



23rd March 2020

Kia ora e te Whanau

In accordance with the directive issued by the Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education, we will be closing Whangamarino School from 3pm today. We are now in Alert Level 3, and will move to Alert Level 4 within 48 hours. This means that all students will stay away from school, until further notice.

If you are classed as a person who works in the essential services eg - doctors, nurses, part of the school supply chain etc, your child is able to attend school tomorrow, to give you time to make arrangements. Please contact us immediately by phone 3624879 or email principal@whangamarino.school.nz if you are in this group and your child (ren) will be attending tomorrow. Schools will close entirely from 3pm on Wednesday, 25th March.

We will be in contact with you to update you if the situation changes. Please make sure we have your current email address and that you have downloaded Skool Loop and joined our Facebook page, if you have not yet done so. We will communicate important messages and updates with you through these channels.

The decision to close schools is obviously to limit the spread of COVID - 19 and to prevent further community outbreaks. We urge you to follow the advice from the government that has been given to keep you, your family and others safe. Visit the government website for up to date information: [covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)

We understand this is an unsettling and somewhat stressful time for you all. It is new for us as well. At Whangamarino, we have spent the last couple of weeks trying to keep things as normal as possible for our students, and to reassure them if they have been worried or anxious about the situation.

We have prepared some learning activities for your child, and if your child was at kura today they would have received a pack. It is just as important at this time, to enjoy some quality family time together. Reading books together, playing board games or cards, doing household chores together, are all legitimate uses of your time at home. This could be the perfect opportunity to teach your children how to tie their shoelaces, bake cakes, make their bed, weed the garden, wash the car, plan and prepare a meal etc.

We understand if your family situation does not lend itself to your child completing the work set. . We don't expect that everyone will be able to do the work set and we understand if it does not get completed.

Lastly, and most importantly, we sincerely hope that you and your family get through this pandemic unscathed. Stay safe, be kind to each other and support those that need your help. Reach out to

other parents and friends remotely so that you can share your experiences and stay connected. We truly hope that life at Whangamarino School is back to normal in the near future.

If you need to get hold of the school leadership team urgently while the school is closed, please email principal@whangamarino.school.nz We will be checking emails each day.

Lorraine Northey (Principal) and Whangamarino School staff