



Birdwood School

PRIMARY & INTERMEDIATE, YEARS 1-8

Karepo Crescent, Ranui, Waitakere City, 0612

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29th April 2020

Tena Koutou e te whanau o Birdwood

I want to acknowledge and thank you for your patience, tolerance, and commitment over the past few weeks to keep our learning from home programme moving along. I hope the opportunity to spend time with your children has been a gift for you all, something I am sure your children will remember in the future, however having had three children myself I am realistic enough to know that you will have all had your moments.

As we at Birdwood move towards Covid-19 Alert Level 3, and with the limited re-opening of our school, our Birdwood staff have certainly all learnt that we can adapt quickly to the changing needs and environments that we have been operating and living within since 25 March. We know that there are still many challenges ahead as we continue to meet the learning needs of our students through both classroom and distance learning. We will be maintaining strict public health measures. Paul, the caretaker and myself completed an assessment of the property and grounds and I am pleased to say that the school is in very good shape. A deep clean is being undertaken and furniture is being moved in classrooms so that our bubbles can be accommodated with social distancing in place. **Chemwash** will be cleaning the outside of our school on Thursday. This service is free because we are a Kids Can School. **BIG THANK YOU CHEMWASH** for this service.

There will be a skeleton staff on site from 29th April with the remaining teachers working from home. I appreciate that for some of our staff there is natural anxiety about exiting our safe environments however it is important that we can play our part to support those workers who need to return to work to safely do so. We hope that with all the messaging from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education our school numbers will be small.

We are sending 50 computers/ipads to whanau today. There is an agreement which needs to be signed before the computers can go home. Learning packs have been made for all students which can also be collected today.

Finally, it was heartening to hear from a recent Zoom meeting between the National Education Leaders' Group and Jacinda Adern Prime Minister and Chris Hipkins Education Minister, that members were asked to pass on their sincere congratulations and thanks to the education sector saying, "It has been remarkable about what has happened in education, the speed with which we have successfully moved to remote learning." I totally agree and wish to thank and acknowledge our Birdwood staff who have been amazing and transformational.

Nga mihi and take care

Whaea Jenny

PRINCIPAL