



BIRKDALE NORTH SCHOOL

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Friday 10th September 2021

Tēnā Koutou

I am sure you are all feeling a little like "caged animals" at the moment! I know I am over zoom meetings and working from home. We do need to keep reminding ourselves we are making a difference and we will be in a much stronger position because of the lockdown.

I have not been in contact for a few days as I have had no more information to add to what you already know at this point. However, Mrs Wrightson and myself are beginning to prepare for the next stage, whatever that may be. My guess is that we will move to Level 3 at some stage and we need to be prepared and ready to go when that happens.

At Alert Level 3, you legally must stay within your household bubble unless for essential personal movement including going to work and going to school. As the Prime Minister noted, schools are essentially closed at Alert Level 3 with the exception of those few children whose parents and carers must go to work at Alert Level 3, **and there is no appropriate caregiver at home**. If you have a partner who is an essential worker but you are working from home, then you are that appropriate caregiver and your children should be at home with you. This is tricky as you have to work together to find a balance to cater for you and your children's needs that will work for you in your household.

When the time comes our usual safety precautions for Alert Level 3 will be in place, which include all the recommendations from the public health experts. This means we will regularly clean and disinfect high touch surfaces, encourage everyone to frequently wash their hands and cover their coughs and sneezes, and keep everyone physically distanced from others as much as possible (1 metre inside and two metres outside). We will also keep school bubbles to no more than 10 students. These bubbles will not mix with other bubbles. As you imagine it will not be school as we know it under Alert Level 2 or 1.

Our contact tracing systems will be in place, which includes our attendance register and visitor register, and we will be limiting staff onsite with the majority of our team working from home.

We will continue to support all children who remain learning from home, through our distance learning programme. While we know how difficult it is trying to work from home as well as support your child's learning, we need you to keep your child at home if there is an adult at home. I have also just received an email today informing me that the Ministry hard copy packs are on their way. The packs will be distributed as soon as we receive them and can organise pick up. Please be aware that not everyone will be allocated a pack. We will have to prioritise the needs of our children..

We have been sending a lot of information out about extra support but if you have concerns or are in need of anything please let me know.

As soon as I have any more information I will be sure to let you know.

Keep talking things through with your children and reassuring them that we will get back to school and they will be able to see their friends again. It might be just a little longer.

Stay safe and thank you for your continued support of our teachers who are doing everything they can to make this experience the best it can be.

Ngā mihi

Jan McDonald (Principal)