

23 March 2020

## COVID-19 Update - School Closure Information

Kia ora koutou,

With today's announcement by the Government, we are implementing with urgency our plan to support your child's learning from home. We appreciate this is a sudden and significant change, and will be heavily disruptive to many people in our community. We are still working with our IT providers to ensure that you can access your child's learning using our SchoolTalk platform. I apologise for the delay.

In the meantime your child's teacher will email you tomorrow with resources which you can use to support your child's learning from home.

**For children of essential workers**, we look forward to seeing your child here at school tomorrow morning at 8:30am. You may wish to check if you are considered an essential worker - <https://covid19.govt.nz/government-actions/covid-19-alert-system/> . **Essential worker roles include doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers and police.** We continue to ask that children who are not well, do not attend school.

For all other children **they should not attend school tomorrow.**

Your child will be looking to you for guidance about this decision. Parents, caregivers, and whānau will have a particularly important part to play in reassuring children at this time. If you haven't already done so, you may wish to read the information put together by the Ministry of Education to support your conversations with your children – [Talking to children about COVID-19](#)

As noted by the Prime Minister, these restrictions are our best chance to slow the virus in New Zealand and to save lives. We all have a clear role here to slow the spread of COVID-19.

We will continue to communicate with you over the coming days. Thank you for your ongoing support of our school staff and school community. I reiterate the words of the Prime Minister – be kind, keep safe, and look after each other.

Ngā mihi,  
Michael Earl  
Principal  
Ōrākei School