

23 March 2020

Kia ora everyone

You will have heard by now that New Zealand is moving to 'Alert Level 4' within the next 48 hours. We are currently at Level 3.

Level 4 means:

- People instructed to stay at home
- Educational facilities closed
- Businesses closed except for essential services (e.g. supermarkets, pharmacies, clinics) and lifeline utilities
- Rationing of supplies and requisitioning of facilities
- Travel severely limited
- Major reprioritisation of healthcare services

This is a sad moment for our country, but I agree with the Prime Minister that it is a necessary step to safeguard all of us, and to save thousands of lives.

This means that:

1.

Tomorrow, Tuesday 24th March, Pinehurst School will be closed to students except for the children of essential workers. If you work in healthcare or another essential service, please contact Lisa Jones at lisa.jones@pinehurst.school.nz. She will be able to make arrangements to look after your children in school tomorrow. Staff will be in school to prepare to be fully online from Wednesday. **There will be no online lessons tomorrow.**

2.

Tomorrow, Tuesday 24th March, students will be able to collect work, resources and belongings from the school. They are able to come in at any time to do this, but they must do so quickly, and only to pick up belongings. Most children will already have these at home.

3.

From Wednesday, 25th March, Pinehurst School will be closed to everyone. This means that there will be nobody on the school site. We will have a full online curriculum for all students, and our teachers will give you more information about that tomorrow.

These arrangements are to last for four weeks initially. We hope that they will be successful, and that we will be able to resume our lives after that time.

We will write home with more information tomorrow, and we will be able to answer all of your questions in more detail as the days go by. Right now, we need to prioritise our children. This is an immensely unsettling time for all of us, but our job is to look up, be hopeful, be positive with our young people and to show them that we are ready for this, and that there are blue skies around the corner.

And remember: stay connected! We are all part of the same Pinehurst community, we are all still here, in our homes, talking to each other, asking and answering questions, sharing recipes, sending photos and connecting. All of us are still available to help, and we are lucky to be able to stay connected in this way. So keep talking! We don't actually think of it as closing: it's more that the school has temporarily moved online.

As ever, please write to me with any questions or concerns, and I will do my best to answer them.

Kia kaha

Alex

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**PINEHURST
SCHOOL**

Our place