

Kia ora Postgate School

Keep calm. Your actions/reactions will either stress your child/ren or make them feel comfortable/relaxed about life. There is no need to panic your child/ren. How we respond is a future marker for our children for years to come.

Our Prime Minister announced tonight that Auckland is moving to Alert Level 3 after four COVID-19 cases have been detected in one family. This is for the next three days.

The rest of New Zealand has been moved to Alert Level 2. This is also for three days.

Postgate School will be following the same Health and Safety plan we used earlier in the year when we moved to Alert Level Two.

We want to stress that schools are a very safe and hygienic place to be. The rate of transmission of COVID-19 in the greater Wellington region is currently zero.

In Alert Level 2, schools are open, as usual.

Our Health and Safety plan has three key points for Alert Level 2. These are:

Number 1, and for a reason, is that whanau, parents, caregiver do the right thing; we remain COVID19 free at home. If your extended family remains healthy, then we will be ka pai! (Good) As a school we need to ensure we are aware of the symptoms of COVID-19 and that if we or our child show any of these symptoms, we stay home, we seek medical support; we do the right thing! Stay home, keep your child at home.

In addition to staying home, we are asking that if one of your children is sick, please keep all your children home. If your child falls sick at school, we will be sending all your children home.

Number 2, if we maintain high hygiene levels at school, we will be nearly there. We ask that whanau do the following to help us at school:

- Teach/remind your child about coughing/sneezing into their elbow.
- If possible, send your child with a small bottle of hand sanitizer attached to their bag or person. We will have plenty at school and are happy to fill/refill bottles at school. If your child has their own 'sano' it will help with building great habits moving forward. The biggest fear we need to have now is that of our own hands! The virus can only enter our bodies through our eyes, nose, or mouth.
- We would like all children to return to school with their own cleaning rag/cloth. It will save considerable time if students were to wipe down their own desks/equipment throughout the day. Staff will spray each child's cloth regularly throughout the day and children will wipe down their area and equipment. We have brought a high-quality spay which claims to keep surfaces 'germ' free for three days.
- Children will need to bring their own drink bottle to school. The drinking fountains are potentially a minefield for transmitting any illnesses. Children will be allowed to fill their bottles at school. Please remember, we are a water-only school.

Finally, Number 3 and this goes against all Postgate is about. We ask that parents/adults/family members do not enter the school grounds or buildings. We are asking that you drop your child to their school gate (see below) and watch them from there. We understand some parents may have to enter the grounds (parents of new Year 1 pupil, or parents of children with any needs). Any person entering the school buildings will need to sign the register in the office.

We are also aware that there will be increased traffic flow before and after school. Please go slow. No short cuts or U-turns outside the school. You'll need to add a few minutes onto your day and drive up Staites Drive North and turn into Woolwich Close; Safety Sam!

We understand that some or all of the above measures may seem a bit full on or over the top, however, we want to reassure you that we are taking yours, your child's, and our staff's health and safety very seriously.

Let's keep doing the great work in our community by looking out for others and keeping our community COVID-19 free.

Teachers will be at the gates tomorrow morning welcoming you and your child. Please remember, only parents of Year 1 pupils will be allowed inside the school gate. The Subway Order Box will be by the top gate with Mr Chris Shaw! So, no panic there!

Please keep relaxed. If you are feeling unwell, get tested. And finally, please put your child at ease. We've been here before and smashed it.  
Keep being awesome. Keep smiling and remember to look out for our children.  
Any questions or concerns, please ask.

**"Together, We Learn and Achieve"**

**"Mā te mahi ngātahi, ka tū pakari te mātauranga"**

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

*Manuia le aso*

*Ngā mihi*

**Adam Campbell**

**Principal**