

Dear Parents and Caregivers

March 23 2020,

We are certainly in unprecedented times. The Covid 19 virus is consuming the media and our thoughts and of course, we need to have as much certainty and factual information we can trust.

The Ministry of Education is communicating daily with us and of course, the Government has detailed its levels for consideration and we are at Level 2. The school is still open for instruction.









































Our next considerations will be driven from government, health and safety or staffing difficulties. We do have some staff and families who are considered at risk and will be monitoring closely what is required to keep the school running.






### *At risk people*

*People over 70 years of age, people who have compromised immunity or people who have underlying respiratory conditions should stay at home as much as they can. At risk people include:*

- *Those over 70: Older people often have underlying health issues, including respiratory issues that make them more vulnerable to COVID-19.*
- *People with medical conditions: Underlying medical conditions can make you more vulnerable to COVID-19. In particular, people with respiratory conditions, such as COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease), heart conditions, high blood pressure, kidney problems and diabetes.*
- *People undergoing treatment for cancer and blood conditions: As treatments for cancer and blood conditions affect people's immune systems, this makes them more vulnerable to COVID-19.*
- *Pregnant women: Health experts do not yet know if pregnant women are impacted by COVID-19 in the same way as other people. However, pregnant women experience changes in their bodies that may increase their risk from some infections.*
- *People without easy access to healthcare*

**SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19, FLU AND COLD**

	 DRY COUGH	 FEVER	 RUNNY NOSE	 SORE THROAT	 BREATH-LESSNESS	 HEADACHE	 BODY ACES	 SNEEZE	 FATIGUE	 DIARRHOEA
COVID -19										
FLU										
COLD										

 FREQUENTLY    SOMETIMES    LITTLE    RARE    NOT

@SIOUXSIEW @XTOTL thespinoff.co.nz

SOURCE: WHO, CDC CC-BY-SA

We have already had some families withdraw children and the situation for all is changing daily. The BOT is in contact regularly looking at the needs of staff, students and community.

Education could become a home-based thing for an unknown time and we need to consider your readiness for this. Please talk to your children about their ability to log into their e-mail (Year 3-8) and also your use of the school app and facebook. We will be working hard to stay in touch with the children and suggest work they can complete supporting their learning and growth.

We would suggest these as some options and maybe 30-minute bursts to maintain focus:

- <http://www.pobble365.com/> for writing work
- Reading to and with your children. Encourage silent reading time every day.
- Mathletics if you have a login or <https://www.kiwifamilies.co.nz/articles/free-maths-and-science-games/>
- <https://topteachingtasks.com/home-learning-choice-boards> - this could help out for some ideas.

Our staff will be doing their very best to stay in contact with the children and email is a great way to communicate and share ideas and work completed. Photos shared with staff emails as well will be exciting to see. Some of the children may also be able to communicate with google hangouts or zoom video and we will practice some of this at school.



***It is imperative you advise us if you have No internet or limited access so we can prepare what we can for your children.***

### **Quote from a principal talking to his community**

*In the face of possible school closures, I have been talking with my staff and families about doing activities that help connect more with each other as a family. Not heaps of "schoolwork" set by the teachers, but real learning activities that support being a person able to navigate through life being creative, thoughtful, compassionate and inclusive. I want our children to learn to play board games, to make up plays, to build and create "stuff" with things they find around the house. I want them to talk with other family members, actually learn how to contribute to household chores and enjoy the time it takes to bring in the washing while talking with the parent doing this with them.*

### **Other considerations and information:**

- ***Linc-ed comments will reduce if schools are shut as staff will not have access to some assessment requirements. This will resume when the normal school day was to start back.***
- ***School communication tools will remain with the school app, Facebook and website. Emails to the community can also be sent via email using the Linc ed software.***
- ***If we have to close then I urge you to keep a diary of your family time together as a historical document for your family.***

*Regards Mark Ellis, Principal*