

Tena koutou katoa,

What a story our children will be able to tell when they are grandparents, about the global pandemic of the 2020's. They'll be able to regale their grandkids for hours about it while handing out the treats that grandparents are so deservedly loved for!

Of course behind the scenes, many people are working hard to minimise the impact of the disruption on our children, and the staff at St Francis Xavier are no exception. I am always impressed with the quiet calm that the staff adopt to keep things ticking over and to create a safe space for our children to play and just get on with life. I'd like to extend my thanks to the entire St Francis Xavier team for their hard work, positive attitude and warm welcome.

A couple of years ago at the end of year prize giving I gave a speech about the footprints we leave on our journey through school and beyond. As I observe the current state of the world, I am reminded again of those footprints for us as a school and for our children. Kindness, compassion and love are the footprints that we hope as a school, we have imprinted on your lives so that we can all in turn, help to imprint them on others during these challenging times.

Over this holiday period I hope you all have the opportunity to reunite with family and friends you may not have seen for a while. On behalf of the Board of Trustees I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas.

Ma te Atua koe e manaaki. Hari kirihimete

Joanne Ashby
Chairperson, Board of Trustees