



# EVERGLADE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Wednesday 18 March 2020

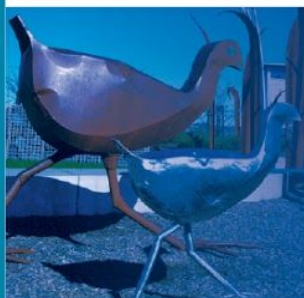
07 /2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

At the moment, the biggest topic on people's minds is COVID-19, aka the Coronavirus.

Up to this point, while it has led to significant disruption in our society, and in some people's daily patterns, there has not yet been any specific mention of schools being closed. Having said that, we acknowledge that things are moving quickly, and it is not impossible that the situation will change. Our approach is "Hope for the best, plan for the worst."

In the interest of being prepared, we are working on a contingency plan should school closure become a reality. A notice was sent out on the App on Monday. This notice is repeated inside this newsletter, with any relevant updates since then. Hopefully, we will not need to implement the plan at any point, but it is better to be prepared.



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**Everglade School Update re Learning programmes**  
**(Covid-19)**  
**Wednesday 18th March 2020**



Up to this point, while Covid-19 has led to significant disruption in our society and in the daily patterns of people's lives, there has not yet been any official mention of schools being closed. Having said that, we acknowledge that things are moving quickly, and the situation one day may change by the next. Our approach is to 'hope for the best, and plan for the worst.'

In the interest of being prepared, we are working on a contingency plan should school closure become a reality.

Obviously we hope that there will not be any need to implement this plan, but it is better to be prepared for such situations.

**What is happening at school now?**

Up to now, Covid-19 has not had a direct impact on schools. Therefore, until such time as directed otherwise, school will continue as per schedule.

Children who are sick should not come to school. Any children returning from overseas (apart from the exempted countries) must self-isolate for fourteen (14) days.

In line with current government directives, we have made the decision to cancel any Assemblies (Team or School) for this term. No other large gatherings will be held.

Washing of hands is a major issue for everyone, as it is seen as one of the key preventative measures that can be taken. This is a challenge for schools, as children are not the world's best at doing this, and with just under 500 children on site, it is a huge logistical matter. Teachers are working to ensure that every child washes their hands for twenty (20) seconds twice a day, before morning break and before lunch. This is done with soap. If your child has a skin allergy to soap, please advise your teacher in writing, and provide an alternative.

**Student access to learning from home (if this is required):**

- Class Dojo is running in all classes across the school. This will enable teachers to communicate with students and families regarding learning activities.
- All students across the school have Reading Eggs accounts which they can access online at any time, with appropriate literacy activities.
- All students from Year 2 and above have Mathletics accounts which they can access online at any time, with appropriate Maths activities.
- Students in Totara and Pohutukawa (Rms 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23) are also connected to their Google Classroom accounts. Through this the teachers can assign learning tasks and receive submitted material from children.
- We would encourage all our students, regardless of age, to continue to spend time reading books at home.

As mentioned earlier, **these measures will not take effect** unless we are directed to close the school.

I am aware that there are a number of people who think the current measures are an over-reaction. Others would say that we aren't going far enough. As a country, we are charged with the task of 'flattening the curve' and making COVID-19 manageable for our health system. We need to move from thinking about doing things differently to actually doing things differently.

We monitor all advisories, and regularly review our practices in line with the latest information. We will continue to do this.

We ask that you continue to send your children to school if they are well; keep them home if they are unwell.

All communication will continue to be sent out through the Skool Loop app. Please check this regularly for updates.

Now on to other matters...

It's always a good idea to repeat some of our 'ongoing' notices, as we gain many new families over a year.

One matter that occurs every day is that **classes finish at 3.00pm**. Following this, most of our children get home each day with no trouble at all. Where we can find some difficulty is when children do something different. In this regard, please note the following:

- Children should not stay at school to play after 3.00pm. The only children to stay on the premises are those who attend Kids Club.
- Children in Year 0/1 classes (Rooms 1-8) should be collected from the classroom.
- Older children who are waiting for a parent to pick them up should report outside the Library. Children in Year 0/1 who are not collected by 3.10pm will also be taken to sit outside the Library. **This is our official waiting area.**
- Some children wait for their pick up by the school gates. If they are not picked up by the time the Road Patrol monitors come off duty, they will be sent to the seats outside the Library.



All of the above arrangements generally work very well. The only time we have an issue is when a child decides to go and play while they wait for their pick up, or when parents tell children to wait somewhere different. Please make sure your child understands the above, as it will make life much easier for everyone.

Note also that **schools are not required to provide direct supervision** of children after 3.15 pm. We do 'keep an eye' on children waiting outside the Library, but do not have a staff member specifically watching over them.



**Win 1 Year of Free Kids Meals +  
a Pita Pit Class Party  
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ezlunch have teamed up with Pita Pit to celebrate the launch of their new kids' meals in-store nationwide with THREE great offers...

Every Pita Pit [ezlunch order](#) delivered **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** inclusive will...

**Go in the draw to win a Class Party!**

**WIN a Class Party for you and your classmates!**\* Pita Pit will provide kids meal catering and some awesome kids packs for your whole class to enjoy.

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Along with your colouring in, you'll also receive **four special offers\*\*\*** to try the new Pita Pit Kids menu in-store (perfect for the school holidays).

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To win a class party, order Pita Pit through [ezlunch.co.nz](#) (or [mykindo.co.nz](#)) for delivery 23 March to 3 April 2020 – you'll automatically be put in the draw. Judges decision is final and no correspondence will be entered in to. \*The Class Party will be set at a date agreed between Pita Pit and the school.

\*\*The Pita Pit Kids meals will be available in-store only, not through ezlunch. Entry is in-store by completing the colouring competition. Pita Pit will be in touch directly with the winner. \*\*\*All orders will receive vouchers for the four special offers, to be redeemed in-store only, not through ezlunch.

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**Next newsletter: Wednesday 25 March**

**Regards,**

**John Robinson**

**Principal**