

# St Joseph's Catholic School

*Te Kura Katorika o Hato Hohepa*

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Dear Parents and Caregivers

This morning we woke up to find New Zealand again in Covid Alert Level 4. This means our school is closed at least for the next 7 days. With additional Covid 19 cases identified this morning, it may be even longer. Please keep your children at home and socialise only with those in your household bubble. The Delta variant is very contagious so keep yourselves safe.

Te Rōpu Ārahi, our Year 7&8 students, left for their winter camp yesterday and spent last night at MiCamp in Turangi. The camp is not allowed to operate under Level 4 and so they are coming home today. We are expecting them to leave camp at about 9 am this morning. We did not tell the children last night so they were able to enjoy their first night at camp without worrying and I understand they had a great time. Parents will be asked to pick up their children from the Church car park later today. We will send more information to Ārahi parents once we have a better idea of their arrival time.

Our teachers are well prepared with learning online and learning packs to be sent home in Level 3. Unfortunately, finding out we were going straight into Level 4 meant we couldn't send them home yesterday. Teachers will contact you soon just to check in and today, Wednesday, is a day for you (and them) to settle in at home with your families. You can contact your child's teacher through their email address: first name and first initial of surname @stjosephs.co.nz. For example johns@stjosephs.co.nz

Even though we provided distance learning packs/information, we do not expect or want you to be creating hourly schedules for your children. We know you will support us in continuing your child's learning, which can include online activities, paper-based tasks, and other activities. You may plan to limit technology until all home learning is done! Encourage them to read each day and keep a journal to write their feelings down. Writing is one area we noted as not being maintained in previous lockdowns.

Right now we just have to get through this again. Your child needs to feel comforted and loved and to feel like it is all going to be okay. So enjoy this time together, cuddle up together and read, take turns reading and talk about the story. Bake cakes or cook together - kitchen science and maths. Paint pictures or make creations from playdough or do some junk modelling. Write letters or emails to nana. Play board games and watch movies. Do a science experiment together or find [virtual tours of museums](#) or watch animal cameras from the zoo. Do a puzzle. Build a den in the living room and camp out. Get out the lego and let your imagination run wild! Look at old photographs and share memories. Sometimes just snuggle up together under a blanket and do nothing. We've done this before!

Just do what you can. Don't argue or stress over learning activities, try to have fun and spend time together as your child's mental health is more important than their academic skills. How they felt during this time will stay with them long after the memory of what they did.

Your child can communicate with their teacher through their SeeSaw account or Google Classroom to share their learning or tell their stories. Please remember to check your emails, Skool Loop or our school website for updates around the school's closure. We will not be sending out a newsletter this week, instead we will continue to update you on Skool Loop and our school website.

In the meantime, remember your prayers in this worrying time, and look out for each other. Take care of yourselves as well as your children. If you need any support during this time, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Stay well and God bless

Ursula Hall  
Principal

#### MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Kia ora koutou

We are now all in Alert Level 4 which means that schools will not be open onsite today, for any students. This follows someone being identified with COVID-19 and who has been in the Auckland and Coromandel communities while believed to be infectious.

It is really important we do everything we can to keep our community safe. Alert Level 4 means we need to stay home in our bubbles and avoid any travelling as much as possible. Supermarkets, pharmacies, foodbanks and other essential services will be open – but remember to wear a face covering if you are out and about (even a scarf wrapped around your mouth and nose will help). Check in using the NZ COVID Tracer App wherever you go and please also keep a distance from people you don't know and wash your hands well and often, especially before and after using any public facilities.

Please go to the Ministry of Health website if you live in Auckland or the Coromandel region, or have recently visited there. There is a [list of locations](#) the confirmed case has visited while they were considered to be infectious. If you were at one of those locations **and** at the same time as specified on the website, then please follow the relevant instructions to isolate and potentially to get tested. Please keep checking that webpage as new locations may be identified over time.

Ngā mihi