



26th August 2021

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of our School,

Firstly, I pray that you and your family are well and safe. Hopefully, you are getting some down time to make the best of this situation and are having some fun with your children. Please send my best wishes to them!

Normally, we send newsletters home every fortnight but during lockdowns it is important that we communicate with you a little more regularly since new information is always being brought to our attention. We will hear tomorrow whether the Alert Levels will change for those of us in Whangarei and should this be the case you will hear from me again.

Learning from home: In times like this I know that we are supposed to carry on as normal but life isn't normal and in fact, it's pretty messy right now. For this reason the most important message is to look after yourself and your family. You need to prioritize your wellbeing, that of your family and extended family over everything else. If this means that the children's schoolwork doesn't get done because it is too difficult or you and the children aren't in the right space right now then that is okay. Let your child's teacher know and reach out for some support if you need it. You might also like to read and listen to this information:

<https://nziwr.co.nz/real-time-resilience-9-schools-back-online-how-to-avoid-the-overwhelm-2/>

At a virtual staff meeting last Tuesday, teachers commented that they were pleased with the level of uptake with online learning so thank you for the support that you are giving your children. I want to also thank members of our staff who have assisted with the distribution of devices such as Chrome books and the hard packs of activities for students. Everyone is pitching in to make the lockdown as manageable as can be and all children should now have either online or hard pack activities to assist with their learning. If your child is not accessing any learning because they don't have the resources to do so, then please let your child's classroom teacher, Mrs Balks (junior school), Mrs Jakicevich (senior school) or myself know.

The Ministry of Education has also asked us to let you know about the TV programmes and resources that are available for children who are working from home. The website link is

<https://learningfromhome.govt.nz>

School grounds are closed: I wish to advise parents that staff are not allowed on site during Level 4 so access to reading books etc is not possible at this time. In addition to this, the Ministry of Education has requested that we advise our communities that schools and playgrounds are closed to the public.

Postponements and cancellations: Obviously, there are a number of school activities that were planned for this period but we are having to review this. Once school returns we will regroup and determine what we can postpone, what we need to cancel or what we can reasonably accommodate. I, like you, do not know what the timeframes will be and how we might be operating at each of the Levels should there be a shift. Nevertheless, I can assure you that we have some draft planning in place and this will be communicated to you as soon as we are able to resume school.

A message from the Life Education Trust : Due to the Covid alert level situation at the moment, we are unfortunately not going to be able to hold our cyber safety event at Hurupaki School Hall on Tuesday 31st August.

We will be rescheduling this event to be held in 2022. We know that this may seem a long way away, however our amazing speakers are booked out well in advance and we know how much we will all look forward to attending this event in person. Everyone who has already purchased tickets for our August event will automatically have entry for the new date. Refunds will be offered to anyone who will be unable to attend the new date. More details around our rescheduled date will come very soon - stay safe everyone!

Wellbeing: For the past three years our school has been working with 42 other schools in Whangarei in a Community of Learning (Kāhui Ako). The overarching theme for this has been an achievement challenge around “Wellbeing”. Little did we know at the time that it was going to be so important! Our facilitators are from Christchurch and yesterday they shared with us some links to resources that they own to support our communities over the lockdown period. You may find them helpful or just informative so I am including them in this newsletter for you.

<https://nziwr.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Real-time-Resilience-Overview-A4-2021.pdf>

https://nziwr.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/20210818_Real-time-Resilience-tips.pdf

Take care: On behalf of our school staff we just want to say that we have an amazing school community and at times like this we hope that you will take the opportunity to phone a friend and reach out to others who may need your friendly support.

Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.’ Joshua 1:9b

God bless you and be kind to yourself and your whanau.

Ngā mihi
Craig McKernan
(Principal)