

**Thursday 19 August 2021**

Kia ora Parents and Caregivers

I don't have a lot of new information to share with you at this point. It's a wait-and-see until the Prime Minister's announcements as to where we go from here. We have been discussing plans for an extension of lockdown or if we move to Alert Level 3, so we will be ready to move, whatever the decision. We do need to be certain that we have your updated contact details. If you have moved house, or changed contact details during the course of the year and think that the school may not have your updated information, please send an email through to your child's Ako Teacher with the details asap.

Thanks for your support with students as they log in, connect with teachers and start their learning using Google classroom. We are aware that there is a lower level of engagement at this point but understand that there are many reasons for that. If we stay in lockdown, or move to Alert Level 3, we will be implementing some changes to what we are doing now, including more structured learning plans. If we are allowed to, we will be providing students with more resources and materials from school. We will let you know more as things progress.

We were disappointed that we had to postpone the Senior Ball, due to be held on Saturday 21 August. I know there will be many disappointed students, but Teacher-in-charge Kirsten Eichler is working hard to get an alternative date. We'll let everyone know as soon as we have news.

Some general information:

If you're getting the question – Why are we in Alert Level 4 / Lockdown? – here's a useful [article](#) by Dr Siouxsie Wiles and Toby Morris in *The Spinoff*. It provides the science and evidence in simple terms behind the shift to Alert Level 4. There is also a visual reminder of the symptoms to look out for.

The Ministry of Education has shared information around wellbeing, which I think is also useful for parents and caregivers. *Getting through together – Whāia E Tātou Te Pae Tawhiti* is a national mental health and wellbeing campaign. You can find further information [here](#) and [here](#).

From the Ministry too, a reminder that the Government has approved the Pfizer vaccine for 12 to 15-year-olds in New Zealand, following Medsafe's provisional approval in June. From Friday 20 August, as parents or guardians become eligible to book for a vaccination, they can also book in a vaccination for any 12 to 15-year-olds in their whānau.

The Taeomanino Trust is a Pacific social service and health provider based in Porirua that provides social and mental health services as well as counselling support to Pacific families in the Wellington Region. Although they are located in Porirua the service also operates in the Hutt Valley. Food vouchers (for Pak'n'Save where families can shop for what they need themselves) are available for families through the Trust. Families can self-refer by calling 0800 345345 families or by contacting [office@taeomanino.org.nz](mailto:office@taeomanino.org.nz). They are also offering 'Health and Hygiene' packs and individual packs with sanitizer, masks (covid prevention type kit). They will be answering phones up until 9.00pm each night each day but are not open or working on Sunday.

And finally, my apologies for the size of the font of these emails, it does make for a difficult read for many. It isn't an easy fix, but I have people looking into it.

Look after yourselves and be safe. I'll keep in touch.

Ngā mihi nui

Judith Taylor  
Principal