



Riverina School

Term 1 2020

Courage- Māia, Courtesy- Atawhaitanga, Kindness- Manaakitanga

Kia Ora, Talofa Lava, Ni Hao, Malo e lelei, Fakalofa Lahi Atu, Kia Orana, Salaam, Bula Vinaka, Sabai de, Namaste, Dia Dhaoibh, Annyoeng, Konichiwa, Kumusta, Bonjour, Hallo

MONDAY 23 MARCH



Every Child,
Every Opportunity

Week 8: Monday, 23 March 2020

Dear Riverina family and whanau

These are uncertain times at the moment and we are all making the best decisions we can, based on the information we receive. The most important message I would like to send to our community, is kindness and care, especially for our children. Our children are just as worried as we are right now. They can hear everything that is going on around them, and feel our tension and anxiety. They have never experienced anything like this before. Over the coming weeks, you will see an increase in behaviour issues with your children. Whether it's anxiety, or anger, or protest that they can't do things normally - it will happen. What they need right now is to feel comforted and loved. To feel like it's all going to be ok. Take care of yourselves and your family. We are all in this together.

Goal Setting Interviews- Postponed

Our Goal Setting Interviews were under review last week. As a result of Level 2 Alert for the country we are going to postpone these until Term 2. Apologies to those who have made appointments.



Please contact school with your latest **email address** as we may use this to provide you with updates in these current times. We will be using email as a point of contact for online learning should the school close. Please email admin@riverina.school.nz to update your email.

PB4L Focus

Our focus- We are responsible for healthy hygiene habits.

Use soap and water to keep your hands clean. Wash your hands for 20 seconds to get rid of the dirt and germs.	Be respectful to others if you cough or sneeze. Cover them with a tissue or your elbow and then wash your hands.
Use sanitiser to keep your hands extra clean and to help get rid of any germs which may be there.	If you are unwell, you should not be at school. Coughing, sore throats and fevers can be passed to other people, so you should stay at home if you have any of these.

Nga mihi
Carol Dickinson
Principal

COVID – 19 Saturday 21 March Announcement and Implications

Kia ora Whanau,

With Saturday's announcement ([LINK](#)) that New Zealand has moved to Alert Level 2 – Reduce Contact for COVID-19 ([LINK](#)), people over 70 years of age and those with compromised immunity and certain existing medical conditions are asked to remain at home as much as they can from now on, and avoid any non-essential travel. Staff, children and young people in schools and early learning services are therefore asked to follow this advice.

We will be encouraging our staff who fall into this category to stay at home and if possible continue to support school curriculum or other school activities for example providing pastoral care by phone, marking, and lesson planning. This will inevitably have knock on effects on our day to day organisation, the way in which we are able to operate and usual teaching and learning in some areas. We are anticipating that we will have several staff away from school as a result and we will keep you informed as we endeavour to ensure school remains a place of routine, learning, joy and safety for our children.

We are requesting that ANY CHILDREN with conditions which fall into these categories, do not attend school. If you unsure, please contact me for support or guidance: c.dickinson@riverina.school.nz **Our community's wellbeing is our main priority and we wish to minimise any risk to children, and adults, especially at this time and based on MOE guidance, those with compromised immunity or certain medical conditions, by ensuring they are not compromised at school.** In order to maintain accurate records, we ask that you email our office on admin@riverina.school.nz to report the absence with the specific reason, as stated here.

High Risk Individuals

While the majority of people who are confirmed with COVID-19 will experience mild to moderate symptoms, some individuals are at risk of more severe symptoms. Older people, particularly those with pre-existing health problems are more likely to get severe illness and are therefore considered at risk. High risk individuals also include people with underlying medical conditions, such as:

- a compromised immune system, liver disease, cancer, kidney disease, heart disease, diabetes mellitus

Further information is available at: [LINK](#) for help and advice; [LINK](#) for Ministry of Health. If you need further advice, please email me: c.dickinson@riverina.school.nz and I will endeavour to support you. Irrespective of specific medical conditions, should you choose to keep your child at home, due to the uncertainty of this event I want you to know I understand and I respect your decisions at this time.

What makes Riverina School special is our sense of community and our school values of Courage, Courtesy and Kindness. These are just as important for adults as well as our students. It is crucial that we remain true to these values, particularly in these challenging times. Please take time to think about our vulnerable members of our community and our dedicated workforce in the emergency services.

Planning for the future

As per information received on Friday we are still following the decision making tool from the Ministry of Education. I want to share what will happen if we have a case in our school community. As soon as a case is confirmed in our immediate school community, the Medical Officer of Health and the Ministry of Education will inform me about this, and we will work together to get quick and clear messages out to you.

If there is a confirmed case of someone in school, or the local community, we will be asked to close temporarily. This will allow time for contacts to be traced and careful cleaning of the school. If school does close, we have a plan in place to support students learning.

We know COVID-19 feels scary and people are concerned for the wellbeing of our children. Please be assured that we have no current cases confirmed in our school. We are working diligently to minimize the risk to our staff and students. We know that practising good hygiene is the best thing we can all do to prevent illness.

We are getting the most up to date advice and guidance so that we can confidently make informed decisions about the safety and wellbeing of the community. If your children are unwell in any way please keep them at home, contact school and inform your doctor.

If the school does close there will be provision for children of our health and emergency services. I also included in this category staff at chemists and supermarkets as they will be expected to be open for the community. Please take care of these people and show them courtesy and respect during these difficult times.

Talking to children

Our children will be looking to the adults for guidance. Talk to them in a positive manner and encourage understanding in a healthy and resilient manner, referring to the schools' C.C.K values. See this [link](#) for ideas

Kia Kaha (stay strong) and Keep safe!

SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19, FLU AND COLD

	DRY COUGH	FEVER	RUNNY NOSE	SORE THROAT	BREATH-LESSNESS	HEADACHE	BODY ACHES	SNEEZE	FATIGUE	DIARRHOEA
COVID -19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FLU	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
COLD	✓	~	✓	✓	✗	~	✓	✓	✓	✗

LEGEND: ✓ FREQUENTLY, ✓ SOMETIMES, ✓ LITTLE, ~ RARE, ✗ NOT
@STIOUXSTEW @XTOTL thespinoff.co.nz SOURCE: WHO, CDC CC-BY-SA
FOR THE LATEST INFO PLEASE SEE who.int or health.govt.nz 20 MARCH 2020



Kids are always learning.
What they're learning right now is
HOW ADULTS RESPOND.

JOSH STARR

edutopia