

29 January 2020

Dear Parents/Whānau

**Novel Coronavirus Update**

I'm very sorry that my first email as the new principal at Sommerville School is about health concerns but I will properly introduce myself in more detail at the beginning of Term 1.

As you will have seen in the media, the situation regarding the coronavirus is rapidly evolving internationally. The Secretary for Education has instructed all principals to update families about the precautions needed to maintain the health of all students and staff at Sommerville School.

If your child displays symptoms of illness such as sore throat, high temperature, cough or respiratory issues please consult a medical professional immediately. You may also contact Healthline at 0800 611 116 for medical advice. Healthline has translators and interpreters available 24/7 in 150 languages.

Any child who has recently returned from China, or who has had contact with someone who has recently visited China, should **remain at home for 14 days** from the date of arrival in New Zealand. Please email [office@sommervillespecial.school.nz](mailto:office@sommervillespecial.school.nz) to let us know if you have been in China and your child's delayed start date.

We are required to follow the directions from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health and we will be monitoring the situation and will continue to provide further updates.

Ngā mihi nui



Tumuaki-Principal