

COVID - 19 UPDATE

Monday 23 March, 2020

Dear parents/caregivers,

Today the school closed for instruction other than to those parents who are part of essential services and have no alternative childcare facility. As from midnight Wednesday the school site is off-limits to everyone including staff. A list of those essential services can be found here: <https://covid19.govt.nz/government-actions/covid-19-alert-system/>. If you fall into this category please contact me at keitho@gordonton.school.nz or Tania on taniar@gordonton.school.nz to inform us so we can work with you to find a solution.

Online learning has been progressed to a point where this can roll out. Over the next day or so you will hear from your child's teacher. They will lay out the ways in which online learning will be facilitated. This will be slowly built on this week.

School Holidays

School holidays are being brought forward so that they are completed within the 4 week period. Holidays will now begin from Monday 30 March to Tuesday 14 April inclusive (a reminder that the Tuesday after Easter Monday is always a closed day for schools).

At the end of the school holidays, schools will be open for distance learning but not physically open for staff to work at the schools.

Please note the instruction to stay home (Alert Level 4) will continue beyond the new school holiday period but schools will be technically open for distance instruction. Teachers will be working offsite.

There will be no online learning provided during the two week holiday break.

Resources

We are aware that some of you have asked for resources for your children, books etc. We are able to provide these to you (maximum 5 books) and for those who are short of digital devices to assist learning at home we can offer a loan of a chromebook to assist you. These will require a \$50.00 bond to be paid on receipt of each device and the completion of a loan agreement.

The school office will be open tomorrow from 9 - 10.30am for this purpose. If there are a number of people wanting resources we ask for your patience while teachers/office staff attend to one person at a time.

Because we are all learning the processes and procedures that will make this new way of learning a reality I ask that you have some tolerance around your expectations of what is provided. This first week will be a roll-out phase and gives us an opportunity to identify any bugs in the system and get these sorted before Term 2 starts online.

We find ourselves living in unexpected and unprecedented times. This was never meant to happen but it has and we must confront the adversity it heralds.

We will remain firmly in touch with you and support in any way we can. Go well and stay safe. Be kind to one another and we will all get through this.

He waka eke noa - We are all in this together. Kia Kaha

Keith O'Donnell
PRINCIPAL