

23 March 2020



Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whanau

### **Prime Minister's Decision on Schooling and COVID-19**

This afternoon our Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern announced an immediate shift to **Alert Level 3 status with a lift to Level 4 in 48 hours. It will remain this way for at least four weeks.**

This means that **schools close from tomorrow for all but children of identified essential workers** and all schools will close entirely from mid-night on Wednesday. Essential workers are doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers and police.

Thank you to all our families who have been in contact with us over the last weeks and especially over the last days. I know this is a time where there is heightened anxiety for some and you are very worried for your children, other family and especially elderly family members. In this time, we hope to ease the restrictions, on abiding by the rules. Without the following steps, tens of thousands of New Zealanders will die and we are preparing to go into self-isolation in the same way we have seen many other countries do.

This is what that means:

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

All New Zealanders who are outside essential services are being asked to stay at home.

It is important to gain exercise, go for a walk, but it must be solitary. Only spend time with people you are in isolation with. Otherwise, keep a two-metre distance from everyone else. This shift is “a window of opportunity to break the chain” and avert the catastrophe seen overseas, especially as there is confidence that there is community transmission in New Zealand.

The following arrangements are being provided for distance learning through remote access.

Our primary hub for online learning resources for each of your child's school subjects will be our learning management system, **Schoology**. On **Schoology**, your child's school subjects are divided into 'courses' where teachers are able to post learning materials such as worksheets, videos and weblinks.

Through **Schoology** teachers are able to set work, collect work and assess digitally. **Schoology** also connects with other digital tools, and as such, has the ability to allow teachers and students to visually 'conference' remotely. Teachers will be trialling this with their students as arranged.

I am awaiting official confirmation of changes to the upcoming school holiday break from the Secretary for Education and will be able to give further details of this tomorrow.

**Senior students and students without laptops, you can come and collect any essential resources needed for you to complete your assessment tasks from home tomorrow (Tuesday) 10 am to 12 noon. Students without laptops can come and collect a school laptop from Mrs Heffernan at the same time (10 am to 12 noon). Any issues with collection, please contact your subject teacher urgently by email.**

Be kind. What we need is for everyone to look out for each other and give support where required. Check on your neighbours, extended family and plan how you'll keep in touch. We'll all get through this together but only if we stick together. Be strong and be kind.

Always remember, '*Faith is our Compass*'.

With Blessings

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. J. Moore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Louise Moore  
Principal and Spiritual Leader