



**Aidanfield
Christian School**



TERM 1 | WEEK 7



Kia Ora Koutou Aidanfield Whanau

COVID-19 Update

as at 20 March

Welcome to our next update in this turbulent world in which we live.

With so much information and misinformation swirling around about COVID-19, I wanted to share with you what will happen if we were to have a case in our school community. We have been planning for this and are in a position to respond quickly. We have a plan for home learning that will be initiated if we are ever closed for longer than 5 days. The following might help you understand what will happen.

Closing the School:

If a case is confirmed in our immediate school community (e.g. a student, staff member, or member of their household), the Medical Officer of Health and Ministry of Education will inform me about this, and we will work together to get quick and clear messaging out to you.

If there is a case confirmed of someone in our school, we will likely be asked to close temporarily by the Medical Officer of Health. This would likely be for 72 hours. This will allow time for close contacts to be traced, appropriate testing to be undertaken, and a careful clean of the school to be undertaken.

If we are closed for a short period of time we will not be initiating our home learning programme for the short period of time (three days). Teachers will use this time to prepare learning online for the possibility of a longer closure. Currently I have asked them to stay focused on the pupils in front of them, not to prepare work just in case we close.

If we are told to stay closed for a longer period of time, either as part of a local closure or a national one we have a plan to support online learning for all our pupils that includes regular contact using various internet based tools.

Should a longer closure occur the following will happen:

To communicate with you we will use email, School App, our Facebook page and our website. At this time we have set up a work around for the frustrations we have experienced with the Portal as we need to have absolute confidence our messaging is getting through. You can expect regular but not daily communication.

To give pupils learning tasks, all our pupils in year 5 to 10 have email logins for Microsoft365 and should know how to use this. We are focusing on ensuring they practice this in the coming weeks. For our older pupils we will use the Microsoft365 platform, especially Teams (the pupils know how to do this – or will do). Each whanau class may use a variation of this within Microsoft. There is no cost to any family for this apart from having internet access. Teams can be accessed from any device or platform. Work will be posted there, video conferencing can happen there and feedback can be placed there. For our younger pupils we will be using See-Saw and Teams. Most of our younger pupils know how to work with See-Saw and we will practice with them in the coming weeks as well.

If we are closed for a longer period of time, staff will post work every couple of days for your children to work on. There will be greater time expectations for the older pupils compared to the younger ones. It will be entirely up to the parent as to how much (or little) each child does. We will not be chasing pupils to complete work because every household will be working with different dynamics and issues. We want to support families during this time, not make it harder.

If we are closed for a longer period of time whanau teachers will be emailing their pupils every day and trying to have direct internet based contact with every pupil at least once a week. We want to stay connected and involved.

We all hope that we do not need to close for any length of time. However, if we do we have plans in place, the pupils will be ready to use the tools they need. We will carry on teaching and inviting your child to learn.

We know COVID-19 feels unnerving and of course people are concerned for the wellbeing of our children. **Please be assured that with no case confirmed in our school (as I write this), your children are safe here.**

Good hygiene is a priority at our school, and we are reinforcing this regularly with all students and staff. We know that practicing good hygiene is still the best thing we can all do to prevent illness.

We are getting the most up to date advice and guidance so that we can confidently make informed decisions about the safety and wellbeing of our school community.

Grace and peace as we all move forward together.

Mark Richardson
Principal

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