



COVID - 19 UPDATE

27th March 2020

Dear Parents and Whanau,

It's been great looking at all the wonderful learning that's been going on in the different classes.

I've included some important information from the Secretary of Education that is relevant for you as parents, in particular the lifting of data caps for internet usage.

Relevant information from the Ministry of Education

Key dates reminder

26 March	Alert Level 4 commenced
28 March	School holidays begin
10 – 14 April	Easter including the Tuesday after Easter
15 April	Term 2 begins (through distance learning)
22 April	Current date for ending of lockdown period
27 April	ANZAC Day observed

Key lockdown messages from the Prime Minister (Select Committee Media Briefing 25 March)

- If the virus is left unchecked it will have an unacceptable toll on New Zealanders
- Staying at home will break the chain and save lives
- Breaking the rules could risk someone close to you
- if the rules are not complied with, this could risk the lock down period being extended or could risk the virus being spread to thousands

- Success will not be instant. The benefit of actions taken today will not be felt for many days to come. People need to expect the numbers to continue rising, because they will. Modelling indicates that New Zealand could have several thousand cases before today's measures have an impact. However, if everyone sticks to the rules there will be change over time
- Act like you have COVID-19. Every move you make could be a risk to someone else. That is how New Zealanders must collectively think now
- All New Zealanders are urged to be calm, be kind, stay at home
- if people have no explanation of why they are outside the Police will remind them of their obligations and can take enforcement actions if they feel it is necessary
- New Zealanders will want to do the right thing. The Government is being as clear as they can on the guidance and Police will be working with people to help them understand
- Government's goal is to keep people connected to their employer through the wage subsidy, and said if that was not happening then they have the backup mechanism of the welfare system
- In regard to those overseas - even under the most difficult of circumstances - New Zealand is their home.

Update on the provision of home-based supervision and care for the children (aged 0-14 years) of essential workers

Essential workers should still continue to contact one of the following three providers if they have been unable to make their own arrangements:

- Barnardos - covid19enquiries@barnardos.org.nz
- Edubase - [Home Grown Kids](#) & [Kids at Home](#) 0508 44 54 37 or info@hgk.co.nz
- [PORSE](#) 0800 023 456

Wellbeing for all

We have information focused on wellbeing and supporting a child's learning at home for parents, caregivers and whānau. It may also be useful for teachers. This resource adds to the information we have previously provided supporting conversations with children about COVID-19 -

<http://education.govt.nz/school/health-safety-and-wellbeing/pastoral-care-and-wellbeing/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-coronavirus/>.

Further information to support wellbeing

The Ministry of Health's website includes [Top ways to look after your mental wellbeing](#) during the Covid-19 lockdown.

<https://www.iamhope.org.nz/> - I AM HOPE is the youth and community focused support group run by The Key to Life Charitable Trust, started by Mike King.

<https://www.facebook.com/nathanwallisxfactorededucation/> - Nathan Wallis has some helpful videos on his Facebook page for parents and whānau

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.nz/get-help/covid-19/> - tips on looking after mental health and wellbeing during COVID-19 from the Mental Health foundation

<https://depression.org.nz/covid-19/> - a website by the Health Promotion Agency to help New Zealanders recognise and understand depression and anxiety. `

[25 Mental Health Wellness Tips during Quarantine from Eileen M Feliciano, Psy.D.](#) – although overseas-based this is a good list and highlights some things particularly important for children. Remember the rules of New Zealand's level 4 lockdown still apply.

Removing data caps for internet

In addition to Spark, Vodafone, Vocus/Slingshot, and 2Degrees, Trustpower has now also advised they have removed their data caps and the possibility of any extra charges based on usage - [Ask.Trustpower.co.nz](https://ask.trustpower.co.nz) – *“we've removed data limits for all fixed-line broadband customers to make sure everyone can stay connected. You'll be able to keep in touch with family and friends, work or study from home, and receive vital updates without having to worry about exceeding your data limit”*.

Finally, it is the last day of term today. I have instructed the staff to make sure they have a holiday and recharge. The expectation is that the 'distance learning' programme stops today and will resume on April 15th. This includes feedback and marking of work. Any learning programmes you wish to do throughout the holidays is done at your own discretion. I will continue to provide important updates to the community throughout the holiday period.

Keep safe and be kind to one another.

Ngā mihi

Drew Campbell - Principal