



## NEWSLETTER

8 May 2020

### From the Principal

Kia ora koutou whānau

Like me, I am sure you have followed with interest the announcements made by the Prime Minister. It is reassuring to hear how well our country has done at minimising the impacts of COVID-19. Alert Levels 4 and 3 have not been easy and I thank you for your ongoing support for the work we are doing.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister advised that in Alert Level 2 schools are safe environments for children, young people and staff and that additional public health control measures are in place to prevent the spread of disease and to support contact tracing.

The good news is that when we are able to, we will be ready to welcome all students and staff back to our school site. Please note: the earliest possible date this will occur is Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May.

The key Public Health approach is to minimise the risk that someone gets infected in the first place, and second to ensure we can identify and contact anyone who has been in close contact with a person, if someone in a school is infected. As we have done in Alert Level 3, you can be assured that in Alert Level 2 we will know who is at school, who our staff and students have been in close contact with and take appropriate measures to keep everyone safe.

Physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease. We do however know it is challenging in schools, so good hygiene practices and regular cleaning are even more important here. This includes staff and students coughing into their elbows, handwashing and drying and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.

Under Alert Level 2, we advise any students and staff to stay at home if they are sick, and we will send anyone home immediately if they show any symptoms such as a cough, runny nose or fever.

Our school has safe and sensible practices to maintain the health and safety of everyone on the school site. As described by Dr Payinda in his [NZ Herald article](#), "Covid's not measles or chickenpox, it doesn't hang in the air for hours waiting to infect passers-by. It travels on invisible drops of spit. You don't have to cross the street to avoid anyone. Just avoid getting in their 'moist breath' zone". We all just need to remember to have some breathing space at Alert Level 2!

It's important however that not just at school but at home, safe hygiene habits are practised by everyone, as this is essential to minimise the risk that someone gets infected with Covid-19.

For more information about the public health measures at Alert Level 2, you can visit the [covid19.govt.nz](https://covid19.govt.nz) website: <https://covid19.govt.nz/>. If you have any questions about our health and safety plan, or have a child who might be vulnerable to serious illness and would like to discuss a plan for them, please contact me.

We will be in touch again soon to update you on our plans.

**A final reminder that the AL3 roll for next week closes at midday today.**

Wishing everyone a very happy weekend!

Ngā mihi

Lin Dixon

Principal

We have been so impressed with the writing that our TKA students have been doing from home. Here are some examples:

### **LOCKDOWN**

Lockdown is black, like stormy weather.

Lockdown tastes like mum's home baking.

It smells like soap and perfume.

Lockdown looks like empty streets, family walks and home learning.

It sounds quiet with birds chirping and trucks going past.

It feels like a safe place and special family days.

**By Mila (TKA)**

### **What ANZAC day means to me.**

Anzac day is on the 25th of April every year. It is a day all Kiwis and Aussies honor the brave soldiers that fought for our freedom. On Anzac day me and my dad get up at about 5am and go to the Anzac ceremony. People lay wreaths and the Last Post is played. It is also a day when the old soldiers catch up with their comrades and remember the ones that didn't come home.

**By Logan (TKA)**

### **MY DREAM PET**

My dream pet is a cute little puppy. Her eyes will sparkle like fairy dust and her fur colour will be golden yellow. Her name is Daisy. I will play with her everyday if I have time. I will give her walks every second day. I MIGHT clean her poop. I will teach her tricks and other skills.

My other dream pet is a little fish. His scales will be coloured orangy pink and his fins will be tiny like Nemos fins. His name will be Kiddles. I will feed him every day and decorate his tank.

**By Clara (TKA)**

### **Pony**

The pony is brown and black like a farm dog

It tastes like dust in your mouth on a windy day

It smells like an old rubbish bin that needs to be emptied

It looks like a small horse

It sounds like a squealing child

It feels like a soft and fluffy teddy bear

**By Grace M (TKA)**



### **Scholastic Book Club Update**

Scholastic book orders were placed prior to the lockdown. These orders are currently being processed. There is a huge backlog so these won't arrive at schools for at least another week but then we will be unable to get them to you.

Any parents who are wanting to order from now (Issue 2 has remained open) can get a home delivery, but Scholastic can't go back and apply that to existing orders which will still be sent to schools.