

Te Aroha Primary School

Kia ora koutou

I am sure you have followed with interest the announcements made by the Prime Minister over the past days and weeks.

It is reassuring to hear how well our country has done at minimising the impacts of COVID-19. Alert Levels 4 and 3 have not been easy and I thank you for your ongoing support for the work we are doing at our school.

Last week the Prime Minister advised that in Alert Level 2 schools will be able to open again. The good news is that our school will be able to open again when we have all the measures in place to provide a safe learning and working environment for our students and staff.

The key Public Health approach is:

- to minimise the risk that someone gets infected in the first place,
- and second to ensure we can identify and contact anyone who has been in close contact with a person, if someone in a school is infected.

As we have done in Alert Level 3, you can be assured that in Alert Level 2 we will know who is at our school, who our staff and children have been in close contact with and take appropriate measures to keep everyone safe.

Physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease. We do, however, know it is near impossible in a school environment to ensure safe distancing all of the time, so good hygiene practices and regular cleaning are even more important here. This includes staff and children coughing into their elbows, handwashing and drying and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.

Under Alert Level 2, we are advising our staff and ask you to keep any children home if they are sick, and we will contact you and send anyone home immediately if they show any symptoms.

It's important, however, that not just at our school but at home, safe hygiene habits are practised by everyone, as this is essential to minimise the risk that someone gets infected with Covid-19.

For more information about the public health measures at Alert Level 2, you can visit the covid19.govt.nz website: <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

The Prime Minister will make an announcement on Monday about whether we will drop from Alert Level 3 to Alert Level 2 or not. If we do drop to Alert Level 2 then our school will be ready to welcome our students back to school from Monday 18 May 2020.

If we move to Level 2 I will send home, later in the week, a letter containing all of the requirements and procedures which parents and children will need to know before arriving back at school. At Level 2 it still won't be business as usual as there are still many health and safety practices that will be required to be followed by parents, students and staff at our school.

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR FAMILIES

The link to the questionnaire is found below and we ask that all families please complete it. This will help us with our future planning. The questionnaire will close on Wednesday night at 8.30pm.

<https://forms.gle/LJNqTDcf3D73nuH46>

We will be in touch again soon to update you on our plans.

Ngā mihi

Kevin Johnson
Principal/Tumuaki