

21 April 2020



Dear Parents/Caregivers and Whānau

I trust that everyone in our SMC community continues to keep safe in your 'bubble' with family members.

With the Government Announcement made yesterday afternoon, about moving to Alert Level 3 from 11.59 pm on Monday, 27 April (ANZAC Day), I wish to outline what the school's intention is under the Level 3 Guidelines.

Preparations are underway to effectively and safely prepare for the re-opening of school next Wednesday (29 April) to provide support for parents who work in essential services so that they can continue the valuable and important work that they are doing, as well as to support parents who have to return to work and are unable to extend their 'bubble' to include a caregiver. The Prime Minister is wanting learning to continue to be done from home, so if you have supervision for your child(ren) at home, your child(ren) do NOT need to be at school, you are being encouraged to keep them at home. Our best defence against COVID-19 still remains...STAY AT HOME!

A critical aspect at this time, is to have a response from you about your intention for your child(ren) to return to school next Wednesday. We require this information **no later than the end of Wednesday (tomorrow)** to enable progress with our planning and preparation especially to have robust contact registers and the recording of non-attendance. Please click on the link to respond. [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfq1urp3auHZk5MGxNzeuDmtHyeBRm\\_meliEbmgy-3SMYJJOA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfq1urp3auHZk5MGxNzeuDmtHyeBRm_meliEbmgy-3SMYJJOA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

### Guidelines for the Re-Opening of SMC COVID-19 Alert Level 3

- If there is a parent/caregiver available to look after children at home, please keep them at home.
- Keep any sick children at home. If a child who is sick comes to school, we will send them home.
- All students will be doing online learning at school or at home. There will be no teaching, only supervision.
- There will be one adult supervisor each day per bubble.
- Students will stay in their allocated 'bubble' all day and during break times.
- 'Bubble' composition may include students from different year levels.
- Students will not be able to change their 'bubble'.
- There will be no contact across 'bubbles', students will stay in the same classroom all day.
- Students must bring earphones if they have these as well as their device.
- There will be no school buses operating to minimise contact.
- The School Canteen will not be open. Students will need to come to school with food (morning tea and lunch) and their water bottle. There will be no food deliveries.
- A 'bubble' will comprise up to 10 students initially and when systems are working well this will increase to 20 students. Siblings will be in the same 'bubble'.
- The number of students returning will determine the number of 'bubbles' that will be onsite at school.
- The Guideline sets out the social distancing best practice both inside and outside the classroom, 2m.



- There will be no sporting activities, including PE that could allow the transfer of the virus.
- School start times will be staggered, break times will be scheduled only in your designated bubble area
- Each 'bubble' will be allocated an entry point to the school to minimise the number of students entering at the same point.
- Students will be following the timetable structure that has been sent out at the time of the Lockdown. This means students will do remote learning with their usual class (either from home or from school).

We are aware that some homes have not yet received their device. This is due to stock levels but we have been assured that more stock has arrived in the last few days and more stock has been ordered. These are being delivered to homes as quickly as possible. Your patience is appreciated. If you experience a problem with getting connected please email your issue to [home@sanctamaria.school.nz](mailto:home@sanctamaria.school.nz).

We will be extending the deadline for 2021 enrolment applications. Information on this will be coming to you via facebook and will be on our website. It will allow adequate time for all preference documentation to be finalised with your Parish Priest. There will be a drop-off box located at the front door of the college for completed applications. At this time, you will not be able to speak to school personnel if you have questions. There will be time for this at a later stage.

Thank you to all our wonderful students who are engaging with their teacher in their online learning. If any student is experiencing difficulty with this, please send a message to your teacher so that they can be in contact with you to see how they can assist. If the issue is broader than a particular subject, the Dean is also available for you to contact. Similarly, Mrs Goddard (Guidance Counsellor) and other counselling support is available for any student who wishes to be put in contact. Please contact Mrs Goddard at [j.goddard@sanctamaria.school.nz](mailto:j.goddard@sanctamaria.school.nz) or email your Dean.

## Reports

Unfortunately, Term 1 progress reports were delayed in being sent out to parents and students due to the lockdown. These will be published to our **Parent Portal on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May**. You will receive an email when they are live and a reminder of your portal log on details. This will be a good opportunity to go through the report with your child and encourage them to reflect on how they felt they were progressing in each subject. Do they know what they need to do to improve?

A postponement of parent interviews has had to occur. Please continue to communicate via email with your child's teachers if you have questions or concerns about your child's achievement. Our teachers are happy to email or speak to you directly. New dates for Teacher/Student/Parent interviews will be rescheduled. A date for this event will be communicated when we have returned to school in our full capacity.

I wish to acknowledge the support we have received from Parents/Caregivers and Whānau since we first became aware of COVID-19 in late January. We can all see the devastating impact it has on



communities across the world, yet New Zealand has come a long way! Everyone in your family must not become relaxed with 'best practice' for some time to come. We are in this together so we can return to a safer and healthier New Zealand.

With Blessings to you and your family.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'L. J. Moore'.

Louise Moore  
**Principal**