



West Park School

Te Kura O Papa Hauāuru

Every student matters, every moment counts.

Broderick Road, Johnsonville, Wellington 6037, Phone (04) 478 7074, Fax (04) 478 7593

21 August

Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,

Like me you probably looked at the emerging cases from this outbreak and thought that some further time at Alert Level 4 was the best thing for our community, particularly now that there has been a confirmed case with multiple locations of interest in the Johnsonville area.

That thinking was confirmed yesterday when the Prime Minister advised that we will remain at Alert Level 4 until 11.59pm on 24 August. We will learn more on Monday about what will happen next.

I wanted to reassure you that our school staff and board will continue to be available to support your child's learning and wellbeing in the coming days.

Staff have done a remarkable job distributing resources and devices, and in the way that they have so quickly actioned their distance teaching / learning programmes. This will continue for as long as it required.

Our distance teaching/ learning programme has also been successful in part because of the way that families have supported and engaged with the school. Thank you for that, and I ask that you continue to do so.

We also hope you are doing OK at the moment – but it is also OK if you aren't.

As the [Mental Health Foundation of NZ says](#), "it's all right to feel a range of emotions right now. Going into a Level 4 lockdown is a big deal and it brings all sorts of different feelings to the surface, including frustration, worry and even gratitude. However, you are feeling, know that you're not alone – we're all going through this together."

If you need to talk, check in with a friend or whānau member, or free call/text 1737 to chat with a trained counsellor. It's free and confidential. There are also [a lot of other supports available to you, your whānau and your community](#) if needed.

You will also understand the importance of routine for your family. If your routine has been shaken up, it's good to structure your time. Routines are reassuring and promote health and physical wellbeing.

For our Pacific families, if you are not aware the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' has been working to ensure useful information is [available to Pacific peoples in nine different](#)



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[languages.](#)

A big thank you to all of you for taking the lockdown so seriously – we've seen before that staying at home will break the chain of transmission and save lives. Breaking the rules could risk someone close to you and if the rules are not complied with, this could risk the lock down period being extended or could risk the virus being spread to thousands.

Please [keep checking the locations of interest](#) and get tested if you were at that location at the specified time, or if you have symptoms which could be COVID-19.

And just a quick point – please don't use our playground during lockdown. Playgrounds cannot be used at Alert Level 4.

One final important point relates to staff scheduled to receive entitled classroom release time during our lockdown. Understandably it is very difficult to organise for a relieving teachers to take the class, so please expect that if your child's teacher is due to receive a scheduled classroom release day, that they will let you and your child know the day before, and that they will email a work plan for your child to independently follow that day.

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

Ngā mihi

Luis Echegaray
Principal
WEST PARK SCHOOL