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Kia ora koutou Fraser Whanau

## RE: Covid19 Update

My involvement with Fraser Crescent School spans about 25 years and I have seen a few interesting things over that time, but nothing that compares with the last couple of months. I have always been incredibly proud to lead the school and the actions of our children, staff and community lately have made me prouder than ever.

I would like to start by acknowledging the hard work and creativity of the staff. A team who all went the extra mile to support our learners in so many ways. I want to thank the children for getting involved with their home learning programmes, many of whom also went above and beyond to complete some amazing work. Finally, I want to thank our parent and whanau community. Your support, understanding, questions, communication and compliance (particularly in regards to starting back at school earlier this week) has been exceptional. I have also been very impressed with the way parents and caregivers have supported their children in preparing them for starting back at school. You have all helped to make a challenging and possibly stressful time very manageable for both myself and the staff. We are all very grateful for your support.

One of the great things about school is that we are able to do a lot of the usual things we have done in the past, whilst being mindful of a number of health and safety factors. We held an outside disco on the first day back, and all other programmes are now up and running. We are aware that our kids have missed out on a lot lately, so we have plans in place to do lots of additional fun things at school. Spoiler alert, but we are off to the movies next week as part of our PB4L celebration for getting 10,000 tokens!

In terms of learning at home, it was very timely to have had the Educa software up and running prior to the lockdown, as this was an instrumental platform in allowing teachers to share and receive work with students whilst working at home. I was often prompted to look into a child's portfolio to see the fantastic work that had been uploaded. Many of the students took part in the various mini challenges too, and it was really heart-warming to get a glimpse of the exciting things children were doing at home. Our philosophy regarding learning during the lockdown was for children and families to do what they could. We understand that children's home circumstances are varied, and we didn't want our home learning approach to add to the stress, during an already difficult time.

Another key message I want to share with our school community is about asking for help. Covid19 has impacted a number of our families and whanau in a range of ways. If you are in need of any help, please let us know. We have a number of things we can do to help. Also, if you are in a position to help others in our school community, we would love to hear from you. Thank you so much to those who have already done this.

As always, if you have any questions, suggestions or feedback, please get in touch with me via email at [principal@fraser cres. school. nz](mailto:principal@fraser cres. school. nz)

Ngā mihi  
John Channer  
Principal