



CENTRAL NORMAL SCHOOL
TE KURA TUATAHI O PAPAIOEA

Whaia Kia Tutuki - strive to your potential

17 March 2019

Kia Ora whānau ma

I am writing to you in response to the tragedy in Christchurch.

I know you will all be with me in sharing our thoughts, sentiments and aroha to the families and whānau who have been affected by this terrible tragedy.

I would like to assure our community that we have sound lockdown procedures in place at our school. Lockdown procedures are regularly practiced at school and our staff and children are very much aware of what to do when the lockdown signal is given.

An important aspect to remind family and whānau is that if our school was in lockdown, no one would be allowed to enter or leave the school. This is for the safety of everyone. While this would be incredibly worrying for family, we would communicate with you through Facebook, Seesaw and/or text. People would only be released from a lockdown situation when the lockdown had been lifted and through the authority of the Principal (or Deputy Principal in my absence) and/or Police. As evidenced by the tragedy in Christchurch, schools were also in regular communication with the Police and the Ministry of Education for support and advice.

Some schools in New Zealand are holding an assembly on Monday morning to remember the victims of this event. We do not anticipate doing so at this stage. We will wait to see what emerges over the week. Our strong belief is that you, the parents, are best placed to answer your children's questions. If you feel your child needs further support or assistance, these two links may be of help:

<https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/caring-for-someone/support-and-training/talking-about-traumatic-events/>

<https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/emergency-management/managing-stress-emergency/helping-children>

We do know that children will have questions and on Monday morning, staff will be meeting to discuss ways to respond to children's questions and wonderings. Advice from the Ministry of Education indicates how we can support our tamariki:

- provide reassurance and keep to routine
- stay calm and promote a calm environment
- do enjoyable things together
- take time to listen and talk
- provide age appropriate responses and let the children know what we do to keep safe
- remind children of our school lockdown procedures and what we do in a lockdown
- explain the role of emergency services and how they are also there to support people and keep people safe

As a school, we will be looking at some way to support the families and whānau in Christchurch who have been affected by this tragedy. When we have details of this, we will let you know.

Ngā Mihi

Regan Orr

Principal/Tumuaki