



COVID-19 Update

As you are all aware, the COVID-19 landscape is constantly changing. It is important to note that the infection rate in New Zealand is extremely low. Schools are still a safe place for children to be and we are currently acting on advice provided by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education. There are some things we can do to help reduce the risk and limit the times larger groups are in 'close contact' with each other.

The most important advice still remains:

- The importance of good hygiene practices, especially washing hands regularly;
- Staying home when sick;
- For some there may also be issues around travel. Please make sure you are familiar with the guidelines regarding travel. Information is available on the Ministry of Health website.

Therefore, as a result of the advice we are receiving we have made some decisions about practical measures we can put in place. We feel it is important for us to be proactive so we can continue to focus on the learning programmes for our children.

It is important to remember that these decisions are precautionary only and are **not** the result of any confirmed case within our community.

Event Changes/Cancellations

- Ruru Swimming Sports - Cancelled
- GRIP Leadership Conference (student leaders) - Cancelled
 - GRIP are providing us with online materials so we will still be able to deliver a programme for them. Date to be confirmed.
- Whanau Evening - Cancelled
- East Group Tabloids Yr 1 & 2 and Yr 3 & 4 - Postponed to Term 4
- Duffy Role Model Assembly - Cancelled

School Changes

The purpose of making these changes is to minimise the risk by reducing the number of opportunities the children have to be in close proximity with each other across the school. We realise that the children will still be playing during morning tea and lunch breaks but we are looking at situations where children are in close proximity with one another.

- Assemblies - Cancelled for the remainder of the term. Will review next term.
- Bible In Schools - Cancelled for the remainder of the term. Will review next term.

Hygiene Practices

The strong message still remains that the most effective way of reducing risk is through regular hand washing. We ask that families reinforce the importance of hand washing at home.

Communication With Parents, Whanau and Caregivers

We will continue to update you whenever we have new information.

Thank you for your understanding and support. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Regards

Blair Johnston

Principal

principal@pokeno.school.nz