

SEFTON SCHOOL



Dear parents, caregivers and whanau, Kia ora koutou

Like me, I am sure you have followed with interest the announcements made by the Prime Minister during the last week

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.

On Thursday, 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. This will be on the Monday following the move to Alert Level 2.

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 will continue to 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.

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 website: <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

As a school we are now preparing to welcome all our children back and hear the stories and share the learning that they have undertaken while they have been engaged in their learning at home programmes.

We will be communicating again early next week once we know what is going on asking parents to indicate who will, and who will not be returning to school at Alert Level 2 and also requesting information about children who intend to use the school bus once it resumes. These will be very important to the school as we plan the reopening process so we will be looking for everyone to complete these surveys.

Thank you to the children who have sent in pictures of their work. The winner of the prize draw from last week is Ellie with her picture of an Anzac Bear that she made after reading the Anzac Ted story. Well done Ellie. Please continue to send in pictures of video's to MrH@sefton.school.nz. There will be another prize draw at the end of the coming week.

Have a great weekend.

David Haythornthwaite, Principal

The MoE Learning at Home web site can be found at: <https://learningfromhome.govt.nz/>

School learning websites:

You can access all the home learning programmes for Sefton School at:

<https://sites.google.com/sefton.school.nz/seftonschoolhomelearning/home>

And see examples of the children's work at:

<https://sites.google.com/sefton.school.nz/onlineprojects2020/home>

For any students interested in trying a bit of coding this week go to <https://scratch.mit.edu/>, set up an account. Once you have created a project share the link with Mr.H.