



St. Joseph's Catholic School

Opotiki

(Established 1890)

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17 March 2020

Dear Parents and Whanau

We are receiving daily updates on Covid-19 which, as you appreciate, is very serious world-wide. While we are taking every precaution at school the Public Health Nurse has also requested that the following notice be published.

WHAT CAN I DO TO STOP COVID-19 SPREADING?

- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or by covering your mouth and nose with tissues.
- Put used tissues in a bin or bag immediately.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often (for at least 20 seconds).
- Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell when in the community.
- When at work, use good infection control practices while working with patients.
- Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.
- Avoid personal contact such as kissing, sharing cups of food with sick people.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects such as door knobs and countertops.
- Stay home if you feel unwell and call COVID-19 Healthline on 0800 358 5453 or Toi Te Ora Public Health on 0800.221.555.

Up to date information is available through the following

link [health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus)

Soap and hand towels have always been provided in the toilet areas and we have certainly been emphasising the importance of handwashing, with the teachers actually demonstrating how to wash hands correctly.

Also, communal drinking fountains are 'out' so please send a water bottle to school with your child (with the child's name on the outside please). It is important that we all drink lots of water to stay hydrated. We all need to do our 'bit' and remain vigilant to stop the spread of this disease which is taking over the world at a rapid pace.

With the above in mind our Gala set down for 4 April, has been **postponed** until later in the year, as has the Soccer Tournament which was due to be held this Friday. We have also been advised the Eastern Bay of Plenty Swimming Championship has been cancelled.

The School Pool is now closed.

Apart from the above, it is 'business as usual'.

Please also be reminded that the School uses several ways to provide you with information, i.e. the School Newsletter, which is given to each child, the Skool Loop app, the web site and e-mail to those who have requested it.

I will endeavour to keep you all up to date with any information we receive from the Ministry of Health and/or directives from the Ministry of Education.

Raewyn Clark
Principal

Student of the Week

24 February 2020

**Emma Collier-Henry, Evie Armstrong, Ashton Brown
Zoe McKinstry, Rhia Huster, Benji Christie-Pio
Ella Sears, Shan Carter, George Dawson, Maiesha Sharma
Huntah Johnson, Jerome Nov**