



Kia tiki ake te pai
ACCENTUATING THE POSITIVE



21 March 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I hope you have all had a wonderful weekend and have found some time to enjoy some family time.

As you will be aware there have been some developments over the weekend. These are all developments that we expected would happen in time.

As many of you will have heard, Jacinda Ardern confirmed that the government is in Level 2 of their pandemic plan. This means that schools remain open. The Ministry of Health will notify us if any school closures are required, whether they be for short term or longer terms. Rutherford Primary will continue to be open and is safe for operation.

However, as per the update from the government, the Ministry of Education supports the advice that any children with the following conditions should remain at home;

- a compromised immune system
- liver disease
- cancer
- kidney disease
- heart disease
- diabetes mellitus

The current advice for all other children is that if your child is well, please send them to school. If your child is unwell, they should remain at home until they are well. We are following normal routines around attendance. If your child is not coming to school, please notify us by phoning the school or sending an email.

Our people are very busy ensuring great learning is happening for our children and keeping things as normal as possible at school. We are working on a plan to support children remotely who have to stay away because of health challenges and to ensure that learning can continue remotely should the need to close the school arise.

In a recent update from the Ministry of Education, Iona Holstead explained the importance of keeping schools open;

The importance of keeping kids learning, and maintaining routine

“As you’ll know it is important to keep children and young people engaged in education and, wherever possible, maintaining their usual routines. Routines are reassuring and can support children and young people’s wellbeing, connection with others, and their learning”.

We will continue to receive daily updates from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and I will notify you if anything changes. It will be essential that we have good contact information for you and that we are able to get hold of you should we need to. Could you please ensure that if your contact details have changed you let us know.

Our staff are doing an amazing job and we really appreciate the support you are giving them. As always, if you have any questions, please contact me at amandab@rutherfordprimary.school.nz

Nga mihi nui
Amanda Bennett
Acting Principal

