

CENTENNIAL PARK SCHOOL

“ Live Truly”

50 Te Kuiti Road, TE KUITI 3910

Phone: (07) 878 7709

Fax: (07) 878 6837

email: principal@centennialpark.school.nz



PRINCIPAL: Kevin Ikin

Principal's Residence: (07) 878 5000

8th May 2020

(Letter #5)

Kia ora e te whanau,

I am sure most of you have followed with interest the recent announcements made by the Prime Minister Jacinda Adern.

It is reassuring to hear how well our country has done at minimizing the impacts of COVID-19. Alert Levels 4 and 3 have not been easy and we really appreciate and thank you for your ongoing support for the work we are all doing to manage through this challenge.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister advised that in Alert Level 2 schools are safe environments for children, young people and staff and that additional public health control measures are in place to prevent the spread of disease and to support contact tracing.

We will be able to travel a lot more freely but under precautionary guidelines. There are limits on numbers coming together for functions and our planning moving forward will reflect this accordingly.

The good news is that we are ready to welcome all students and staff back to our school site. But remember, if you or your child have a cold or are unwell, please do not come into kura.

The key Public Health approach is to minimise the risk that someone gets infected in the first place, and second to ensure we can identify and contact anyone who has been in close contact with a person, if someone in a school is infected.

As we have done in Alert Level 3, you can be assured that in Alert Level 2 we will know who is at school, who our staff and students have been in close contact with and take appropriate measures to keep everyone safe.

Physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease. We do however know it is challenging in schools, so good hygiene practices and regular cleaning are even more important here. This includes staff and students coughing into their elbows if they need to cough, handwashing and drying with regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.

Under Alert Level 2, we advise any students and staff to stay at home if they are sick, and we will send anyone home immediately if they show any symptoms.

Our school has safe and sensible practices to maintain the health and safety of everyone on the school site. As described by Dr Payinda in his [NZ Herald article](#), "Covid's not measles or chickenpox, it doesn't hang in the air for hours waiting to infect passers-by. It travels on invisible drops of spit. You don't have to cross the street to avoid anyone. Just avoid getting in their 'moist breath' zone".

We all just need to remember to have some breathing space at Alert Level 2!

It's important however that not just at school but at home, safe hygiene habits are practised by everyone, as this is essential to minimise the risk that someone gets infected with Covid-19.

For more information about the public health measures at Alert Level 2, you can visit the covid19.govt.nz website: <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

If you have any questions about our health and safety plan, or have a child who might be vulnerable to serious illness and would like to discuss a plan for them, please contact either your child's Kaiako or me personally.

This Monday (11th May) is the day the Prime Minister will confirm the decision to move into Level 2. There will be further guidelines around how we can operate as a kura. We will then be notifying you our whanau of what this will look like.

We will be in touch again next week to update you on our plans.

Remember School will be restarting on Monday 18th May 2020

Nga manaakitanga ki a koutou katoa

Kevin Ikin - Principal - Centennial Park School / Te Kura Rautau