

30 March 2020

Good morning everyone

I hope you've all had a good weekend. An odd one, I'm sure, for all of us; but a good one nonetheless. We have one week of school left before our holidays begin, and I hope the whole family is looking forward to the week ahead.

I also hope everyone's managing okay. Like everyone else, I wake up each morning to the events happening around the world, thinking about the impact on people's health as well as the impact on their lives and wellbeing and jobs. We will all know people overseas and in New Zealand who are afraid for their health and their wellbeing, and how they're going to look after their families. Our thoughts are with them. Some of our families will also be worried about how they're financially going to cope - we are thinking of you too at this time, and I encourage you to contact me if you have particular concerns. I will be writing to everyone about this specifically later in the week. Our thoughts are also with people working in hospitals, clinics, care homes, supermarkets - people doing jobs that need to be done at this time.

On support: I want to thank all of our parents and staff who are supporting our essential workers. I understand that people in our community are looking after children and supporting each other in a range of ways: thank you on behalf of all of us.

I've just met with my senior team and then the whole staff online, and thanked them on behalf of all of the parents who have written to us. It's a huge team effort from our staff, and I'm very proud of them. It's also a team effort from our whole community, and I'm equally proud of the way our students and parents have responded. I think a special 'shout out' needs to go to the teachers who are also parents of school age children: an amazing job!

Amongst the things I highlighted were:

- interacting live online
- recording lessons
- quick feedback and marking
- active work
- Jack Superstar Taylor
- Effort and planning
- Fun!

And I talked about how important interaction is - the "being present" part is a key aspect of what we're doing, and we'll be sustaining that.

This week, we should find that our basic routines are becoming established. These five days will be busy, but then we have two weeks holiday, which will give us all some breathing space.

A few quick items:

- Our Facebook page - “Pinehurst School” will become more and more active this week. Please check it out.
- We will be doing a newsletter on Friday - it may look slightly different, but we’re looking forward to showing everyone what we have all been up to
- Our Board meet (online) on Wednesday: I don’t usually mention Board meetings, but these are unusual circumstances, so if you have anything you wish to pass on to the Board or ask them, feel free to either let me know, or you can directly contact any Board member you know, or contact the Chairman of the Board, Peter Davies, directly. His contact details are available from Lisa Jones, at Lisa.jones@pinehurst.school.nz.

Finally: we’re now a few days in, and we will be reflecting on things we think have gone well, and things that we might wish to tweak over the next 3 weeks before the start of Term 2. Please feel free to let me know of any suggestions you have. We won’t be able to do everything, but we will take every suggestion on board and see what we can do.

Have a good day and take care. And have fun online!

Alex

Alex Reed

*Executive Principal
Pinehurst School*

Phone: **+64 (0)9 414 0960**

Mobile: **+64 (0)21 194 8584**

Email: **Alex.Reed@pinehurst.school.nz**

pinehurst.school.nz