



20 August 2021

Dear Parents/Caregivers and Whānau

I hope you are keeping warm and safe. At present we are still unsure of what will be happening next week and whether we will be able to resume face to face teaching (which I am sure is what we all want!).

It is possible that we will stay in Level 4. If that is the case staff will be meeting virtually on Monday morning to plan for next week. Staff will be in touch with you and your child explaining how we will work our way through this time.

It is possible we will move to Level 3. At this level children of essential workers may attend school. They will be grouped into bubbles and work with selected staff. It is likely that they will continue to work individually on their on-line learning. Most of our children will still be working at home.

If we should move to Level 2 then school will resume as best we can. We understand that there will be some parents who choose not to send their children to school at this level. We will work with these families as best we can, but please remember that teachers will have full workloads at school.

When we return to Level 1 we will have school as normal – something we are all looking forward to.

You will learn as soon as I do what the situation will be happening next week. We need to work as per government regulations whilst ensuring our staff and students are as safe as possible.

To help us with our planning could I ask you to consider the following. Firstly, if your child does not have access to a device (preferably not a mobile phone) we may be able to help. Your child will not need to have access to the device all day, so sharing one with another family member should work. If your child cannot access a device, could you please email the school, with your child's room number and the best delivery address. If we are able to, and this depends very much on alert levels and any exceptions that will allow staff to access the school, we will endeavour to courier a device to your home. Secondly, some families prefer to have paper documents. We will be able to access these once we are able to return to school. Again, if you can email the school with your child's name and a delivery address we will do our best to get some work sent out.

Please remember that this will only happen if the school remains in Level 4, an exemption is granted to school staff to go on-site, and if we have sufficient numbers of devices.

Currently we are in a very uncertain situation and I know that can be distressing for many. I know that our staff will be doing what they can to support your child and their learning. Please make sure you too look after yourselves and your families. I have added to this letter information about where people can access help and support. Please remember that it is ok to ask for help, and it is ok to take time for yourself. We have no expectations of families – you will know what you can do and what is best for your own individual circumstances. Please, take care, be kind and remember that we have done this before and we can do it again.

Nga mihi nui, kia kaha

Phil Tappenden  
Principal

### ***Agencies you can contact for assistance***

*Many families may find it tough going back into Alert Level 4. It can be challenging having children at home, being cut off from family and friends, trying to making ends meet and have high stress levels.*

*For people with disabilities or autism and their support people, the Explore 0800 000421 phone service available to provide advice or support. This includes advice or support around challenging behaviours. To access this service, you don't need a referral and it doesn't matter whether you're new to Explore, currently on their waitlist or you've worked with them previously. The service is available Monday to Friday 9.00am–5.00pm. When you phone the 0800 number you will be connected with an administrator who will then book you an appointment with one of the specialists.*

*If you or anyone you know wants some advice or support over this time here are some further options that might be useful.*

*Support services that remain open:*

- *Women's Refuge 0800REFUGE or 0800 733 843*
- *Shine 0508 744 633*
- *Alcohol and Drug Helpline 0800 787 797*
- *Oranga Tamariki call centre 0508FAMILY*
- *CADS 0800 367 222*
- *Narcotics Anonymous 0800 628 632*
- *Alcoholics Anonymous 0800 229 6757*
- *Lifeline 0800 543 354 or free text 4357*
- *Youthline 0800 376 633 or free text 234*
- *Samaritans 0800 726 666*
- *Outline (LGBT) 0800 688 5463*
- *Depression Helpline 0800 111 757*
- *Suicide Prevention Helpline 0508 828 865*
- *The Fono West (Social Services) 09 837 1780*
- *Counselling Free Call or Text 1737*
- *Healthline for COVID-19 health advice: 0800 358 5453*

*Work and Income services centres are closed. However, you can apply for assistance via [MyMSD](#) or phone the contact centre on 0800 559 009.*

*If you know someone who needs financial assistance, please tell him/her to call the free government helpline 0800 779 997 (8am–1am, seven days a week).*

*If you know someone is feeling anxious, frustrated or needs a listening ear, they can call or text 1737 to talk with a trained counsellor. It is free 24 hours a day, seven days a week.*