



Bethlehem School (est. 1883)

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24th March 2020

Re: COVID-19 Update

Kia ora koutou,

With yesterday's announcement by the Government, we are implementing with urgency our plan to support your child's learning from home. We appreciate this is a sudden and significant change and will be heavily disruptive to many people in our community.

For children of Essential workers, school is open on Wednesday 25th March in an adapted capacity. Please let Mr Hansen (mike.hansen@bethlehemschool.ac.nz) know ASAP if you will be sending your child to school. If children are attending, please have them report to the Library at 9.00am.

You may wish to check if you are considered an essential worker - <https://covid19.govt.nz/government-actions/covid-19-alert-system/> however those roles include doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers and police. We continue to ask that children who are not well, do not attend school.

For all other children, we will be supporting their learning from your home in the following ways:

- through remote online learning
- provision of a learning pack for the remainder of the week
- An additional document is attachment outlining expectations around remote learning for teachers, students and whanau

School holidays brought forward

School holidays are being brought forward so that they are completed within the 4-week lockdown period. Holidays will now begin from Monday 30 March to Tuesday 14 April inclusive (a reminder that the Tuesday after Easter Monday is always a closed day for schools).

At the end of the school holidays, schools will be open for remote online learning but not physically open for staff to work at the schools.

Please note the instruction to stay home (Alert Level 4) will continue beyond the new school holiday period but schools will be technically open for remote instruction. Teachers will therefore be working offsite.

Additional Care

If you need to have your child cared for by someone else you will need to identify that person or people as part of your self-isolated group. This will need to be done by midnight Wednesday and the group must remain the same for the whole 4 week period. The caregiver's own group (eg, their partner and children), your child and your own group (eg, your parents and other children) become one group. This group needs to be limited to minimise any risk of spread and should be no more than 20 people.

Talking to your children

Your child will be looking to you for guidance at this difficult time. Parents, caregivers, whānau and teachers will have a particularly important part to play in reassuring children at this time. If you haven't already done so, you may wish to read the information put together by the Ministry of Education to support your conversations with your children – [Talking to children about COVID-19](#)

As noted by the Prime Minister these restrictions are our best chance to slow the virus in New Zealand and to save lives. We all have a clear role here to slow the spread of COVID-19. We will continue to communicate with you over the coming weeks.

Ngā mihi nui

Regards

Brian Field
Principal