

Friday 20 August, 2021

Kia ora Green Bay School Whanau

Like me, you probably looked at the emerging cases from this outbreak and thought that some further time at Alert Level 4 was the best thing for our community. That thinking was confirmed today when the Prime Minister advised that we will remain at Alert Level 4 until 11.59pm on Tuesday 24 August. We will learn more on Monday about what will happen next.

I wanted to reassure you that our school staff and board will continue to be available to support your child's learning and wellbeing in the coming days.

However, due to the closeness of a few **local places of interest**, our decision is not to put our staff, parents/caregivers at risk by opening up the school to collect electronics or hard copies. We will continue to instruct from the school website with on-line learning which has and will continue to be updated throughout this lockdown.

Remember that our teachers are in constant contact and if you have any questions, they are only an email away.

The Ministry of Education also have on-line learning available. If you are interested, please check out:

- Learning From Home and Ki te Ao Marama websites.
- Papa Kāinga (TVNZ) and Māori TV On Demand educational channels are also available.

We also hope you are doing OK at the moment – but it is also OK if you aren't. As the [Mental Health Foundation of NZ says](#), "it's all right to feel a range of emotions right now. Going into a Level 4 lockdown is a big deal and it brings all sorts of different feelings to the surface, including frustration, worry and even gratitude. However you are feeling, know that you are not alone – we're all going through this together."

If you need to talk, check in with a friend or whānau member, or free call/text 1737 to chat with a trained counsellor. It's free and confidential. There are also [a lot of other supports available to you, your whānau and your community](#) if needed.

You will also understand the importance of routine for your family. If your routine has been shaken up, it's good to structure your time. Routines are reassuring and promote health and physical wellbeing.

For our Pacific families, if you are not aware the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' has been working to ensure useful information is [available to Pacific peoples in nine different languages](#).

A big thank you to all of you for taking the lockdown so seriously – we've seen before that staying at home will break the chain of transmission and save lives. Breaking the rules could risk someone close to you and if the rules are not complied with, this could risk the lockdown period being extended or could risk the virus being spread to thousands.

Please [keep checking the locations of interest](#) and get tested if you were at that location at the specified time, or if you have symptoms which could be COVID-19.

And just a quick point – please don't use our playground during lockdown. Playgrounds cannot be used at Alert Level 4.

As always, please let us know if there is anything you need to support you and your tamariki during this time.

Ngā mihi



Anand Muthoo
Principal
Green Bay School