

27 August 2021

Tēnā koē

We write this at a time when New Zealand is in Level 4 of the COVID-19 response plan and almost all families will be enjoying quality time together at home for the next period of time. We know that there will be a sense of déjà vu for many, mixed with some uncertainty about the increased transmissibility of this Delta variant amongst close contacts.

Like you, our prayers are with the leaders of our nation as they seek to make the wise and careful decisions about the welfare of all of our people. Like you, we welcome the decision to 'close' schools to direct instruction, until the 'community transmission' possibility of this outbreak has been brought under control.

While it is too early to know how long Level 4 will remain in place, we can take encouragement from our previous success and those few places around the world where swift isolation has proven very effective in halting the outbreak and things there are quickly returning to 'normal'. Please encourage your children to be content in their own space and with their own family for this period, knowing how important that is for the health of our entire country.

The business of education is anything but 'usual' in these times, but all of our schools have been planning for this eventuality for some weeks and will have communicated their plans with you as to how 'learning' can continue from a distance, in a variety of forms. Our network of schools places a high value on the partnership that exists between home and school, not only in matters of our Special Character, but in the holistic learning opportunities that exist for our children even at times like this.

It is heartening to see that the Government has committed to continuing to meet the costs of staffing in our schools and pre-schools. It is equally heartening to know that they have committed to supporting as many parents as possible who find themselves unable to work, with support payments being arranged in the coming days and weeks. We trust and pray that this will be sufficient for your 'business as usual' to continue through this period of physical distancing. We are taking a 'short-term disruption' view of this Level 4 response and encourage you to do the same, leaving existing arrangements in place for the time being, until we all gain a clearer picture in the coming days.

Should you have any questions or are suffering financial difficulty due to this outbreak, we ask that you contact your school administration team, by email in the first instance. They will respond as soon as they are able, so please be kind and thoughtful regarding their workload also. It is likely that their first response will be 'wait and see', as we all desire to see your child's education continue with as few disruptions as possible.

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Please continue to pray that God will bring healing to our land, as we take the practical steps to ensure that this virus is not only contained, but also stamped out in the near future.

Blessings to you and yours on behalf of the NZCPT team.

Ngā mihi nui



Warren Peat

New Zealand Christian Proprietors Trust
Chief Executive Officer