

Kia ora parents

Yesterday afternoon our Prime Minister announced that New Zealand will move from covid Alert Level 4 to Level 3 on Tuesday 28 April. We were also told that schools can be open in a very limited way to supervise certain learners from Wednesday 29 April. It was great to hear that people can leave their homes if they need to do so in order to return to work or run their businesses. Of course, the covid safety protocols about physical distancing, etc, all still apply. The PM was very clear, Level 3 is like Level 4 in that we should stay home in our lockdown bubble unless we need to work away from home. However, we have been told that there can be a slight extension of bubbles, so some parents might get a nearby relative or a neighbour to look after their child when they go to work; but the new extended bubble must be carefully maintained.

Where there is no one at home able look after children, Year 7-10 learners can come to school during Level 3 and we will arrange for them to be supervised as they continue with their 'at home' learning.

At this stage during Level 3 we can offer at school:

- Supervision for learners who will carry on with their 'at home' learning, that will continue to be set online by their regular teachers.
- Learners will be in small bubbles at all times as per Ministry of Education directions.
- School will be open in this way from 8.40 am 'til 3.15 pm daily.
- All learners will be able to connect with their regular teachers between 10.45 am and 2 pm i.e. as per the modified lockdown timetable.

However:

- It is highly unlikely that learners will be supervised by their regular teachers.
- Learners who are not well (or from an at-home bubble where someone is not well) must not come to school during Level 3.
- Physical distancing will be a challenge. We will do our best but cannot guarantee the 1m spacing (indoors) or 2m (outdoors) at all times. There will be close supervision, but it very much depends on the kids.
- In our efforts to maintain physical distancing there will be considerable restrictions on movement and activities, eg, no groupwork, and no handball, no basketball, no adventure playground, no soccer, etc, during break times.
- We do not yet know about school buses.

We will be in touch again with more details later in the week; but in the meantime we need important information.

If you need us to supervise your child or children during Level 3, please complete the following brief survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PS89KGS> and get it back to us by tomorrow afternoon, Wednesday 22 April. Thank you.

NCEA and assessments: We are aware that some learners, particularly seniors, are concerned about assessment and gaining the appropriate credits/qualifications for their planned pathway. There will clearly need to be some adjustments this year and we will be communicating about assessment later this week. Under Alert Level 3, learning continues, but at this stage there will be no assessments.

We are very pleased that many New Zealanders can get back to work, and look forward to supporting this as best we can.

Let's continue to be calm, kind and careful.

Ka kite ano

James