



What's the hAPS?

25th March

Dear parents and caregivers

Our thoughts are with you and your families, as we process the implications of the COVID-19 Alert Levels 3 and 4 government regulations. The Prime Minister's announcement at Monday lunchtime was possibly inevitable but still surreal. As families you have had one day to organise childcare arrangements, change any holiday plans, as well as make urgent arrangements for working at home. If you are an identified "essential worker" we acknowledge and thank you for ensuring our health, food delivery, and public services continue as normal and thank those family members who are supporting your children to enable you to perform your valuable roles.

As adults we are all attempting to process the full range of emotions ranging from frustration, disappointment, lack of time to be prepared and loss of control to name a few, as this unprecedented situation continues to evolve. As parents we have switched in to preparation mode - our minds and actions rapidly organising the practical issues that must be addressed to support our whanau over the next month. I thank you in advance for the tremendous support that you have already shown as a community in accepting these regulations, as we know this is about the greater good for Aotearoa New Zealand and protecting our nation's health and safety.

However for our young learners, we cannot underestimate the enormity of these sudden changes. I ask that in this next week, you take time as a family and be very kind to yourself and others. Encourage your children to voice or draw their worries, as they are being inundated with information from multiple media sources (not all of it true or even factually correct). Amidst the pressure of the first few days of our "new reality", time talking and reassurance from you is the most important gift you can give them. Encourage your children not to focus on what they can't do, but what an "adventure" we are going to have as we focus on what we can do eg, we are still able to go outside and spend time together (while observing the requested physical distance rules), we are still able to buy food and we still have water, power and heating in our houses. Talk about what you may be able to do to help an elderly neighbour or family member and why this is important. Although you may not be able to visit them - sending an email or posting a card in their letterbox, dropping some home-made baking, will mean so much to them. There are a number of support resources (for parents and students) available on our school website ('Coronavirus update' link).

In the last two days teachers have prepared resources to ensure all our communication systems and our APS on-line learning is live today. For this last three days of our school term (school holidays have been brought forward to 30th March—14th April), teachers will be communicating directly and regularly with you / your child by email, google, seesaw or alternative platforms with a variety of learning activities. We know how important this social connection is, and want to convey the sense that although we are not in a classroom - your child knows that their teacher cares and is still there to help with their learning. We do not expect you to pick up the role of teacher, as the learning tasks (where possible) have been designed for your child to complete independently, although you may need to initially set them up for success by modelling a few examples, or clarifying a question. With everyone "working at home" it is suggested that everyone has their own workspace area. This reinforces the concept of "mum and dad are doing their work, you too are doing your learning from school." Some teachers have also suggested a set routine or number of tasks each day for completion.

With increased social media usage during this time, please be aware of the potential for on-line bullying, as well as scammers. You may need to set your own family protocols to ensure supervised access to the internet or any chatroom platforms. I encourage you to follow Netsafe NZ on social media as they continue to publish new advice and to visit netsafe.org.nz regularly. This website is home to a collection of resources that are very useful in a time like this.

Over the two week holiday period you can continue to access a full range of online resources. We have selected some fun and challenging options (that do not involve on-line screen time) to ensure we foster curiosity including a variety of creative, physical, and artistic ideas. After Friday, Teachers will resume contact with their classes from Wednesday 15th April. Further resources will also be provided at a later date from the Ministry of Education.

We include the New Zealand Government Coronavirus link for your information: <https://covid19.govt.nz/>
Please note that during this period, our school playgrounds will be closed.

Stay well, be kind—one act of kindness leads to another—and we look forward to seeing you all in Term 2.

Tu i te tawhiti engari kia kotahi te noho—Stand at a distance but together as one
Maree Bathurst, Principal



Many thanks to over 80 students that participated in Wednesday's 'walk to school'. It was great to see everyone coming through the front gate with their crazy, wacky, fun hats and even wigs!

Thank you to Travelwise Leaders and Tracy Moody for organising this promotion with support from Auckland Transport..



Well done to students that attended the Albany Primary School swimming grading day, swimming sports, and inter-school swimming events.

Students competed to the best of their ability and showed our Albany REACH values.

Thank you to parent support and Tracy Moody for organising and co-ordinating these events.



ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS—20% of membership sale goes to our school

- Pre-orders on sale now—[Link for more info and to purchase Entertainment Books](#)
- Save on dining
- Bonus \$10 Caltex StarCash gift card with every purchase (enter promo code: NZGIFTME at checkout)
- Up to 3 months extra memberships FREE on single and multi city memberships (15 months membership when you buy in March)

FOS FUNDRAISER: VITAL ID WRISTBAND

The 'Vital ID' Wristband is an excellent way for your child—should they become lost or ill - to carry parents/carers contact numbers and/or life saving medical or allergy information.

"Vital ID"手环是您孩子的理想之选(如果他们迷路或是生病), 可以记录父母/监护人的联系电话和/或是救生医疗信息或过敏信息。现在可以从学校办公室购买, 一个\$ 12, 或是两个\$ 20



Available from the school office \$12 each, or two for \$20

These ID bands are sold in a NZ Pharmacy for \$26 each - so grab a bargain!

Yummy Stickers

We are going to get an early start on collecting Yummy Stickers this year! The more we collect, the more sports gear we can get. The class with the most completed Yummy Sticker sheets will win a pizza lunch.

