



Fairfield College

19 March 2020

Kia ora e te whaanau

The purpose of this correspondence is to inform you of two initiatives that the school will be making in response to COVID -19. I will also discuss two other matters that are pertinent to COVID-19.

Initiative 1

As has previously been communicated the school will not be open for students on Friday March 20th. Staff will be using this time to strengthen our capacity to deliver distance learning. To further strengthen our readiness to offer distance learning we will hold a trial on **Wednesday March 25**. This will mean that students will remain at home on March 25 to engage in distance learning. The distance learning will be offered mainly in a digital form but we will also have non-digital resources that will be provided to students that do not have access to the internet.

We are exploring ways that we can provide a digital device for those students that do not have access to one and also how we could enable all students to access the internet.

If your child is unable to be part of this trial at home we will provide digital instruction for them at school. All students who attend school on **March 25** will be placed in a central room and they will engage in the distance learning resources that we will be trialing with students that are working from home.

We want to duplicate distance learning in a school closure situation as much as possible as it will increase our preparedness. It offers a valuable learning opportunity to identify the distance learning challenges that we experienced so that we are able to find solutions and apply them if school closures are directed.

I respectfully request that you send the names of your children that are unable to stay at home on **March 25** to: brownl@faircol.school.nz

Initiative 2

Previously, I communicated that we had suspended all full school assemblies. We would, however, continue to run year level and mountain assemblies in their allocated slots (10:30 to 11 am on Tuesday). Although the Government's announcement of the banning of gatherings of 100 or more people at inside events does not apply to schools we have nevertheless decided to suspend all school assemblies. We feel that this is a safe measure that we can implement. To enable this to happen we will start school at **9:30am instead of 9am**. This will commence **on Tuesday March 24th** and will be reviewed on **April 9**.

COVID -19 Resources to share with young people

Given the rise in the number of reported cases, there may be children or young people that are experiencing distress. As a trusted adult, you can help reassure and



Be respectful
Be responsible
Be the best you can be

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educate them about COVID-19 – it can be good to talk to them now, so they can understand the illness and be reassured.

[A useful resource for parents, caregivers, whānau and teachers talking about the virus with children and young people can be found here.](#) This can also be downloaded as an [information sheet.](#)

School closures?

With so much information and misinformation swirling around about COVID-19, I want to further explain what will happen if we were to have a case in our school community. I discussed this in my COVID-19 communication yesterday but I want to reiterate the likely process in this communication. ***We have been planning for this and are in a position to respond quickly.***

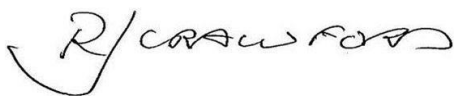
- As soon as a case is confirmed in our immediate school community (eg. a student, staff member, or member of their household), the Medical Officer of Health and Ministry of Education will inform me about this, and we will work together to get quick and clear messaging out to you.
- If there was a case confirmed of someone in our school, we will likely be asked to close temporarily by the Medical Officer of Health. 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 our school does need to close temporarily, we have a plan in place to support student's learning.

We know COVID-19 feels scary and of course people are concerned for the wellbeing of our children. ***Please be assured that with no case confirmed in our school, 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.

Naaku noa, naa



Richard Crawford
PRINCIPAL