



TĒNĀ KOUTOU KATOĀ,

Nga mihi o te ra (Greetings of the day)

At midnight on Monday we moved without fanfare into Covid-19 Alert Level 3. Not much changes for many families, however, schools have been authorised to open from tomorrow. Thank you to all who completed the survey around returning and I can report that on the 29th April Gordonton will open with only 5 learners.

Ngakau Pono - Trust, loyalty, honesty and integrity

We have been working hard to ensure that we are prepared to accommodate not only those learners but also to comply with the strict Ministry of Health rules (of which there are many) around school operation.

Here are the basics:

- **Only** authorised people are to be on site at any time.
- A contact register will be maintained in the office.
- School will operate from 8.45 - 2.15 Monday to Friday.
- Students can attend **only** when direct early contact has been made with the school for them to do so, preparation has been made for them and their attendance permission has been confirmed.
- Students randomly dropped off without notice will be sent away until preparations and permissions are complete.
- Students must have their own food and a named drink bottle.
- Parents are not to enter the school unless invited to do so.
- Strict compliance with hygiene and hand washing are in operation and also use of resources.
- Playgrounds are CLOSED
- There is no sharing (outside of family groups) school resources.
- A 1m (inside) and 2m (outside) distancing rule will be enforced at all times.
- Online learning will continue as per the last 5 weeks.
- Students attending will do the same applicable online programme as their peers who are at home.

My thanks not only to those staff who have volunteered to come in and facilitate an onsite environment, but all our fabulous staff who have maintained a learning programme and contact with the community over this challenging time. We are truly lucky to have such professional teachers, learning assistants and support staff.



Manaakitanga - Kindness, care and respect

It's been great to see people still celebrating ANZAC Day despite being in lockdown and not able to attend dawn services or an ANZAC Day service at the Gordonton Hall.

Within Gordonton School, I'm sure there were enough ANZAC biscuits made to feed an army. Here is how some of our children celebrated ANZAC Day and remembered fallen soldiers.

Ako - Quality teaching and learning

Again, congratulations to you all in your family bubbles for being the stand-in face to face teacher for your children. It's been a learning curve for everyone and we wouldn't have been able to do that without your willing support.

I have been keeping an eye on the learning and I have been very pleased with the quality of work and the extension of thinking.

My special mention goes to Bella Annear from Mr Carter's class who while doing a learning inquiry on Squid decided to contact Kelly Tarltons for information. From there she made contact with Dr Steve O'Shea in Paris! Dr O'Shea is one of the world's leading authorities on Squid and he is working with Bella to shape her inquiry learning. Excellent work Bella!

Home learning has taken on many other new dimensions over the last 5 weeks. Here are some pictures of Samuel Miller from Te Rakau team learning to prepare a meal for the family.





Here are some Room 9 students getting creative with the autumn leaves.



Thanks for sending the photos and stories in. If you have any you would like to share I would love to include them.

Awhina - Supporting others to be the best they can be

So here we are under Level 3 for the next 2 weeks or so. Who knows what the next developments will be as we move down through the alert levels. Rest assured that I will communicate the changes out to you early so we can all be best prepared for what lies ahead.

That's about it for this week. Continue to do your bit to eliminate Covid-19, and together we will get ourselves back to normal soon.

Heoi anō tāku mō nāianeī (That's all for now).

Keith O'Donnell, Principal

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