

# **WITHERLEA SCHOOL**

## **COVID-19 UPDATE AND NEWSLETTER: WEEK 8**

**Kia ora Witherlea whanau,**

We currently (Monday) have 24% of our students at home for various reasons; self isolation, high health needs and actual sickness (cold, flu, vomiting). The pressure on our teachers to be in class, continue the learning as usual and supply work for those out of school is growing.

Please do not send your children to school if they are unwell. We would like to limit; colds, flus and tummy bugs within the school.

Parents should be practicing and modelling; physical distancing, good hygiene practices and resilience along with our school motto; **Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Fair - Kia Atawhai, Kia Ora, Kia Tika.**

### **School Websites - Online Learning Trial**

We have created websites at each level; Year 1-2, Year 3-4 and Year 5-6 so that we are ready if the school or schools are asked to close. We will ask our parents and students who are at home over the next week to trial these websites and troubleshoot any major issues that may arise. This will be the only learning that will be supplied.

We will be using Hapara; this enables all teachers to see activity from ALL their students to ensure safety online. Our teachers need to learn this platform as well as how to manage the websites, and set parameters for how/what online learning will look like - this will take time.

Kirstie Stone will be setting up parent sessions to support our families who are concerned regarding using the websites or online learning at home - we will send out an alert with sessions and times.

### **Teacher Learning Day (School will be OPEN)**

This week our termly 'Hub Planning Days' were scheduled to get our teams ready for term two. We have cancelled these so that our students are not in large groups and our teachers remain in their classes for continuity, consistency and safety.

We have looked at the calendar and Wednesday (25th March) this week would be a perfect day where parents, if they can, could keep their children at home so that we can spend the day learning some online skills and ensure our teachers are ready to support learners and families at home. School is NOT closed, we will have relievers here to teach the children but if you can have a day at home - please support us by doing this.

We will send out reports at the end of this week and of course our Parent Teacher Interviews are cancelled for this term.

Not all schools are taking this approach nor have the resources to do so or the parent support. At this stage we would like to reiterate the message that; all schools are doing the best they can to provide up to date information and plan/prepare for what may come. Please try not to compare what other schools are doing or not doing because we are all in this together, facing the same challenges. At Witherlea we are so lucky to have supportive, connected parents and students who understand; **Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Fair.**

Please do not hesitate to call or email school if you have any concerns or information you think could help us. We are open, we are here and we will support our community the best we can.

Nga mihi nui,

Andrea Harnett  
**Principal**  
**Witherlea School**