



Kia tiki ake te pai  
ACCENTUATING THE POSITIVE



TERM 1 WEEK 7 - FRIDAY 20 MARCH 2020

Kia ora Rutherford Whānau

You may have noticed that I haven't been around school much lately. Unfortunately last week I received notice that my father, who lives in Washington State is very unwell and deteriorating quickly. As you can imagine, my first response was to get home, and I did attempt to do just that - twice, but with current world events, I quickly realised this was not possible and not safe.

Therefore the Board have given me this time to be as present as possible with my USA family - I'm spending most of the day on Skype, while supporting Amanda and the team where I can, from home. Amanda is doing such an amazing job as Acting Principal and our teachers and staff continue to be tops!

I won't be returning to Rutherford this term, but hope, that once things have settled down, I will be able to come back to give a proper good-bye to your beautiful and very special children. They have brought a lot of smiles to my face the last three years and I have truly enjoyed partnering with you in their care and learning. You're a pretty wonderful community.

Stay well, stay positive and stay connected with one another.

Aroha nui  
Jeannette

SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19, FLU AND COLD

	DRY COUGH	FEVER	RUNNY NOSE	SORE THROAT	BREATH-LESSNESS	HEADACHE	BODY ACHE'S	SNEEZE	FATIGUE	DIARRHOEA
COVID -19										
FLU										
COLD										

FREQUENTLY   
 SOMETIMES   
 LITTLE   
 RARE   
 NOT





## COVID 19 UPDATE    FRIDAY 20 MARCH 2020

20 March 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I have been out and about in the school and it has been really great to see the fantastic learning happening in our classes.

We continue to receive daily updates from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. The latest update from the Ministry of Health is that there is no plan at this stage to close schools. Rutherford Primary is open and if your child is healthy and well, we expect them to be at school. If your child is unwell then please keep them home and notify the office.

We are aware that the Government asked anyone who has returned from overseas in the last 14 days to voluntarily self-isolate even if everyone is well. We know some of our families will choose to follow these guidelines and we support their decision. Please let the office know if you are voluntarily choosing to self-isolate so we know why your child is not at school.

As mentioned in the previous communication, we have taken steps to keep our school environment as clean as possible by encouraging regular and good handwashing practices and keeping surfaces clean. We would like to ask that you are doing the same things at home, which include;

- Washing hands with soap and water before and after eating as well as after attending the toilet
- Washing hands for 20 seconds making sure all parts of the hand are washed
- Drying hands thoroughly with paper towels
- Covering coughs and sneezes with clean tissues or with an elbow
- Putting used tissues in the bin
- Cleaning surfaces regularly

We want to remind you that we do not want children to bring toys from home. This includes all sports equipment. We will provide sports equipment for the children to play with.

At Rutherford the children currently play first and eat at the end of break times. From Monday we will change to children eating first and then playing. This is so we can allow more time to ensure that children wash their hands before eating. This will not affect lunch orders as we will ensure lunches are still available at the new time.

We know that some children will be worried about what is happening in the world right now. The Ministry of Education has provided some really useful information on their website around how to talk to children about the virus. You might like to have a look at this;

[https://bit.ly/RPS\\_MOE](https://bit.ly/RPS_MOE)

We are so lucky to have such an amazing school community. We thank everyone for their support. As always, if you have any questions, please contact me at [amandab@rutherfordprimary.school.nz](mailto:amandab@rutherfordprimary.school.nz)

Nga mihi nui  
Amanda Bennett  
Acting Principal

