

<b>OVERVIEW:</b>	<p>In 2020 the school responded to the challenge of COVID-19 by providing online learning for students at all levels of the school, by increasing and adapting Health, Safety and Hauora/Wellbeing protocols and practices and implementing a Recovery Curriculum for students/ākonga.</p>
<b>ACTION:</b>	<p>Senior leadership and staff worked proactively to prepare and communicate with students/ākonga, families/whānau and the school community as disruption to school and community occurred again on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021 when Auckland was moved to Level 3 and the rest of the country to Level 2.</p> <p>For the school this meant that families/whānau and caregivers of students/ākonga with vulnerable health status were advised that their child may need to study online while our region was at Level 2.</p> <p>Fortunately, this Alert Level change was for a very short time and school operation returned on 17<sup>th</sup> February to the new normal of Level 1. This changed again at the end of February when the rest of New Zealand returned again to Level 2 from 28<sup>th</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021.</p> <p>For each student/ākonga learning at home during Level 2 an individualised programme of teaching and communication was implemented by classroom and therapy staff as per the wishes of families/whānau and caregivers.</p> <p>In 2021 our online learning provision was established very quickly with all students/ākonga able to access and communicate with peers and staff including therapy team via SeeSaw and Zoom immediately due to the foundation of online delivery and dialogue established during and post-lockdown 2020.</p> <p>In 2020 the school had identified students who may require additional support and implemented an Emergency Safeguarding Process and teaching/therapy staff established and maintained lines of communication with students/ākonga and families/whānau at the level which was requested individually. This process was reviewed in 2021 and remains in place as the COVID-19 context develops.</p> <p>Once again, teaching and therapy staff worked extremely collaboratively to maintain student/ākonga connections with peers, staff and as members of the Ruru community.</p> <p>The additional and updated Health &amp; Safety Processes implemented in 2020 were reviewed to ensure the school met all Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health directives and guidelines. This is particularly important following the addition in 2021 of Delta to the COVID-19 context.</p> <p>In August the country once again returned to Alert Level 4 and the school resumed online learning for all students/ākonga and all staff working from home. Hard copy packs and iPads were delivered immediately following the announcement from the government and all teaching/therapy staff returned to online teaching/telehealth provision. Our learning from 2020 ensured our SeeSaw communication system was robust with an extremely small number of families/whānau/caregivers not using the function to communicate with the school.</p>

	<p>On 31<sup>st</sup> August the rest of New Zealand moved to Level 3 but as in 2020 being a Specialist School our students/ākonga remained in online learning until the region returned to Alert Level 2 on 7<sup>th</sup> September. We welcomed back the majority of students onsite with a small number of students/ākonga with vulnerable health status remaining in online learning.</p> <p>By early November 2021 all students/ākonga had returned to onsite learning.</p> <p>As in 2020, throughout the multiple COVID-19 responses in 2021 the senior leadership team provided Action Plans and information to the School Board, staff, students/ākonga and families/whānau, caregivers and engaged in regular reflection and review of actions taken to ensure the school was meeting both the needs of students/ākonga and staff but also meeting our legal obligations towards Health &amp; Safety.</p> <p>A new familiarity with online learning/hard copy resource preparation and delivery partnered with ongoing communication with families/whānau and a pared-back approach to core activities -IEP/ICP and Hauora/Wellbeing supported a successful transition back to school for the majority of students/ākonga.</p> <p>As was the case in 2020 a small number of students/ākonga and staff with health concerns had a delayed return to school but this was supported with online learning access and regular communication to students/ākonga and with generous leave support for staff from the school.</p> <p>Programme planning was reviewed, and the decision was made to extend the focus and content of Term 3 through Term 4 due to the extended Alert Level 4 lockdown. A collaboratively designed Term 4 programme was created to focus on hauora/wellbeing for the last 4 weeks of the school year.</p>
<b>EVALUATION:</b>	<p>2021 saw the extensive learning and adaptive practices of 2020 revisited and reviewed as we responded to the ongoing challenges of school provision in a time of COVID-19. Systems and approaches implemented in 2020 proved useful over the longer term and overall students/ākonga and staff demonstrated a high level of resilience and adaptability. The school's widespread implementation of SeeSaw communication ensured that it was able to act quickly as the Alert Levels changed and to respond proactively and with the best interests of students, staff and families/whānau.</p>
<b>FUTURE DIRECTION:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deepen use of communication strategies -SeeSaw, Zoom with all families/whānau and caregivers.</li> <li>• Implement curricula which fosters and promotes resilience and hauora/wellbeing for students/ākonga.</li> <li>• Further develop reflective practices amongst staff to promote adaptability of thinking and action.</li> <li>• Following recent direction from MOE it is likely that at Alert Level 3 in the future the school would now be required to open. If/when this does occur the school is well placed to maintain a safe and healthy learning and working environment for the school community.</li> </ul>
<b>Report compiled by:</b>	<p>Catherine Lewis Deputy Principal</p> <p>13<sup>th</sup> November 2021</p>