

24/04/20

Dear Parents and caregivers,



Firstly today I'd like to thank you for responding to our survey. This has made our planning for the children of the essential workers and those who cannot work from home possible. I am incredibly proud of my staff who have been happy to come into school, if they can, to do their part to get New Zealand up and running again. As a school we are happy to support those in our community who are essential workers and who need our support during this period.

I'd also like to thank the community for ensuring that only those children who need to be here and meet the Government criteria are coming in. Home learning can be challenging (speaking as a parent trying to juggle work and the home learning myself), but the safest place for our children is keeping them within your family bubble, if possible.

I will send a separate email to the parents of those children who are coming back into school, setting out our extensive health and safety procedures and the big changes to how the school will be running. This won't be school as we know it at Greenhithe, but we are happy to do our part to help those who are essential workers or are unable to work from home. We have prepared our rooms and a small number of staff will be on site for the exact number of children we are expecting. The majority of teachers and school staff will be continuing with the online learning while we are at level 3.

**The school site will remain closed to all but those children attending the school** while in level 3. The playgrounds remain closed for everyone, including those attending school, and I ask that you continue to stay off of the school site, unless your child is attending school. This is another way we are trying to keep our community safe.

Under normal circumstances we would be remembering our veterans and those who have fought for New Zealand this weekend. ANZAC day this year looks very different. The RSA have developed an initiative for the country to still allow us to remember called 'Stand at Dawn'. The RSA website has details and some lovely activities for children as well. I'd also like to acknowledge Syd Renz, who is putting a wreath together on behalf of the school, and she always does such a beautiful job.

I will, of course, keep you informed as we continue to navigate these testing and unusual times. Finally, on a lighter note, today or tomorrow your teacher will send out my next video for the children!

Thank you for the kind words, the support of our teachers and for what you are doing to keep our community safe by maintaining your bubbles.

Kia Kaha

Ngā mihi  
Stephen Grady  
Principal  
Greenhithe School