



WHAKATANE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

James Street Whakatane 3120
Phone 07 308 6480 Fax 07 308 5760
Email: admin@wistecom.school.nz

Principal – Mike Webster Email: mikew@wistecom.school.nz

Monday 10th June, 2024

Kia Ora Parents and Whanau,

I trust and hope that this letter finds you all well and that you have not been struck down by some of the winter illnesses that are currently making their way through the community. Covid is also making its way around, and again we hope that you have either avoided it or that it was not too severe if you unfortunately caught it. This letter is about sharing information as early as possible.

The school is finding a number of staff are being affected by the current winter flu/Covid case numbers. At the moment the school is managing the absence of staff due to illness well, through a combination of relief teachers and splitting classes across the school. Both options ensure that all students continue to receive good learning programmes and are well supervised for the day.

I want to inform you that **if the numbers** of absent staff due to illness get to such a point that it makes supervising students safely and adequately difficult, the school will look to roster some classes home for a day. To be clear, this will **only happen** if the school **cannot source sufficient numbers of relief teachers** to manage the day. All other **available options will be considered first** and the rostering home of some classes will only occur as a **last resort**.

The school will look to provide a **minimum of 24 hours notice** before this will happen, and where possible 48 hours or more. Students will still be able to access work through their teacher via online learning methods, and could also be sent home with work to complete. The rostering home of students will be within Syndicate teams and will not affect their technology timetable. The school recognises that some whanau might not be able to provide adequate childcare for many reasons, when their child is rostered home. In this situation, **whanau can still send their child to school**, and they will be provided for as expected.

The decision to implement this plan will not be made lightly and there will be serious consideration of all other options first. At this point, the plan is **a proposed one only** but the school wanted to provide whanau with as much information and as early as possible. This way each whanau can begin to **consider plans** for when their child might be rostered at home.

Thank you for your support in advance of this request. It is hoped and expected that this plan will not be implemented. If there are any questions please direct them to the Senior Leadership Team.

Nga Mihi

MJ Webster

Mike Webster
Principal.