



## STANLEY BAY SCHOOL

18 March 2019

Dear Parents / Caregivers

I would like to touch on the events that unfolded in Christchurch on Friday, I am sure you are all deeply shocked, for us as a nation, it is was a horrific and tragic day the magnitude of which will take some time to come to terms with. To quote Jacinda Ardern "No one should live in fear, no matter their race or religion, their politics or beliefs'. To those Stanley Bay families who have been directly affected and to those who have connections in Christchurch, our hearts go out to you and everyone who is dealing with these despicable incidents. Kia kaha.

As a staff we met this morning and have discussed how we will support your children if required. They have been briefed to be ready to listen but will not give details, specifics or personal opinions just general information and facts. We will also be reassuring students that we have emergency procedures and know what to do in an emergency to look after them.

As a school we will observe a minutes silence at the start of Book Parade to remember those who have lost their lives; this will be done in a supportive and compassionate way. To help teachers and students throughout the week John and I will be visiting classes frequently to provide support if needed.

Should a lockdown ever be necessary at our school we have robust emergency planning processes in place. Lockdown drills are undertaken regularly as are fire drills. For your information you can find our emergency procedures on School Doc - <http://stanleybay.schooldocs.co.nz>, username: stanleybay, password: SBS

As you can imagine an incident such as this can have a far bigger impact than those experienced in Christchurch. Your children may also have questions or concerns to voice with you at home and you may be wondering how to respond. The following links may help as discussion starters with your children. Some have been passed on by colleagues and some are from the Ministry of Education.

- Helping children deal with trauma – Ministry of Health website - <https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/emergency-management/managing-stress-emergency/helping-children>
- Oranga Tamariki website - <https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/caring-for-someone/support-and-training/talking-about-traumatic-events/>
- Children's Commissioner NZ Facebook page - [https://www.facebook.com/childrenscommnz/posts/2099610073454960?\\_tn=-R](https://www.facebook.com/childrenscommnz/posts/2099610073454960?_tn=-R)
- The Parenting Place - <https://www.theparentingplace.com/how-to-talk-about/world-trauma/>

Attached to this email is an additional document you may find useful called - Tips for Parents and Educators: Supporting young children

Please feel free to contact me if you require additional support for your child.

Lucy Naylor  
Principal