

13 April 2020

Dear Parents/Whanau

COVID-19: Term 2 distance learning begins

Firstly, I would like to extend Easter greetings to each and every one of you. Easter has definitely looked quite different in the Fuller household; however, both my husband and I are taking great delight in having the uninterrupted attention of our three boys - something that doesn't happen often.

The purpose of today's communication is to share the limited information we have about any shift in Alert levels across the nation; when and how schools may open; and what this means for Taumata School. Currently the information shared by the media is confusing and variable; and possibly causing greater anxiety. Therefore, what I share is the information afforded school leaders by the Secretary of Education and Ministry of Education.

- Term 2 officially starts on **Wednesday 15 April 2020**. Mauao; Matarawa and Pūwhenua learning coaches have communicated how learning can be accessed via Linc-Ed/Hero. If you have not received, please check your junk mailbox; or email your child's learning coach.
- **Wednesday 22 April 2020**: The mandated Alert Level 4 is due to end - as outlined by Prime Minister
- **Monday 20 April 2020** Cabinet will make decisions about the status of Alert Levels and any proposed continuation or shift in levels. This allows businesses/organisations two days to prepare for changes.
- Assuming the Alert Levels shift from Level 4 to Level 3; the Ministry of Education will review recommendations and determine health considerations and requirements. This will include regional public health information and capability of school's/learning organisations to implement physical distancing.
- Assuming the Alert Level changes, schools will plan for a hybrid of distance learning and on-site learning for identified students. **Decision made as to which schools will open and to which students on Wednesday 22 April.**
- **Thursday 23 April and Friday 24 April**; those specified school sites will be open for staff to access, inspect and clean.

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- **Monday 27 April 2020** is a public holiday to observe ANZAC Day.
- **Tuesday 28 April 2020:** staff only day - to review expectations of the Ministry of Education's directives.
- **Wednesday 29 April 2020:** those specified schools and those identified students MAY be able to attend school in person.

I realise that this information is limited. It does not clearly identify which learning organisations will open; nor does it detail which students will return to the school site for face-to-face learning. What it means is that our learning coaches, students and the broader community need to be prepared for a variety of scenarios and be agile and responsive to whatever the situation. As a school we would like to offer the following assurances:

- We are planned for and prepared to offer distance learning through digital platforms
- We have provided information to the Ministry of Education around digital access and are working to determine a solution.
- Should the change in Alert Levels require both distance learning and face-to-face (e.g. children of essential workers) we will adjust our planning to ensure this is possible
- Should the change in Alert Levels mean we open fully to all students we will adjust our planning and preparation and be ready Wednesday 29 April 2020.

We thank you once again for your continued support in this challenging time. We look forward to engaging from a distance in the coming weeks and are really looking forward to seeing the faces of your beautiful children when given the clear directive to open to Taumata learners.

Take care;

Nga mihi nui whanau

Genavier Fuller

(On behalf of the Taumata School Board of Trustees)