

Newsletter #7—Te Pānui o te kura o Rāwhiti: 21 April 2020

***E ara ake ana i te uruhi
Rising Above The Ordinary***

From The Principal—Te Pu kāea a te Tumuaki

Kia ora koutou

We hope that Term 2 and our distance learning programme has been a success for you so far. We know there will have been any number of challenges for you to deal with but we have been getting some great feedback about the learning that is happening and we thank you for all for your ongoing support.

Yesterday the Government decided that we will move into Alert Level 3 on Tuesday the 28th April. That means we will be open to receive students from Wednesday the 29th April. We will start to prepare our site from tomorrow.

How Will School Operate At Level 3?

It is becoming very clear that while there will be a return to school next week for some, it will be a return to a very different type of school organisation. Here are the ***Specific Public Health Measures to be Taken in Schools***, as dictated by the Ministry of Health:

- Initially the number of children must be limited to 10 in a school bubble, but this can be increased to 20 once all processes are running smoothly.
- There can be multiple school bubbles in a physical space but there must be distance between the bubbles and strictly no mixing between school bubbles.
- To support contact tracing students must sit in the same place each day, with a 1m physical distance between all children, young people and staff inside the Learning Studio.
- Children must maintain a 2m physical distance outside and 1m inside during break times.
- Breaks should be staggered for each bubble, as should the start and finish to the school day, and bubbles can not mix during breaks. Staggered entry times help to minimise gatherings of children and parents.

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- Physical education classes and breaktime activities cannot include sports with less than 2m distance, or where the same equipment is touched by different students (balls, ropes, sticks etc). It is unlikely that the adventure playgrounds, climbing frame and sandpit areas will be available for use.
- Contact tracing registers must be set up and identify which children are in each teaching space, record when and who they have contact with during the day if that changes. This includes recording who the adults in the bubble have contact with each day as well as recording any visitors to the site.
- To make contact tracing manageable, parents and caregivers will be unable to enter the Learning Studios and will have limited access to certain areas of the school grounds.
- Parents are asked to keep any sick children at home. If a sick child comes to school, or if a child becomes unwell during the day they will be sent home as we will be unable to operate a sick bay.
- There will be hand sanitiser at the entry to classrooms and bathrooms and all surfaces must be disinfected and cleaned daily.

Children who are returning to school next week must be able to manage the above conditions. In order to ensure the safety of those children and our staff who do come to school, we will be operating with strict enforcement of health and safety measures. As you will be doing, we want to be sure that what we do will keep our community as safe as possible.

Who Can Come To School Next Week?

The key message for you from the Prime Minister is that if you can, you should keep your child at home. You should only physically send your child to school if you need to. Later today we will be sending you a link to a survey so that we can find out which children will be returning next week and need to be placed into a 'bubble'. If you respond that your child needs to be at school then we will be asking what the specific need is e.g. are you an essential worker with no other child care options. I am sure you will understand the need for us to be sure we are catering for the right children at school next week.

It is essential that you complete one survey response for your family as soon as it arrives in your in-box. You will appreciate the significant amount of organisation required at our end to ensure our bubbles can be managed safely.

If your child has a health condition that means they are at a greater risk of a severe illness you must keep them at home. If your child is sick please also ensure you keep them at home.

What Will Happen For Children Who Stay At Home?

I want to assure you that we will continue to support your child's learning at home in Level 3. As you have been doing, please keep connecting with your teachers with any questions you might have.

Once we know the number of children who will be working on site next week, we may well be in a position to offer Year 4-6 students the use of a school-owned Chromebook to support their home learning. We will provide information about this next week.

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Below I have repeated the information about Digital Devices and Resource Packs that was in last week's newsletter, as we continue to receive questions about these.

Ahakoia te noho tawhiti, e tu Kotahi tonu ana tatou.
We sit apart, but we stand together.

Liz Weir, Principal

Ministry of Education Digital Devices and Resource Packs for Children

The Ministry of Education announced that they would start to deploy digital devices and resource packs, where required. Some of you have been asking us when these resources will arrive and I'm afraid we do not have an answer to this question. We do know that the Ministry is prioritising NCEA students in Years 11-13 in the first instance.

Thank you very much to those of you who completed the survey we sent out to let us know if your child has access to a device at home. We understand that there was a tight time frame for this, but we too were working under very short notice from the MoE and there was a deadline for submitting data to national office. We were able to get information on 515 of our 540 current students, which we think is a fabulous response, so thank you, again.

Who will get devices and resource packs?

- If your child does not have access to a device at home we added their name to the national distribution list and ordered a pack of resources to be sent to your child at the address you provided in the survey.
- We have ordered a pack of resources for all children in Years 1-3, regardless of whether they have a device at home or not.
- We have ordered a pack of Maori Medium resources for all children in our Level 2 bilingual programme.
- If your child is in Year 4-8 and has access to their own device, they will access their learning from their studio teachers via their class learning site. They will not be receiving a pack of resources at this stage.

What if you did not complete the survey?

- If a survey was not completed for your child we have ordered them a pack of resources to be sent to the most recent address you have supplied to the school.
- If you did not complete the survey and confirm your lockdown address we have been unable to order a device for your child.

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Please be aware that the packs of resources being dispatched to some students have not been compiled by our teachers. They are coming from a central distribution point and there is only one pack available for each Year level, a 'one-size-fits-all' approach. This means that the materials provided may not be pitched at the right level for your child. Like Goldilocks, they may find that the resources are too easy, too hard or just right!

At this stage we are not able to tell you when any of the above resources might arrive.

School Owned Chromebooks

Last week we deployed school owned devices to our Year 7 and 8 students, based on the information provided to us in the survey. The Chromebooks were couriered to the address you provided. You will have received an email with additional information prior to dispatch.

If you do not have an internet connection at home we did not send a school owned device. However, your child's name will stay on the national distribution list, along with a request for an internet connection to be arranged.

