

Letter #8

Tuesday 31 August 2021

Principal: Sean Valvoi

Dear Parents and Caregivers of Ōpaheke School

Kia ora koutou,

No doubt you would have heard from the Prime Minister yesterday afternoon that Auckland would remain at level 4 for a further 2 weeks to Monday 13 September. Although this is difficult to see the rest of the country about to move to level 3 tomorrow, I am sure not many of you would be surprised by this. It does mean we will be continuing to provide support through distance learning while you are supporting your children at home. Of course, this will also continue at level 3 for all but a handful of students.

Although the official first day of spring in New Zealand is Thursday 23 September, many of us like to think that tomorrow, 1 September, is the first day of spring in the hope that the weather will agree also. We have certainly had a lot of rain lately.

#### [Final Date to Request Devices](#)

The final chance to request a school device is tomorrow, Wednesday 1 September by 12pm. Processing and distribution of devices requires staff to be on site during level 4 which we have now been doing for over 2 weeks. We are trying to minimise the movement outside our bubbles as much as possible.

We will contact you to arrange to get these devices to you on Thursday 2 September. <https://bit.ly/DeviceRequestAug2021>

#### [Online Team Meet-Ups](#)

Over the last few days, I have had the chance to join a number of classes for both their daily class meeting and their group lessons. I have been very impressed with the way all the teachers are using technology in creative ways to improve the engagement with students. I have also been impressed with how students are feeling more confident with sharing online during the chats and following the correct protocols.

Although the class learning sites are different from each other it is great to see the interaction with these and the effort teachers have put in to post activities and lessons which are pitched to interest the students.

We love to see the other ways your children are learning at home, creating and discovering. Please share your photos and maybe others will get some good ideas too. Send your photos with a short caption to [office@opaheke.school.nz](mailto:office@opaheke.school.nz)

As always, please let us know if there is anything you need to support you and your tamariki during this time.

Stay strong, stay safe and stay kind.

Noho oro mai,

Sean Valvoi  
Principal

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