

Wednesday 3 March 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers of Opapeke School,

Kia ora koutou,

Principal: Sean Valvoi

Although there is nothing urgent, I need to inform you about, I thought it timely to provide you with an update ahead of the next big announcement on Friday.

Thanks for Your Support

I would like to continue to express my thanks to all parents and caregivers who are caring for their children at home. This is not always easy, especially if you are having to work from home as well. This has meant we only require two bubbles at school, and we can keep the number of staff at school to an absolute minimum.

An additional thank you to our bubble families who, when there is an adult available at home, keep their children at home. This helps reduce our daily numbers and makes things more manageable for our bubble teachers who are finding it difficult juggling online learning alongside classroom work, with a range of students. We have a total of 24 students between the two bubbles, this is the maximum we can take with two bubbles.

Devices for Families

We are pleased that we have been able to issue almost 70 school devices to families. This is a fantastic effort and I would like to thank Mrs Laing, Miss Hamlin and Mrs Pryor for working hard to make this happen. I hope that these devices will help students learn more effectively at home and enable them to participate in video meetings with their class and teacher.

I do want to stress to parents that I understand the huge pressure you are under at home organising other members of your household and many of you are trying to juggle working at home and the complexities of this. We have increased the opportunities for students to meet up via Teams video; however, parents should feel no pressure for the students to connect live – they may simply follow the work placed on the class sites. Younger children do require considerable support and this is simply not always possible in some homes. It is fair to say that all the work covered via video will also be covered when they return to school. You do not need to worry about your child falling behind.

Additional Distance Learning Resources

Once again, the Ministry of Education has their distance learning website [Learning from home](#). There is information and advice for parents and whānau and featured learning resources for students is split for years 1-4 and years 5-8. Home Learning TV / Papa Kāinga TV is still available for students to access via a link on the [Learning from home](#) site. Home Learning TV / Papa Kāinga TV will take over TVNZ Duke's daytime schedule 9am to 1pm on weekdays. This should help to supplement what is being provided through school.

Rescheduled Events

We were so fortunate last week to be at level 1 and for year 8 Camp and year 7 EOTC to go ahead. One week earlier or one week later and we would have had to cancel these. Unfortunately, we have been forced to cancel Family Fun Night, scheduled for tomorrow. I will keep you posted if we are able to provide an opportunity for you to meet the teacher in class. Students who applied to be a school councillor will give their talk hopefully in week 6 or 7. The PTA meeting due to happen this evening has now been postponed one week to next Wednesday 10 March at 7pm. In the school hall at alert level 1 or 2 and online at alert level 3. For sporting events this week or next week, we will update you

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as information comes to hand. We will endeavour to send a newsletter out next week so we can share all the good news stories about camp, EOTC, sports and learning.

Preparation for Level 2

We are prepared for any extension of Alert Level 3 and we have already begun preparations when the decision is made to move down alert levels. When the call to return to school is made please continue using the [NZ COVID Tracer App](#). This will be available at the school entrance gates so parents wishing to enter the school site can use the app to scan the QR code instead of signing the register. We also strongly encourage you to continue using the app at Alert Level 1. This is one of the safety measures in place to help keep our community safe. We appreciate your co-operation with using the app. All parents who needed to come on site during the last Level 2 were great about using it.

Let's continue working together to keep our tamariki and ourselves safe and happy by being smart and compassionate.

Ngā Mihi,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Valvoi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sean Valvoi