

**A word from the principal about the Prime Minister’s announcement...**

You may be aware of the announcement from the Prime Minister around what Level 2 will look like for schools. **The key messages are:**

“Schools will be open at Level 2.”

“Schools and early learning services are safe environments for children, young people and staff. Additional public health control measures are in place to prevent the spread of disease and to support contact tracing.”

“Schools will engage with parents about children returning at Alert level 2.”

“Distance learning is available for those unable to attend school, for example who are self-isolating.”

“If a school has a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19, they must close on an individual or group basis for 72 hours, to allow contact tracing, and then potentially for a further 14 days.”

“We also agreed that when we make the decision to move levels, schools won’t open midweek – whenever the decision is made – they will open at the beginning of the following week. So if we make a decision to shift to Alert Level 2 next week, schools and early learning centres will have ten days from now to prepare.”

“The two key public health principles we’re talking to the sector about are one: to reduce the risk of someone getting infected in the first place and two, to ensure we can identify and contact anyone who becomes infected.”

So keeping kids at home if they’re sick, and good hygiene such as hand washing are so important.”

“Where possible physical distancing is a good precaution. We do, however, know it is near impossible in an early learning environment and challenging in schools. So good hygiene practices and regular cleaning are even more important here.”

“In schools, physical distancing means children, young people and staff maintaining enough distance so that they are not breathing on or touching each other. And maintaining good hygiene practices, and regular cleaning. As is regular cleaning of equipment.”

“And all schools and early learning services will collect information about who’s there, so Public Health can contact people quickly if they need to.”

“We know parents will have lots of questions, but please give schools and early learning centres time to plan and contact you.”

**From this announcement, it is clear that the earliest school will open is Monday 18 May.** The Prime Minister will confirm this on Monday afternoon next week.

Our Senior staff and Board of Trustees are meeting on Tuesday next week to work through a safety plan for our eventual return to school. I will communicate this information as soon as possible next week.

Be assured that the health and safety of our children and adults will be of the utmost importance within this planning.

**Foundation Work for Our New Classrooms**

The massive job of pouring concrete for the foundations of our new classrooms has been postponed until Monday morning. I will share photos in next week’s newsletter.

**Have you downloaded our school app yet?!**

The school app is your one stop shop for important alerts and information.



Search ‘SchoolAppsNZ’ in your app store

**Thanks for sending the home learning photos so I could fill my blank wall!**

