

Kia ora e te whānau

Thank you for your ongoing support of our Distance Learning programme. I've been fortunate enough to listen in on a few classes. The energy from our teachers made me feel tired. You are all doing a fantastic job. We can see that numbers drop off as the week goes on. Hopefully, you are making this choice and not allowing our kids to have an easy option.

The response from our community has been amazing. I've received many emails from parents wanting to help, be of assistance and seeing what they can do for our community. Just before Lockdown we had a family pay money towards another family's camp. They heard how a family were putting \$5 a week towards their child's camp and wanted to help by paying \$100 towards that child's camp. When the family were informed that \$100 had been paid towards the camp, the mother said they will continue with the \$5 payments and anything over can go towards someone else's camp.

This notion of paying it forward happens across our school from many parents/families. Your kindness, kind heart and generosity are greatly appreciated and valued.

The purpose of today's email is to give you advanced warning of "what might be". We hear the same time as you do in relation to Alert Level shifts. We want to give you a couple of plans moving forward.

On Monday, Jacinda will let us know what is happening with our alert levels; whether we stay or drop.

Plan 1 – We stay the same, that is Alert Level 3 for the next couple of weeks, we stay the same as we are now; Distance Learning.

Plan 2 – From 11:59pm Tuesday 7th September, we drop to Alert Level 2, meaning on Wednesday 8th September we are all back to school. If this happens, Tuesday will be a Teacher Only Day. As a staff we will meet at 9am at school to discuss our Health and Safety protocols for Alert Level 2, then get into Syndicate Teams to plan for the next three days.

Postgate will be open to the families who have been coming in under Alert Level 3 on Tuesday 7th September.

Plan 3 – From 11:59pm on either Friday, Saturday or Sunday (meaning come Monday 13th September we will all be at school) If this happens, Friday 10th September will be a Teacher Only Day. As a staff we will meet at 9am at school to discuss our Health and Safety protocols for Alert Level 2, then into Syndicate Teams to plan for the following week.

Postgate will be open to families who have been coming in Under Alert Level 3 on Friday 10th September.

What if instead of falling behind, this group of lockdown kids are actually ahead? Hear me out...

What if they have more empathy, enjoy family connection, can be more creative and entertain themselves?

What if they enjoy the simple things, like their own garden and sitting near a window in the quiet? What if they notice the birds and the dates the different flowers emerge, and the calming renewal of a gentle rain shower?

What if this generation are the ones to learn to cook, organise their space, do their laundry and keep a well-run home?

What if they learn to ride a bike, play a board game, do simple crafts, learn to bake, climb a tree, play without a screen?

What if they learn to understand the value of money, what's important and how to live with less? What if they learn to plan shopping trips and meals at home?

What if they learn the value of eating together as a family and finding the good to share in the small delights of the everyday?

What if they learn to just be: to be resilient, to be content?

What if they are the ones to place great value in our teachers and educational professionals, librarians, public servants and the previously invisible essential workers?

What if among these children, a great leader emerges who had the benefit of a slower pace and simpler life to truly learn what really matters in this life?"