



Kia ora koutou

Welcome to parents, whanau, students and our wider school community to another Firth Primary School COVID-19 update. We wanted to give you a quick update on how we are doing under Alert Level 3.

The Matamata community has decided to keep most of the students' home during Level 3 with several schools reporting no students at all last week. We have a small bubble at Firth and thanks to Mrs Johnson, Mrs Murray, Mrs MacPhail and Mr Andy who have been leading learning in our tiny bubble. The students in our bubble are set up in rooms 5 and 6 and we continue to carry out strict cleaning and sanitation processes within our school.

This is not school as we know it with students and staff practising social distancing with robust sanitising of hands and equipment. We are hoping that most of you will have received your hard copy learning packs by now, however, if you are still waiting, please contact myself or your child's teacher.

We too have experienced challenges and frustrations with technology and we fully understand the struggles some families are also facing with lack of access to devices and the internet. Hence the reason that we wanted every student to have equity in learning by sending a hard copy pack to every student.

We appreciate that this "new normal" certainly has challenges for you at home balancing work and care for your children. While this is a challenge it is exciting to see the innovation that has been happening and the effort that staff, students and parents are putting into being creative with student learning. I am enjoying the many emails, photos and messages that are coming in from students. For many of our staff, like you they are working juggling their teaching responsibilities while caring for their own children. Despite the difficulties some have experienced it has been pleasing to receive positive feedback and thanks for our teacher's efforts.

We will continue to update you as we move closer to Alert Level 2 and what this looks like for our students at Firth. We are awaiting new guidelines and advice from the Ministry of Education and as soon as we have these I will inform all of you. I can assure you that our school is a safe place for our students with the appropriate processes in place to welcome more students to school.

A Massive Thank You to the GOOD MERCHANT MATAMATA for supplying free several litres of hand sanitiser to ensure we are ready and safe for staff and students to return.



We are currently updating our website and student management system so we can better communicate with whaanau so please bear with us as we carry out this process. Communication is the key and we want to make sure that this is as efficient and as effective as possible. A big thank you to our Firth staff and BOT who continue to work together to support our community in this challenging time. Stay Safe and stay home.

Regards
Michelle Ryan
Principal