



Kia ora

22 March 2020

I hope that you have all managed to relax a little this weekend in the face of the current uncertainty around Covid-19. Please remember that we are here for you and your children. If we can help in any way please just ask, especially around communicating with government agencies or linking you with community support.

Yesterday the Prime Minister addressed the nation regarding the Covid-19 virus. She introduced the new alert system. We are currently on Level 2. Please see the link below.
<https://covid19.govt.nz/government-actions/covid-19-alert-system/>

In her address, the Prime Minister said that schools will be remaining open until we are on level 4 or if we have a case at school.

She stated in the address that those over 70 or those with pre-existing health conditions will need to go into isolation.

If your child has a condition that puts them at greater risk we ask that you keep your child at home in-line with the Prime Minister's request. If your child has mild asthma please ensure that your child takes their preventative and brings their inhaler to school.

This new information does have an impact on the running of the school. We have three teachers who will need to go into isolation due to age or pre-existing health conditions.

Kiwi class- Due to the smaller numbers in the junior classes and the numbers of children being kept home by families we will split the class across Peka Peka, Kereru and Wetapunga. On Monday Marije will start the class in Kiwi and then we will transition the children to their new classroom.

Kakapo class- Kelly who has taught a large number of the children in the class and has worked in Kakapo this year will teach for this week and then we will reassess.

Takahe class- Shirley will teach the class full time while Sandra is in isolation.

As you can understand this is quite a difficult staffing situation that all schools in New Zealand are facing to a lesser or greater extent and we thank you for your patience.

We understand that our children may be feeling anxious. Our intention is for school to be as calm a place as we can make it. We will continue having discussions about this situation in a calm and age appropriate way to support the conversations you are having at home. We will also spend more time on therapeutic activities like art to help our children relax and process what is going on.

If you are choosing to keep your child at home please call the office on 385 9432 and leave a message or email office@mtcook.school.nz

For medical advice, the government is advising that you ring Healthline in the first instance: 0800 611 116

Ngā mihi