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**Please see the information below in relation to the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday.**

**COVID-19 update Monday 23 March**

Government announcement – moving to Alert Level 3 for 48 hours and then Level 4

The Prime Minister has yesterday announced we were moving to Level 3 for the next 48 hours and then from Thursday 26 March we move to Level 4 in the COVID-19 Alert Level structure for a further period of 4 weeks where people are instructed to stay at home.

For Tuesday and Wednesday, the expectations are that teachers will come to work to teach the children of essential workers, including children of teachers, and to prepare online work. Please ensure you continue to support good hygiene practices with these students and also undertake physical distancing. You may wish to check if you are considered an essential worker - <https://covid19.govt.nz/government-actions/covid-19-alert-system/>

Staff will not be able to access the school site from midnight Wednesday and will work from home. Those staff already identified as over 70 and/or vulnerable to COVID-19 will remain at home but can work from home as needed.

All other children will be at home. We will provide them with learning opportunities there to the greatest extent practicable. This could be either as a pack of materials (available from our front office, or for those with online learning already in place, we will implement our online learning programme.

**Essential workers**

A list of essential businesses can be found here - <https://covid19.govt.nz/government-actions/covid-19-alert-system/>

School holidays brought forward

School holidays are being brought forward so that they are completed within the 4 week period. Holidays will now begin from **Monday 30 March to Tuesday 14 April inclusive (a reminder that the Tuesday after Easter Monday is always a closed day for schools).**

At the end of the school holidays, schools will be open for distance learning but not physically open for staff to work at the schools. Please note the instruction to stay home (Alert Level 4) will continue beyond the new school holiday period but schools will be technically open for distance instruction. Teachers will be working offsite. Over the next two to three weeks we will be working on next steps to support distance learning where it is most needed and as part of contingency planning in case the 4 week period is further extended.

Your child will be looking to you for guidance about this decision. Parents, caregivers, whānau and teachers will have a particularly important part to play in reassuring children at this time. If you haven’t already done so, you may wish to read the information put together by the Ministry of Education to support your conversations with your children – Talking to children about COVID-19

As noted by the Prime Minister these restrictions are our best chance to slow the virus in New Zealand and to save lives. We all have a clear role here to slow the spread of COVID-19.

We will continue to communicate with you over the coming days. Thank you for your ongoing support of our school staff and school community.  I iterate the words of the Prime Minister – be kind, keep safe, and look after each other.

Ngā mihi

Thinking of you all as we collectively face these complex times

On behalf of the Team thank you for the very many ways you are supporting us