



New Plymouth
Adventist Christian School

Educating for Eternity

Wednesday 23 February 2022

Kia ora e te whānau

I would firstly like to thank you all for supporting us as we have got underway for the new school year in this continuing COVID-19 times. Balancing how a school functions on a day to day basis to deliver quality learning experiences for all of our tamariki, along with ensuring we are meeting public health requirements is a challenge we are well and truly up for. I feel really proud of how students, staff and whānau have worked together to put in place new expectations for various health requirements. As a community we are not quite 'out of the woods' yet and I appreciate your patience as we continue to navigate this pandemic together.

There are lots of things that we are doing at school to prevent COVID-19 having an impact on our school community. These are things like good hygiene practices, handwashing, ventilation, cleaning and disinfecting high touch areas regularly, physical distancing & mask wearing. Every bit helps and this picture helps to highlight that. With the number of cases increasing in Taranaki and the high likelihood that at some time in the near future we too will have cases linked to our school, I feel it timely to share with you some of the planning and preparation that has gone into how we will be able to continue to stay open and deliver learning for our students for as long as possible. Also to share with you some useful tools to help you with what to do, should someone in your household have COVID-19 and what we will be doing, should cases start to be linked to us here at school.

We have very clear guidelines from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health about who is a close contact of a positive case, and what steps we need to follow. Generally speaking this will be what happens:

- Child or staff member who is unwell would be at home and would get tested if they had symptoms
- If a positive test result is received the parent or staff member needs to advise us that they are positive. This might also come to the school from the MOE but we ask people to let us know directly
- Close contacts will be identified using guidelines given to us by the MOE/MOH to follow
- Parents of close contacts will be contacted and asked to collect their child from school to isolate
- School community would be notified
- School remains open for all those students not required to isolate, with parents continuing to monitor their children for symptoms and to stay home and get tested should symptoms develop
- Students at home isolating will be given hard copy learning packs that they will use in the first instance
- Should isolation continue for a longer period of time or staff numbers are down, distance learning will continue through a combination of hard copy packs and online learning.

Please see the attached document with:

- **Phase 2 - Frequently Asked Questions** poster that will help you with what to do should someone in your household get COVID-19.



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- **COVID Case Management Protocols** that share with you how our school plans to continue to operate should case numbers rise in our community

Quick Survey - In order to ensure we are able to provide learning that is accessible to your child while at home, please complete [this quick survey](#) to let us know what access to devices / internet you have and your preference of how learning will be delivered, to ensure learning from home while your child might be isolating is manageable.

May I please ask that we all continue to live our school vision, '*GROW - Godliness, Respect, Ownership and Wisdom*'. That we continue to show manaakitanga for each other and the various perspectives that people may have. That we collectively pull together and do as much as we can to support our school by promoting these things:

- Stay at home if sick
- Use good hygiene practices like hand washing, cough/sneeze into your elbow, physical distancing
- Wear a mask if required to do so (*provided you don't have an exemption*)
- Keep the school updated if someone in your household gets COVID-19

I look forward to continuing to see your friendly faces at drop off or pick up time and thank you again for your support.

Kia maiea tō rā (*Have a fulfilling day*)

Judy Phillips

Judy Phillips

Principal