



31 August 2021

Kia ora koutou

Yesterday's announcement that Auckland is to remain in Alert Level 4 did not come as a surprise to most of us, rather, a resignation. So as we are accustomed to doing as a nation, we pull our socks up and just get on with the job.

We hope that you and your children are engaging with learning at a level that you are comfortable with. Many of our teachers are parents too, and as I join in with team meetings, I witness first hand the juggle that is parenting, monitoring learning and working from home. Please know that WE know everyone is doing the best they can in this situation.

Teachers are reaching out this week to make contact with those students/whanau we haven't yet engaged with, for example - seen in google meets, been on google classroom, answered an email or commented on a Facebook post. This is not to put pressure on families, just to check in and find out if there is anything we can do to help, or if there is anything we should know about how learning is going in your household.

Also - please reach out yourself to your child's teacher if you need help or ideas to support your child with learning at home. It's OK to let your child's teacher know your child won't be doing a lot of the home learning provided. We know there are lots of other ways to learn at home, which your whānau might be engaging in.

Whilst Alert Level 3 seems some way away, we are already getting prepared as a school, based on the fact that other schools in N.Z. are moving to Level 3 tomorrow, and therefore we already have the advice from the Ministry.

There are a few differences from last L3 for 'Bubble School', with the main one being that we *are now only allowed a maximum of 10 students per bubble*. We therefore want to strongly reiterate the Prime Minister's message that at L3, schools are in effect still closed, and that Bubble School is only for those children of essential workers for which there is no other option - that is, there is no adult or responsible older sibling available to be at home with your child/ren. This includes if you're working from home.

As we watch the case numbers and gain a feeling for the possibility of moving down levels next week, we will start to formally plan our Bubble School classes. We hope we won't need too many, as more teachers on site at school means less teachers available at home to roll out and respond to online learning. Those families who will believe they are eligible for places at Bubble School will be sent a google form to complete. Not yet - next week.

Another thing we have been planning as a leadership team, is what the rest of the year will look like when we get back to Level 2, and back to school proper. We have been discussing for example, reporting to families, and what information we will be able to use to ascertain and report on progress and achievement. We've been looking at school events, timelines and what will be possible to fit in, given that Term 4 is, for us, an 8 week term this year. As decisions are made, I will keep you informed.

A word on vaccinations. Some of our students, and many of their siblings, fall into the age bracket (12-15) for vaccination eligibility. I'd like to share with you the information from today's bulletin from the Secretary of Education, Iona Holsted, about this:

Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect each of us and our whānau. The more of us who are vaccinated in our community, the greater our immunity.

The Government approved a vaccine to immunise and protect 12 to 15-year-olds. The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine has been approved by our Medsafe experts. This vaccine is also used for 12 to 15-year-olds in other countries such as Canada, USA, Europe and Japan.

Here is a [video you can watch](#) to explain how the vaccine works.

Many parents and whānau would like to provide informed consent on behalf of their young person. The easiest way to do this is for a parent or caregiver to be present during vaccination and provide verbal consent. You can book your young person in for vaccination at the same time as your vaccination or accompany them to their appointment.

You can book through your GP or through vaccination centres:

- Book online through [Book My Vaccine](#)
- For **a group booking**, call the COVID Vaccination Healthline on 0800 28 29 26 (8am–8pm, seven days a week).

I'd like to quickly promote the "Principal's Challenge" I issued last week - **What are you Grateful For in Level 4?** - The link to all the information is [here](#). I have had a few fantastic responses come in so far (thank you!) and I am going to leave the challenge open until the weekend, so more people can jump on board.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the heart and soul that our wonderful teachers are putting in to try and meet the wide and varied needs of not only students (which we do all the time anyway) but also of individual families. There is so much that goes on behind the scenes to turn the machine that is online learning. In addition to my puppies (see challenge above) I am extremely grateful for the people I work with, who are working so hard for our children.

Ngā mihi

Lynn Fothergill

Acting Principal

lynnf@reremoana.school.nz