

Letter #12

Tuesday 14 September 2021

Principal: Sean Valvoi

Dear Parents and Caregivers of Ōpaheke School

Kia ora koutou,

Yesterday afternoon the Prime Minister announced a continuation of current alert levels for the next week, and in principle, Auckland will move to Alert Level 3 at 11:59pm on Tuesday 21 September. The rest of New Zealand will remain in Alert Level 2. Cabinet will review the alert level settings for all of the country next Monday 20 September.

I know you will be disappointed by this outcome, although not all together surprising given the surge in cases over the weekend.

Distance Learning

We continue with distance learning for as long as is necessary and appreciate the work parents are having to do to support their children. We also understand that a great many of you work from home and need to juggle the requirements of work with the needs of your children. We acknowledge that you as parents and caregivers are best placed to make decisions about when and how much learning is done and we are striving to provide flexible, quality learning activities to support you and your children. It is pleasing to hear many employers are making your work at home as flexible as possible.

Contact Hours

We have decided to reduce the time that teachers can be contacted in the afternoon. Students and parents will be able to contact teachers between 8.30am and 3pm Monday to Friday. This gives teachers more time to get marking completed, and plan and prepare for the next day. We thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Vaccination

Ōpaheke School promotes all the school community 12+ years old to be vaccinated. The PM has said that the more of us who are vaccinated, the more it protects our whole community and has challenged everyone eligible in Auckland to have their first jab by the end of the week. It also could be a way forward for the country, into a lockdown free future. This site is useful to search for a vaccination site which will meet you and your whānau needs:

<https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/covid-19-vaccination/>

School Holidays

Given that we are unlikely to move to Level 2 before the school holidays more consideration is being given to these. We expect the Minister of Education to make an announcement whether to move the school holidays forward or to keep them the same. Being a state school, we will be required to follow any instruction the government makes on this matter.

Ph: 09 298 5410

Email: office@opaheke.school.nz

Tasman Drive, Papakura 2113

www.opaheke.school.nz

HELP! MY CHILD IS NOT ENGAGING IN THE WORK. WHAT CAN I DO?

Stay calm and keep communicating both with your child and with the teachers.

Remember if your child refuses to work you are not a bad parent and it is not the end of the world.

Let your child's teacher know so they can make adjustments and support the conversations you are having with your child. Ask them for a time to talk on the phone or by video call.

Try and get them to engage in something, start small and build up overtime. You know your child and what they can cope with at this time.

For younger children, help them organise their day into time slots, identifying what they will do for each slot. Include eating times, house chores, breaks, exercise etc. Display this as a reminder.

For older students, help them to draw up a timetable which covers a variety of their set tasks. Mark off when each is completed and celebrate the achievements.

Acknowledge the efforts that are being made (by both the teacher and your child) as we navigate through this time together.

Remember we are here to help. Don't be hesitant to connect with us. We value the partnership we have with you.

Stay strong, stay safe and stay kind.

Noho oro mai.

Sean Valvoi
Principal