



Sunday 3 May

TERM 2 – UPDATE 4

Kia Ora Koutou

We wanted to give you a quick update on how we are doing under Alert Level 3.

Our distance learning is working well. While it will certainly have challenges for you at home balancing work and care for your children, we are getting a lot of great feedback too. It is exciting to see the innovation that has been happening and some brilliant videos coming through of what our students, families and whānau have been up to at home.

We were also excited to be able to reopen our premises for staff and students onsite this week and look forward to welcoming more of you in person very soon. We also just wanted to provide some reassurance that our school is a safe place for your child to be and safe for our staff too. We have closely followed the public health measures that have been put in place for Alert Level 3. These were set by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education to minimise spread in the unlikely event that someone in our community is confirmed with COVID-19.

This means our small school bubbles are in place, our staff and students are staying 1 metre apart inside and 2 metres outside, our cleaning programme fully aligns with Health guidance, only essential visitors are coming into school and we have systems in place to prevent those people from congregating.

We have hand sanitiser in classrooms and lots of reminders to students and staff to undertake good hygiene practices such as good cough and sneeze etiquette, and washing hands frequently. Most importantly, the children on site are enjoying being back with their peers, even though it is in quite a different way.

Staying home if sick, physical distancing, good hand hygiene, not touching your face, good cough/sneeze etiquette and regular cleaning of high-touch surfaces minimises any potential spread of the virus and are all really good habits to continue to be encouraging for your children at home. These habits will be really important as people gradually come back to school.

Staff have been busy at school last week putting together Home Learning Packs for students who we understand are still waiting on a pack to be delivered from the Ministry of Education. These will be in letter boxes on Monday afternoon. There was a minor glitch in the production line, otherwise these would have been with you at the end of last week so my apologies there.

If you have received a home learning pack I would be most grateful if you could let me know as I'm keen to find out how many these have reached. Please email me on principal@merrilands.school.nz.

Please get in touch if you have any questions, including about our health and safety management for children, staff and visitors coming onsite and we look forward to the news on the 11th May with whether we move to Level 2.

Ngā manākitanga
Michelle Cronin
Principal

