more expensive cleaners: Covid is a weak virus, and even simple soap and water is more than enough to kill it. Keep it simple and frequent: a quick twice-daily wipe down of a doorknob is worth more than countless weekly 'deep cleans'.
- Ask kids to sanitise their hands upon entering and exiting your classroom. More importantly, model this behaviour yourself.
- Make hand hygiene a habit - more than being scared of runners passing by, touching groceries, or standing in queues at the supermarket, we should be afraid of our own hands.

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***"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***

***Ngā mihi***

***Adam Campbell***

***Principal***