



23 August 2021

Dear Parents/Caregivers and Whānau

I hope this brief letter finds you well. As we continue to work within our lockdown bubbles I thought I would update you as to the current situation at school.

This morning I held a virtual meeting with all school staff. It was good to talk with them and to see how well they are managing in this time. We discussed how we will work with your children during Level 4 and, hopefully soon, Level 3. The staff have agreed that keeping children safe and engaged, at their own level, is most important. We know that some children will be very happy to work on school related activities, and some children will struggle to do so, whether due to a lack of internet or equipment, or having other things to occupy themselves. To this end there will be very limited expectations on children and their families. Teachers will provide, by this afternoon, a range of activities and tasks that your children may work on. The key message we want you to know is that we do not expect you to be teachers nor taskmasters. Please make sure your family unit remains the most important thing in your child's life. All we ask is that every child reports in with their classroom teacher at least twice a week. This may be to discuss progress, ask questions, or just to say hello. This contact is, we believe, really important. It would be good if they could all read a lot, do some Maths, and follow a particular area of interest, but only to the level you know is sensible.

We will be trying to get devices and hard copy work to those families who have requested them. For those families who have contacted the school by 9:00am this morning, we will be aiming to deliver them to your homes through a contactless delivery this afternoon. Some of our staff have offered to deliver them, and when they do, they will be calling you to let you know they are there. Your help in making sure this works safely is much appreciated.

If you have not contacted the school but still wish for a device or hard copy material, please email the school office or your child's teacher, and we will do our best to help you as soon as we can.

Could I thank you for your support of our school as we work through these difficult times and suggest that you take a few minutes to sit with your child and ask them to share with you the options teachers have sent to them through google classroom – but please don't do this until later today so that teachers have had the time to set this up!

Should you need any support or help, feel welcome to call me. If I can help, I will be only too happy to do so. Should you need the help of our counsellor, please feel most welcome to email Sue Molloy. All of our email addresses on our website.

Most importantly, take care of yourselves, your families and those who are close to you. I look forward to seeing you when circumstances permit.

Kind regards, ngā mihi nui and kia kaha

Phil Tappenden
Principal