



Houghton Valley School

Caring, Exploring and Inspiring Together
Ka Manaaki, Ka Rapu, Ka Whakamanawa tahi ai tātou

17th March 2020

Kia ora te whanau

We know you will all be following the developments with COVID-19, so we want to keep you up to date with what is happening within the education sector and any possible implications for Houghton Valley School.

As expected, recent announcements from the Prime Minister and Ministry of Health mean we will need to make some changes to events and how we do things around school.

The BOT and Leadership team are working together to ensure that we are planning ahead so we can be prepared when new information becomes available and plan for any future disruptions. We are also looking at what we can do in the immediate future to reduce the amount of unnecessary risk here at school.

Yesterday, we discussed with all children the need to keep to their personal bubble. The best way to do this is to not touch each other. We discussed no high fives, hugs etc. This along with hand washing is the best preventive method we have.

We have also decided to postpone or cancel any trips that are out of school or where big groups of people might gather, including:

- Rippa Rugby competition for Year 5/6
- Class trips into town
- Bake sale
- School hui (assembly week 8 - Rooms 5, 2, and 10)
- Working Bee on Thursday 2.00-3.00pm (we will postpone)
- Parents coming in to read with our children during Book Week

At this stage, we will continue to run the following events (but will review as information and advice changes):

- 3 Way Conference
- Book Fair (this could be a great way to stock up on books)

We have updated our [website](#) so that all COVID-19 announcements and/or information are easy to access. This is the main communication point for all up-to-date information. If it is urgent then we will text and email you directly. We will continue to send regular updates as information comes to hand.

Distance Learning

Teachers are looking for ways that we can provide regular on-going learning for students if schools are made to close. We are investigating a range of ways and tools to do this. We are aware that not all children have access to digital devices and we don't want this to be the only way our children learn during this time. For example, skip 100 times, find 5 insects around your house and draw diagrams, read to someone everyday, write a character description from your book, create your dream house out of sustainable products you have at home, etc.

Do you have any ideas that you could share with us about how to provide home-based learning, should the school be closed for a few weeks?

We will continue to update you as we get new information. Our priority continues to be to provide a safe and fun place for our children to learn. We appreciate your support at this challenging time.

Nga manaakitanga,
Leadership Team and BOT