



**PAPAKOWHAI SCHOOL BOT NEWSLETTER**  
**April 16<sup>th</sup> 2020**

Hello Papakowhai School Community

To say it has been a difficult few weeks would seem to be the understatement of the century. These are unprecedented times in modern history and it is difficult to know when normal is going to resume.

Even once Papakowhai School is reopened it is likely to be some time before we get back to normal, i.e. resuming all the regular things we do such as school assemblies, events, etc.

There has been a lot of work done by Mark Smith and the rest of the staff to ensure our school community stays informed and now that Term 2 has started your children's teachers will be in regular contact to support and guide your family through distance learning. The Board would like to take this opportunity to commend all the staff for their work so far.

You may have seen the Minister for Education stated that some schools could open on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Regardless of whether this is the case for our school, certain steps will be taken before Papakowhai School reopens to students. A comprehensive Health and Safety plan will be developed and signed off by the Board prior to the first day back at school. This plan will outline how we intend to keep both students and staff as safe as possible while the Covid-19 alert levels remain in force. The Health and Safety plan will be communicated to the school community.

I would like to reiterate something that Mark said in this week's newsletter. You are not expected to take the place of your teacher. Juggling being a parent, working, and teaching is a trick that is difficult to master. The work your children's teachers are setting is intended to keep your children learning, and if they're anything like mine then they probably welcome the routine and challenge, even if it is being delivered in a different manner than what they're used to. However, you are not being graded on whether the work happens. The first priority is to keep your family safe and well.

We hope to see you back at Spey Place in the very near future.

Regards

Rodney Strong

Chair

Papakowhai School BOT

[bot@papakowhai.school.nz](mailto:bot@papakowhai.school.nz)