



25 March 2020

Dear Parents/caregivers

This is a final update from me while I am still working at school. As I have said over the last few weeks, it is a difficult time for us all.

The next few weeks is going to be challenging for everyone and the most important thing to focus on right now is everyone's wellbeing. At this time we feel it is very important for you to spend the rest of the week setting up a calm atmosphere developing a family plan. What children need right now is to feel comforted and loved and to feel like it is going to be ok. As a family you need to decide what the priorities are in your house. Our suggestion is to enjoy the next two weeks as a 'holiday' and focus on family.

An update on things at GIS:

1. No device or Internet? TODAY IS YOUR LAST CHANCE!!!!!!

We are aware that a number of families may not have access to the internet or a device. GIS has a number of devices available for students to borrow during the enforced isolation period.

We also have a number of families that need paper copies of schoolwork for Term 2. This will be available from the school office on Wednesday between 1pm and 3pm. Both the device and paper copies of work will be available at this time. For safety reasons only one person from each family can visit the office to collect and a parent must sign an agreement before the device will be issued.

If you require a device or a paper pack please email your child's teacher as soon as possible.

2. Term 2 Learning

The GIS 'Distance Learning Programme' will commence on Wednesday 15th April. Teachers will be working from home from 15/4 (new start date for term 2) and will be available during normal school hours to assist. Teachers are currently working on the programme to ensure there is a variety of activities and resources that are authentic and meaningful. Further details will be sent out closer to the start of Term 2 once the programme is finalised.

3. What are the office hours?

The school office is open today until 3pm to take phone calls and answer any questions you may have. The office staff will be checking emails and phone messages over the next four week period. However as it is officially school holidays from 30/3-14/4, you may not get an immediate response. It is important that our staff have the opportunity to focus on their own families during this time.

I will continue to update the community on events and provide as many details as possible closer to the start of Term 2 (15th April).

Take care and be safe

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mark', written over a white background.

Mark

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