



# TE RAPA PRIMARY SCHOOL

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

*Operating Under Alert Level 4 Protocols*

Saturday 21 August 2021

## Courtesy Update

Good Afternoon Parents & Carers

### Confirmed Yesterday : Alert Level 4 continues

This means we remain as we are for a few more days, and our school will remain closed for instruction for this period.

### Te Rapa Primary School will look to .....

- Commence **home learning programmes** from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August .... and also
- think about a **pending** shift to Alert Level 3 as at Wednesday morning August 25th.

On Monday .... our first priority as a school staff is to consult as syndicate teams (and fortunately some of our syndicate teams have done so already) and plan how we will go about actively promoting online learning programmes for our students.

We are really well placed to do this thanks to the hard of Te Rapa staff over these past few days.

They have been busy preparing a variety of age appropriate online learning programmes for our students. This planning will be the basis of what they share with students / families via email on Monday.

Even though communication might be each school day (9am – 3pm) some teachers will suggest a range of activities that are suited to the age level and curriculum level of their students which could last for a whole week.

Parents / carers are encouraged to manage the “learning’ at home because you are onsite. You have the choice to allow your child(ren) to participate in all of the tasks offered, or to just pick some activities that suit your family and your circumstances.

Designing your own learning experiences for children within your own setting is encouraged too. Anything that might stimulate and support new learning for your child is well worth considering.

Some ideas may be online, while others could be practical tasks completed in the kitchen, in the shed or outside in the garden. Other ideas might include a regular phone call to a grandparent or relative, a group chat with friends / family, writing a letter, playing a game together or watching something on TV.

Please remember however ... your priority is your “bubble” and your own health and wellbeing.

The same applies to our school staff too.

Remember there is no compulsion that all the school work is completed. You are encouraged to be selective, and you should look at what fits with your time and your resources at home.

Quality communication is important, so we will continue to share updated information with you via our school app, our school website and via email messages too.

Te Rapa staff are sure to continue showing an interest in each student’s wellbeing at home, and staff have been asked to reassure their students that they are doing OK too.

It is important that we are doing this for our children, and that they see us being kind to each other throughout this difficult time.

We should all continue to reassure our children that we will be back to normal soon too.

### **Learning at Home “Take Home” Packs**

Te Rapa Primary School will not be preparing and distributing “take home” packs to students under Alert Level 4 protocols. It is simply not the right thing to do at this time. We will however look to do this once we move to Alert Level 3.

Teachers are likely to survey parents / carers to assess who would visit our school under Alert Level 3 protocols to collect a take home pack if it was made available.

This will determine how many packs are made up, so if you will not use a pack at home, then please do not request one.

### **Reaching for Alert Level 3**

Currently the Alert Level 3 public health measures we are already very familiar with remain the same.

It's also important to remember that a shift to Alert Level 3 only happens when Public Health experts and Government are confident the level of risk has reduced for the community, and that the required health measures will help to prevent a further spread.

As we saw last time students cannot come onsite under Alert Level 3 unless the student(s) is ....

- (a) a child of an acknowledged essential worker,
- (b) the essential worker is working at that time, and
- (c) the essential worker cannot arrange child care in their bubble.

We do have a prepared notice ready to go out to all of our school families once we know we are about to shift down to Alert Level 3.

This notice will survey our school families to ID which parents / carers are ...

- o acknowledged essential care workers, and
- o what your essential care worker role is.

Under Alert Level 3 guidelines all children must stay at home, and they cannot be on a school site unless they meet the approved guidelines to formally attend school.

Note ... No other students (who should be at home) are permitted to be within the surrounds of the school.

We will continue to offer 'home learning' programmes to all our students during Alert Level 3.

### **Vaccinations**

As you know there is no requirement for any New Zealander to have the COVID-19 vaccine, and as an employer you cannot compel an employee to do so, however, as we've seen, the vast majority of the country are keen to get vaccinated as soon as they can.

### **Reaching Out to Extended family ... Outside your Bubble**

### ***Children showing Te Rapa HEART***

Please remember to keep in contact with friends and family who are outside your bubble, and especially those who might be in a bubble of one !.

It is important that you are “reaching out” to others and that your children are also able to keep in close contact with others too.

Children are a wonderful means of contact for our older folk, and a courtesy phone call, email or a message from your child to an elderly family member is not only a lovely gesture which will be well received by the recipient, but it is also a valuable learning opportunity for our young people.

They might be reluctant initially, but they will consider it a highlight once they have completed such a kind and respectful gesture.

**Thanks to everyone for your anticipated assistance so far (small or large).**

**Please stay safe and stay healthy.**

Kind Regards  
V W Franklin  
Principal