

Email to parents, 20 August 2021

Kia ora e te whānau,

You will probably have caught up with this afternoon's news about the whole country staying in Level 4 lockdown until Tuesday night at least.

School closed Monday 23rd - Tuesday 24th August

The key messages are to stay home, stay safe in your bubble, and only go out for essential services - for example, supermarkets, pharmacies, clinics, petrol stations and lifeline utilities, or safe recreational activity in local area.

The Ouruhia staff and I are meeting in the morning to prepare some learning activities and fun challenges for the children. We hope these will be fun, varied and engaging, require little parental input and little screen time (we do not want children in front of screens for more than an hour or so a day!). We want children to be showing our school values:

- **independence** (which includes self-management, initiative and best effort in all that you do without having to be reminded);
- being a **thinker** (showing curiosity and creativity);
- being **caring and sharing** (thinking of others, helping out, not always wanting your own way, taking turns, being kind); and having a
- **can-do attitude** (sticking at tasks even when they seem hard, not giving up, keeping a positive mindset.)

These suggested class activities will be sent to you by class teachers by the end of the weekend. The last thing we want to do is make your job as parents harder, so if the suggested class activities are problematic for you, then keep in mind that any things that the children do that are developing their values (these are not just school values, but whole of life values) will be time well spent. You can't go past reading to and with your child, gardening or doing jobs outside, playing games and exercising with your child, teaching them a skill, and talking often about their learning. Just don't leave them on devices or in front of TV unsupervised or for the whole day :)

If you need anything from school (e.g. personal devices, musical instruments, library books, reading/drawing/paper activities), we are allowed to access the school for that purpose on Monday in a strictly controlled way. Any requests for access must be sent to me by **reply email** or at principal@ouruhia.school.nz and I will forward that request on to your child's teacher, who will arrange a time with you. Please be as specific with your request as you can, e.g.

Parent name:

Child's name:

Materials or resources requested:

Preference (delete one): contactless delivery to my home at (state address) / pickup from school

Other comments/questions:

Here are the strict conditions that we must adhere to when supporting families in this way:

In addition to staff being able to go onsite to prepare and arrange for delivery of hard pack materials and devices, [an exemption has now been granted](#) so that **in limited circumstances**, some parents, caregivers or students will be able to come onto a school or early learning site in order to collect materials or devices to support distance learning.

The conditions for this exemption are–

Parents, caregivers and students can access a school or early learning service site in order to collect education resources from their education provider, where:

1. those resources are necessary to enable the student to participate in remote learning through their education provider; **and**
2. it has not been feasible or possible for the education provider to deliver or arrange for the delivery of the education resources to the student. For example, where it is not practical or safe to arrange for delivery or the education provider has been unable to obtain an address for the student; **and**

This exemption is conditional on early learning services and schools acting in accordance with the following requirements:

3. limited staff onsite at any one time (operating with the minimum staff possible)
4. ensure staff working onsite are physically distanced (one metre), use personal protective equipment (PPE)* and practice good hand hygiene
5. ensure high-touch surfaces are cleaned in between use by different staff (if they have staff rostered in the morning and then a second shift of staff in the afternoon)
6. avoid large gatherings of whānau and caregivers through rostering and staggering when people can pick their resources up
7. ensure physical distancing (two metres) and the use of face coverings by those attending to pick the resources up
8. ensure good contact tracing systems are in place including checking in via the COVID Tracer App or an alternative means
9. request anyone who is unwell to stay at home and seek advice from Healthline on getting tested.

All the conditions from 1 to 9 **must be met** for you to distribute materials on the school or early learning service site.

Contactless delivery to homes is the preferred method for getting materials to the majority of your learners.

* A face covering and gloves (to be used when handling materials) is considered PPE.

Take care,
Mark Ashmore-Smith
Principal

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