

24 March 2020



**Ellerslie School**  
EST 1877

Kia ora koutou Parents and Caregivers

Yesterday evening, the Ministry of Education announced further changes to what is happening to schools over the next 4 weeks as the country goes into full lockdown. We appreciate that at the moment the community is being asked to make significant and disruptive changes in all aspects of life. Please be assured we are here to provide support, when and where we can.

### **NEW IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES**

Below are the new school dates that have been announced by the Ministry of Education:

1. Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th March - School is closed except for students of essential service workers.
2. From midnight, Wednesday 25th March - FULL SCHOOL CLOSURE.
3. Thursday 26th & Friday 27th March - Online Learning begins.
4. Monday 30th March - Tuesday 14th April Term 1 School Holidays - **NO ONLINE LEARNING.**
5. From Wednesday 15th April - **ONLINE LEARNING RESUMES.** School remains closed as the full country will still be in lockdown.

### **ESSENTIAL WORKERS**

For children of essential workers school will continue to be open today and Wednesday. You may wish to check if your work is considered an essential service:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/government-actions/covid-19-alert-system/>

We continue to ask that children who are not well, do not attend school.

### **ONLINE LEARNING**

As stated above, online learning will initially be available for 2 days (Thursday 26th & Friday 27th March) and then resume again from Wednesday 15th April, once the holidays have been completed. Further information regarding online learning will be sent by the end of the day tomorrow.

As with any school holidays, the teachers will not be required to engage in any teaching or online monitoring. Teachers will reconnect with their Guardian Group once again from Wednesday 15th April. The Ministry of Education has released 2 new websites for whānau to assist with learning at home.

<https://www.learningfromhome.govt.nz/>

<https://www.kauwhatareo.govt.nz/ki-te-ao-marama/>

If you have indicated to the school that your child(ren) are unable to access a device or internet connection for the 4 week lock down you may come to the school office on Wednesday between 9am-Midday to pick up a printed home learning pack.

## **SUPPORT**

The school is here to support students, parents, caregivers, and whānau. We all have an important role to play in reassuring the children at this time. If you haven't already done so, you may wish to read the attached information put together by the Ministry of Education to support your conversations with your children – *Talking to children about COVID-19*.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

During School Holidays, Monday 30th March - Tuesday 14th April:

For any emergency or urgent concerns please ring: Ellerslie School Principal - Nick Butler: 021888262

All other times:

- Email the school office ([office@ellerslie.school.nz](mailto:office@ellerslie.school.nz)).
- Ring the school mobile phone: 021474899 (to speak to a member of the office staff). This phone number will only be available during normal school hours from 8:50am to 2:45pm.
- Updates are also available on the Ellerslie School website - [www.ellerslie.school.nz](http://www.ellerslie.school.nz).

For enquiries regarding online learning:

- Email your child/ren's Guardian Group teacher. Contacts are available on our website.

The school will continue to communicate with the community using our usual methods

- Email, school app, website and our Facebook page.

Stay safe, stay strong, stay positive.... and stay home. Look after yourself and your loved ones.

Ngā mihi nui

Nick Butler  
Principal

[Guidance for Parents](#)