

**Wednesday 18 August 2021**

Kia ora Parents and Caregivers

Firstly, I hope this email finds you all safe and well after the Prime Minister's announcement last night. It was certainly a surprise to many. We reacted quickly and, through email and Facebook, invited students, parents and caregivers to come to school and borrow a chromebook if there was no device available at home. It was good to see a number of chromebooks uplifted.

We move now to Learning@Home, where teachers will continue to teach, and students learn, through the use of the Google suite of Apps. Google Classroom provides a space where teachers can interact with students, post instructions for work, and get questions from students. Google Meet is the equivalent of Zoom, and allows teachers to connect with the class, teach the class as a whole or allow students to collaborate as a group. Students should be familiar with Google Classroom.

This morning, teachers will be in touch with students through the Classroom. They will leave messages around work to do, and a time to join a Google Meet. For those who went through lockdown last year with us, it will all be familiar. For Year 9 students, their teachers will guide them through the process – everyone will need to login, using their student login and password and go to their subject Classroom.

If there are any problems, please email the classroom teacher, or Ako teacher.

I have told my teachers that this 3-day period is less about keeping the schoolwork going and more about maintaining contact with the students. I recognise that this will be a stressful time for many, especially with the brief notice period, and there may be students anxious about their work. We will know more about things by the end of the week and will put any further plans in place at that point, always with the students first and foremost in our thinking.

We've been here before, and we know what to do.  
Take care of yourselves. I'll keep in touch.

Ngā mihi nui

Judith Taylor  
Principal