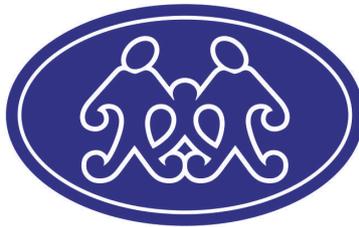


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Tokoroa North School

Together we learn for life - Ako ngatahi ki te ora

13th April 2020

Kia ora koutou

I hope you have all enjoyed some special time with your whanau during our different Easter break. You are probably getting the requests from your children when can I go back to school? I miss my friends... We miss you all too and we are hoping this will be sooner rather than later. However....

You will have seen differing reports from the media about when and how school will reopen once we move from Alert Level 4. There is a lot of misinformation circulating so I thought it was best you hear the information directly as given to me from the Ministry of Education.

The four main points are:

1. No decision has been made yet when schools will reopen. This decision will be made based on how well the plan is in place to avoid spreading and stamping out Covid-19. It is unlikely that decision will be made before 20 April.
2. The very earliest schools could reopen would be 29 April. The Ministry has prepared several possible scenarios like opening for staff only, opening for essential workers only, opening for just high school senior students.... We will be prepared for whatever the decision is once the data becomes clear and follow the government plan.
3. There will be plenty of notice before schools open to ensure all Health and Safety regulations are applied, including thoroughly cleaning the school before re-entry.
4. The Ministry has been VERY clear that we will NOT be moving out of Alert Level 4 early.

This week Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education, is working on guidelines for what Alert Level 3 could look like for schools. We look forward to his guidance on this matter.

We are now preparing for our new-look Term 2 with **distance learning** and re-connecting with you in a different way. Remember to take advantage of the TV coverage that is being provided to support the learning programmes planned by your teachers.

Judith McLean
Principal

He moana pukepuke e ekengia e te waka. "A choppy sea can be navigated"

No matter what challenges are present, we can get through this.

