



Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020

Kia ora tātou,

**Re: Moving to Level 3 at Raumati Beach School.**

I apologise in advance for the length of this newsletter, but feel it is important to get information out to you, in a timely and clear manner.

As you may have heard schools are opening on 29 April for children that **“need”** to attend.

The purpose of this communication with you is for the School to outline what “need” means and also important information for you to consider regarding what being on site at our school is likely to look like for your child.

The message from the Prime Minister at Alert Level 3 is ‘to stay at home and save lives’.

Need to be at school means - Schools are operational for children **who do not have a parent, caregiver or other child care arrangement**. If there is a parent or caregiver available to look after children at home, children **are to stay at home.**

The Prime Minister has made this decision on the following two key public health principles that support Alert Level 3.

1. To minimise the risk that someone gets infected in the first place
2. To limit the number of possible contacts people have if they do get infected to make it easier to rapidly stop further spread.

The Prime Minister also stated...

***Work and learn from home if you can. We still want the vast majority of people working from home, and children and young people learning from home. At-risk students and staff should also stay at home, and they will be supported to do so. Early learning centres and schools will physically be open for up to Year 10 for families that need them.***

The Alert level 3 approach in an ECE or school environment is designed to limit the number of people that children have contact with based on these principles. The evidence points to children having a lower risk of getting infected and being affected by COVID-19, and where it is possible to ensure that children are within the same group each day (with no mixing between rooms), it is safe from a public health perspective to have a group of children learning together in one room or physical space (but to keep that group small).

Importantly, as a school we will endeavour to follow Ministry guidelines which, in my view, are challenging. We know that despite our best efforts kids will be kids: there is the potential of contact between students either directly or via equipment or via the environment. We will do our best to support physical distancing, but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do it!

If your child needs to be at school, it will be a very different environment to what they left before the lockdown.

- Your child may not have their usual teacher
- Your child may not be with their usual peer group
- Your child may not be in their usual classroom
- Your child will be in class bubble of up to 10 others
- Your child will continue to use the distance learning programme
- Teachers will be in a supervision role not a teaching role due to distancing requirements
- Your child may be potentially mixing with different students as we cannot guarantee keeping these class bubbles apart
- Your child may not have their parent/caregiver enter the buildings/classrooms
- If your child is sick, they do not come to school
- Your child may not bring or play with shared items e.g. toys, devices, food, stationery, or P.E. equipment.
- Drinking fountains will not be operating
- The school library will be closed
- School Playgrounds will continue to be closed
- The school day, hours, pick up and drop off may be different

This environment could potentially be very unsettling for your child: because of physical distancing staff are not able to comfort students in the normal ways, especially junior students.

We will be seeking expressions of intent for your child to attend school when it reopens and will send you out a Google Form.

**Parents are to only inform the school that they will be sending their children if they meet the “need” criteria** set by the Prime Minister which is -

*‘At Alert Level 3 stay at home and save lives. Schools are operational for children who do not have a parent, caregiver or other arrangement. If there is a parent or caregiver available to look after children at home and school children have access to distance learning, children are to stay at home.*

*Parents and caregivers have responsibilities to help make plans work and to keep children and the education workforce safe. ‘*

Please do not contact us to say that your child will be remaining at home.

We thank you for your support and working alongside the school at this very difficult time.

Mike Farrelly  
Principal

Nichola Coe  
BOT Chairperson

**[STUDENT ATTENDANCE INTENTION](https://forms.gle/BwTQqF17NpgxYpPT6)**  
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