



22 May 2020

Kia Ora one and all

#### PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE 22 MAY

One week back onsite for 80% of our students, another week of distance learning for others and those winter bugs have started to emerge. Thanks everyone for your commitment to this week. Life continues to be different and we are all having to adapt.

We said last week we would go one week at a time and I can report that each campus has had a wonderful start back this week. This is so good. The atmosphere was great, purposeful, ordered and yet relaxed both in class and at break times

It is our intention to continue in the coming week, the same 'start back regulations' we have used this week. Thank you parents for your superb support as this community has navigated the new normal. Even though there is increasingly a low risk of the virus getting in the school gates, we will be keeping up our hygiene practices and other public health measures as an extra precaution.

We had the Howick and Pakuranga Times photographer on site at GC happily snapping 'approved' photos of students with their sanitiser bottles and our GC librarian Claire Galbraith sanitising returned books. It is significant that 1700 library books were loaned out to families for their use during the lockdown! This is something I am so proud of. Well done library team we love your work.

As indicated, this past week just under 20% of our students were absent. A quick glance at the reasons for the absences would indicate that over 80% were because of the COVID situation / distance learning with increasing seasonal sickness.

#### Looking to next week:

1. We are still being '**safe and sensible**'.
2. We will still be **calm, we won't rush**, we will **operate with a deep and honouring respect** and we will **look after the most vulnerable**.
3. We will still ask **parents to remain off site** and staff will be there to welcome students onto campus.
4. **If it is wet** (and we do need some moisture) we have ample under-cover areas at the front of GC and at MAC for younger students to gather before school. We think senior students and parents are quite capable of deciding about umbrellas and coats!
5. We look forward to seeing more of our students back with us on Monday.

**A special welcome back to one of our long-term staff members - Shane Hutchinson**, to Jen and the family. Prior to teaching up in Nepal, for the past 18 months or so, Shane was a Primary Team Leader at our Golflands Campus. No doubt as a family they have had such an incredible experience and have been indelibly changed as a result. Shane will be joining the Year 1 teaching team from this coming Monday 25 May. Great to have the 3 children back at GC too.

**Special Announcement for our Golflands Campus:** Friday 29 May will be the last day of our current tuckshop operators. We thank the Libelle Group for their service and completely understand their

situation in the wake of increasingly difficult economic times. At GC we will be offering a one day per week service from Subway. More details will follow next week.

Love the way this video finishes and thanks to Richard Wagener for his cameo appearances!

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VyyzhKhUiU67d9IK9sOWO9M5VPqPJP2/view?usp=sharing>

The email sent to parents with the link for this update came with Campus photo roundups from Lockdown and since returning to school.

*Nga mihi  
Regards*

*Murray*

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