



85 John Walker Drive,  
MANUREWA 2102,  
Auckland, NZ.

Telephone: 09-266 5558  
Facsimile: 09-267 3332

18 March 2019

Dear Whanau of Finlayson Park School,

## **CHRISTCHURCH EVENTS - FRIDAY 15 MARCH 2019**

The tragic events that unfolded in Christchurch on Friday has definitely impacted us in one way or another. It was a cowardly act of hatred, attacking the very core of who we are as New Zealanders, and in particular our Muslim community who were gathering together for prayer.

I know that as a Finlayson Park School community, you will all stand with me to offer our prayers and condolences to those who were affected - those who have lost loved ones, those who have been injured, or those whose whanau have been injured.

We are grateful to the first responders, emergency and support services who have been working tirelessly with the victims and their families over this sad time.

I would also like to acknowledge the principals, teachers and support staff colleagues in Christchurch, who once again, stood staunchly alongside their precious students in a time of extreme fear. Many of them will be working with the victims and families of victims once their children return to school. Some of them will have colleagues working with them whose families have been directly affected by this tragedy. Kia kaha to all those people!

Whilst we hope and pray that this event in Christchurch is an isolated occurrence, I would like to inform you a little more about our school's already established lockdown procedures. Lockdowns are an important part of school safety. Should the school ever be placed into lockdown, we will endeavour to communicate with you to ensure you are informed about the ongoing situation using our text system, and our school website as well as our facebook page. We ask that parents DO NOT come to school in a lockdown situation, as this can place you in danger, and we are unable to let you into any part of the school.

Staff and children can only be released from a lockdown situation by the Principal once the police gives us the go ahead. We communicate directly with staff to keep them aware of the situation and also liaise directly with the Police.

On Monday morning, we held a special assembly to pay tribute to those affected by this tragedy. We also ask parents to take the time to support their children at home with any questions they may have.

See the following websites for support:

The Parenting Place - <https://www.theparentingplace.com/>

Ministry of Health - [www.health.govt.nz](http://www.health.govt.nz)

Children's Commissioner NZ Facebook page - <https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz>

Finally, as a school it is important that we come together with our fellow New Zealanders in their and our time of need.

Kia kaha koutou.

Nga mihi

(Mrs) Sumithra Naidoo  
Vice Principal