



Wednesday 18th March 2020

RE: Coronavirus/COVID-19 Update

Dear Parents and Caregivers

At present Greytown School is still considered to be low risk with daily updates being received and acted upon by our Board of Trustees and Staff. This letter is to keep you up to date with the current information we have on hand. If this changes we will update our community again.

SCHOOL HYGIENE

As a school, we have increased our daily cleaning regimes and put other procedures in place to increase and monitor regular handwashing and hygiene practices for staff and students.

If your child is unwell please keep them at home until their immune system has recovered. This will keep them safe and others at school.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Today families will be sent out the current emergency contacts that we have on file. Can you please double-check that these are correct and if they are different can you please return this form with the new information as soon as possible.

FAMILIES TRAVELLING

We have had a couple of parents that have recently travelled overseas or are in the process of coming back. They have contacted me to advise us that they have either been given the all-clear by medical professionals or are/will be self-isolating themselves and their family until they are once again cleared. We would like to thank these parents for keeping our school informed and working alongside us and the Ministry of Health to keep our community safe.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Many of our children order Fried Rice on Wednesdays and Fridays. At present this service is still going ahead, however, the ultimate decision for ordering this service is up to parents. Our local Fish and Chip shop will continue to meet the strictest of Food Hygiene standards as part of their own business requirements.

YEARS 7 AND 8 TECHNOLOGY

On Fridays our Year 7 and 8 students head to Kuranui College between 9-11 am. This will continue as normal until further notice as both schools are currently working at a low level of risk. Simon Fuller (Kuranui College Principal) and I are in regular contact and if this programme needed to stop we will inform parents immediately.

ANXIOUS KIDS

Our children are well aware of the Coronavirus/Covid-19 outbreak, however, their understanding will vary as they talk or overhear information from different children and sources (eg: General "gossip" or "factual reports" from friends and peers, News, Newspapers, Social Media etc).

Please talk with your child to

- see how they are feeling about it.
- ensure that they are correctly informed about what is going on.
- answer the questions that they have.

- to reassure them and remind them we are all doing our best to keep them safe and the importance of hygiene practices.

Remember to take time to think about how much discussion is healthy for your child and to also talk to them about how to handle discussions

POSSIBLE SCHOOL CLOSURE

At present, it is unknown what the chances of our school closing is. For our school to be closed the Ministries of Health and Education would make the decision based on an identified case of COVID-19 occurring in our immediate school community.

At present we do not have any cases and we are working at a low-risk level. However, if this situation changes we will keep our community fully informed as soon as we know.

To help your home we encourage all our parents/caregivers to start thinking about arrangements for your family in the possibility that the school was directed to close. If we were to close, it is uncertain as to how long we would be closed for and parents need to be prepared for a few days or longer.

DIGITAL DEVICE ACCESS

Just in case our school was closed our teachers are working behind the scenes to ensure that children's learning would be able to carry on in their home eg: Digitally sending work home or learning in a paper form (if no device was available at home).

To help us help you IF the school was closed, we need to know if your family would have any difficulty accessing learning for your child/ren using a device or the internet. If this is the case can you please fill out the following slip and return it to your class teacher as soon as possible.

RECENT UPDATE AND SCHOOL EVENTS

Our recent update from the Ministries of Health and Education advised us that school assemblies and any community event with a possible turn out of over 500 should be postponed. In addition, we have received updates from other event organisers that will impact on upcoming school events.

As a result

- Our fortnightly **whole school assemblies** will be temporarily **postponed** until further notice.
- Our **Moving On Wheel Day and Bike Track opening** on Friday 27th March will also be **postponed** until a later date as this school event brings in a crowd with our students to potentially over 500.
- **Years 7 and 8 EOTC Trips** are **postponed** to a later date as our EOTC specialist has worked with recent international clients and together with Senior Leadership have made this decision as a precautionary step.
- **Cricket Team Finals and Girls Give it a go day Cricket event** - are **postponed** as of this morning.

FINALLY

On behalf of our staff and Board of Trustees, we would like to thank our community for their support during this time and helping us to keep our children and families as safe as possible.

Yours sincerely

Patrice O'Connor, Principal of Greytown School

DIGITAL DEVICE AND INTERNET ACCESS

In the event that the school was directed to close for COVID-19 my child/ren

..... in Room

..... in Room

..... in Room

..... in Room

would *(tick those applicable to your situation)*

- ☐ have no access to a computer device to receive online learning.
- ☐ have no access to the internet.
- ☐ have very limited access to the internet (ie: Our family has a plan with low data amounts).

Signed:



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