

19 March 2020

Kia ora whanau,

We will continue to update you on any information we receive in regards to rules and protocols around COVID 19:

The Minister of Education has stated that schools are the best place for our students to be at the moment. However, if this changes, quick actions will take place and we will follow all requirements from the Minister and Ministry.

***The most important thing to do is practice good hygiene. This means:***

- Covering coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or coughing/sneezing into your elbow
- Disposing of used tissues appropriately in a bin, washing hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water and drying them thoroughly, or using hand sanitiser:

**Also...**

- Before eating or handling food...
- After using the toilet...
- After coughing, sneezing, blowing your nose or wiping children's noses....
- After touching public surfaces....

Soap and water are still the best defence. This has not changed and should be the way we keep ourselves healthy in the past, present and the future 😊

- Trying to keep 2 metres away from people who are unwell

The measures above are especially important for people who have existing health conditions, such as those with diabetes, renal failure, chronic lung disease or compromised immune systems.

***What does this look like for a school?***

In reality classrooms can't allow for this 1.5-2m rule so schools have been instructed to limit the times in which this could occur. This is the reason that assemblies will be stopped until further notice.

Our students travelling on school buses are considered in the same vein as being in a classroom. Closer than 1.5 metres is okay for buses or collaborative spaces because this equals the existing class list of 'close contacts' that will have to be identified and tested in the case of an infection at a school. We have a register of who catches which bus. The same applies for trips.

***The key question we have been asked is that if my child is sick should I keep them at home?***

**The key answer is yes, if they are sick home is the best place for them to be.**

**Remember other bugs, colds and coughs are around at the moment and we like to keep them away from school as well 😊.**

***Cancellations***

We have just been informed that Franklin Zone Swimming has been cancelled as well as the Franklin Rippa Rugby competition.

***Multicultural Festival***

As you will likely be aware the ruling from the Government is that all events (indoor or outside) that attract 500 or more people, should be called off. As a result, the 2020 Multi-Cultural event has been cancelled.

We would love to postpone it however we do not know when these restrictions will be lifted.

We will look to focus on other fundraising opportunities during the year and will update you as these come about.

All grocery items and prizes that have been donated we would like to still include in raffles, mystery envelopes or silent auctions within our school community. However, if you would like us to return any items, please let us know.

We will update you when these are available to buy or sell to others.

Thank you for all your support.

We will continue to update, but feel free to contact me at school if you have any questions.

Regards

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