



22nd March 2020,

Re: COVID-19 Update

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

After receiving the latest updates and information from the New Zealand Government, MOH and MOE, I thought it would be helpful to give you an update before heading back to school tomorrow.

Today, Mike Hansen (DP), Megan Marshall (AP), BOT Chair Kerri Jones and I met to discuss our COVID-19 plans and readiness. These meetings take place on a regular basis and inform our decisions.

It is important to note that Bethlehem School remains open tomorrow however with the Alert Level being raised there are some impacts to our daily programme.

Alert level 2 – Impact on Bethlehem School

The latest update from MOH centred around the need for those aged above 70, those with compromised immunity and those with medical conditions to stay at home. As a result, the following are important for you to understand:

- We have a number of teaching, admin and support staff that will now stay at home as their health may be compromised
- If you feel that your child's health and wellbeing is at risk please keep them home and let the office know of their absence. Absences due to COVID-19 concerns will now be considered a justified absence. All absences are to be reported to the office not through the teacher. Where possible please indicate the length of time your child will be absent.
- For those students who come to school, learning will continue. However, the impact of having staff, along with multiple student absences may mean that your child could have a different teacher, may be part of a combined class or students in Rumaki may be in mainstream classes.
- We are well underway for being ready to deliver learning online. Your teachers will be reaching out this week if they have not already done so to prepare you/your children for remote learning. School, parent and student expectations around remote learning will be sent out this week.
- Please note that the call to close a school as a result of the pandemic sits completely with Ministry and not the schools; we continue to be guided by those directives.

Thanks for your ongoing support. We will continue to update you on any advancements or steps we are taking to ensure the safety and wellbeing of your children. Please regularly check your email, Bethlehem school website and/or Facebook page for the most up to date information.

Regards

Brian Field

Principal