

Wednesday 25th March, 2020

Kia ora koutou

Good evening everyone,

This is a thank you to our community for the way that you have all rallied to support the school over the past week. It is an uncertain time for us all as we head into a four week lockdown. We appreciate your care and concern.

The safety, health and general wellbeing of everyone is the most important thing at the moment.

Yesterday the staff worked hard to make sure that you have all received a plan of school work that should more than cover this week and into the holidays. They have also planned for the 2 weeks following the holidays and will keep in regular contact with you. Here are a few points for you to consider:

- **PLEASE NOTE; THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS ARE CLOSED FROM MIDNIGHT TONIGHT- MARCH 25TH 2020-THIS INCLUDES THE FIELDS -UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**
- **The school holidays are now March 30th to April 14th – so please make sure your children are not doing school work over this time unless they want to.**
- **Term 2 starts on Wednesday April 15 with learning at home until further notice.**
- Take very good care of yourselves and your families. Our community is a strong one and I am sure everyone will do the right thing and hunker down for the next four weeks.

This is from the latest bulletin from the Ministry of Education and we have been asked to pass this information on to our communities.

State of Emergency declared

A nationwide message will go out to all of New Zealand between 6pm and 7pm this evening. It is vital that all your community understand how crucial it is that they self-isolate within their group, minimise travel, practice physical distancing when outside their group and outside, and practice very good hygiene for the next 4 weeks.

There will be no tolerance for people who don't self-isolate.

Schools are closed

After 11.59pm today, **no one** is to go on site to schools during the lockdown. If there is an emergency Police and/or Fire services will respond.

Government announcement about children aged 0 – 14 of Essential Workers

Further to our Bulletin content about self-isolating groups (circles of care), the Government has confirmed the following arrangements today.

Where possible, essential workers need to make their own arrangements for childcare from Thursday 26 March until the end of the lockdown, due to limited capacity.



Where this is not possible alternative arrangements have been made so essential workers can continue to work.

What essential workers need to know when making their own arrangements

Essential workers will need to use their existing networks for in home care, for example a neighbour, relative, friend or current carer/nanny who can come to their house, or provide childcare in their own home. There are Public Health rules that must be observed:

- The person caring for your child becomes part of your self-isolating group
- This group must remain the same for the whole period
- The carer must not care for children from other households (other than their own) over the same period
- If a child or carer becomes unwell, they must stay at home

If essential workers do not have access to childcare through their own networks

If essential workers are unable to access childcare to perform their essential service, the government will fund other licensed childcare providers (for example through PORSE, Barnados and Edubase / Home Grown Kids) to provide in home care to children aged 0-14 of essential workers. The carer would be subject to the same Public Health rules as set out above.

For the purposes of providing care to children of essential workers, the in home carer will be classified as an essential worker in both cases.

Initial list of contact details for providers

- [Barnados website](#) - email covid19enquiries@barnardos.org.nz or call 0800 BARNARDOS (0800 227 627)
- [Edubase / Home Grown Kids website](#) or call 0508 44 54 37 or email info@hgk.co.nz
- [PORSE website 0800 023 456](#)

Be kind to one another. I have attached a poster that may give some great ideas for kindness acts in your home and family for the foreseeable future. Some of the simpler things in life that doesn't involve a screen! In a few short hours we go in to lock down.

kindest and warmest of wishes to you all. Keep safe.
See you on the other side.

Please don't forget we are only an email away if you need any advice.

Ngā mihi
Cleonie

