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Dear Parents

Kia ora koutou

With yesterday's announcement by Government, we are implementing with urgency our plan to support your child's learning from home. We appreciate this is a sudden and significant change, and will be heavily disruptive to many people in our community.

Teachers will be contacting you over today and tomorrow to ask you how well placed you will be for on-line learning and what resources you require to support your children over the next few days and then after the holiday period. If we have not been able to contact you by midday Wednesday please phone the school on 09 2389419.

School holidays have been brought forward and will run from Monday 30 March until Tuesday 14 April. From Wednesday 15 April teachers will be available to support children's learning through email and where possible on-line learning. Teachers will answer emails between the hours of 9 – 3 p.m. Teachers' email addresses are available on our website. Please do not phone teachers as they have been asked not to reply to phone or text messages on personal phones.

If you require resources you will be asked to visit the school to pick up packs, etc on Wednesday 25 March between 9 – 3 p.m. If this is not possible teachers will deliver items to you at home. Teachers will email learning packs to you tomorrow Wednesday and update these after the holiday period. Yesterday I provided other sites that can support learning and The Ministry of Education has also just launched two websites: 'Learning from Home' and 'Ki te Ao Marama' to support learners, parents and whanau.

We realise you are going to be under stress at this challenging time and we do not want to add to this by expecting you to spend hours each day working with your children. Please don't worry about them regressing in school. Every single kid is in this boat and they will all be okay. When we are back in the classroom, we will of course correct and meet their learning needs. Teachers are experts at this! Don't pick fights with your kids because they don't want to do math. Don't growl at your kids for not following the schedule. Don't mandate two hours of learning time if they are resisting it.

If I can leave you with one thing, it's this: at the end of all of this, your kids' mental health will be more important than their academic skills. And how they felt during this time will stay with them long after the memory of what they did during those four or more weeks is long gone. So keep that in mind, every single day.

We will continue to communicate with you over the coming days. Thank you for your ongoing support of our school staff and school community.

May you all stay well and be safe.

Kindest Regards

Mavis Glasgow

Principal

Other Information from the Ministry we have been asked to forward:

If you need to have your child cared for by someone else you will need to identify that person or people as part of your self-isolated group. This will need to be done by midnight Wednesday and the group must remain the same for the whole 4 week period. The caregiver's own group (eg, their partner and children), your child and your own group (eg, your parents and other children) become one group. This group needs to be limited to minimise any risk of spread and should be no more than 20 people.

Your child will be looking to you for guidance about this decision. Parents, caregivers, whānau and teachers will have a particularly important part to play in reassuring children at this time. If you haven't already done so, you may wish to read the information put together by the Ministry of Education to support your conversations with your children – [Talking to children about COVID-19](#)

As noted by the Prime Minister these restrictions are our best chance to slow the virus in New Zealand and to save lives. We all have a clear role here to slow the spread of COVID-19.

