

A lot has happened in New Zealand and across the world since the lockdown was introduced and we sincerely hope that you are safe and doing well in your bubbles. We are in an incredibly unique situation and our greatest thoughts are with you all, and to those of you who are essential workers. Our essential workers are doing a remarkable job and we thank you all very much for your hard work and efforts.

Over the past week, we have been working on our Distance Learning programme. This newsletter is to clarify a few things you may be wondering.

### ***When does school start back?***

School officially starts back on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April, after the Easter break. This is the first day that school is “open” for Distance Learning. As the school holidays were brought forward, the term 2 start date has also been brought forward.

### ***Does that mean it is a longer term?***

Yes – the term will be slightly longer, approximately 11 ½ weeks and will finish on Friday 3 July (this date hasn’t changed).

### ***What is Distance Learning?***

As we are still in lockdown, all school sites remain closed. Instead of traditional schooling, schools will be providing Distance Learning. Distance Learning is when teachers will be working from home, providing learning activities and tasks for our students that they can do at home.

### ***How will Distance Learning look?***

#### **Nga Peka:**

**Rimu – Mrs Jones, Miss Spencer; Totara – Mrs England; & Kahikatea – Mrs Walker, Mr Meyer**

The team will send home a choice board each week. These boards have a range of activities that can be undertaken at home, individually or with family members. The children also have their Mathletics and Epic sites which they can make use of for maths and reading.

Each day one of the teachers from Nga Peka will send out a message and a task. This way you will hear from each teacher in the team during this distance learning time.

See Saw will be used as a communication tool with yourself and your child.

#### **Te Tiwai:**

**Manuka – Whaea Abi, Whaea Emma, Whaea Meg; Kowhai – Mrs Hanlen, Mrs Gouk, Miss McCarthy; Meremere – Mrs Baker; Matariki – Whaea Kirsty; Awatea – Mrs Jones**

The team will send home a choice board each week. These boards have a range of activities that can be undertaken at home, individually or with family members. The children also have their Mathseeds and Reading Egg sites which they can make use of for maths and reading.

One of the teachers from each collaborative group will make contact with families and students each day at 8.30am. This communication will be through SeeSaw.

The children also took home some writing prompts at the end of last term which they can work through.

Another online site you are able to make use of for reading is [www.sunshineonline.co.nz](http://www.sunshineonline.co.nz). We have a trial subscription with them for two weeks.

The user name is: ohopebeach

The password is: whakatane

All teachers will be available during the school day should you want to make contact, or to share any of your work, via email or through See Saw.

The Ministry of Education are following up on several initiatives one being a TV channel dedicated to home learning. I am sure this will offer some support to whatever else you and your family are doing. The channel will be available on:

TVNZ Channel 2+1

TVNZ on Demand

Sky Channel 502

TV programming will be grouped for early learners, primary and secondary students. The content will include literacy, mathematics, science, te reo Māori, physical education and well-being. The channel will be available from 9.00am to 3.00pm each weekday for a month starting on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April.

We are very realistic that we cannot expect to recreate classroom learning in your home. We also know that many of you have jobs, other family in the home and that homes are busy places. Therefore, we have chosen to make Distance Learning as manageable as possible. As such, the tasks will be what our students can mostly do by themselves, with your support or guidance.

### **Stay Safe Online:**

Network for Learning (N4L) helps to keep your child safe at school and are providing a free service to keep your child safe while they work from home. An information sheet will be sent to you with this newsletter so you can follow up on any safety aspects you want to apply to your child's device.

### **Ministry of Education Updates:**

Many of you will have seen the various reports about what the move from Level 4 will look like. The main points that have been shared with us at this stage are:

- No decision has been made yet about when school will reopen. The decision will be made by the Government and passed on to us. The Prime Minister has made it clear that the isolation period will not end any earlier than the original date.
- If schools were to re-open the earliest would be Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April. However no details have been communicated with us yet as to how this would look and who would be able to return.
- We will keep you updated as we are given information about returning to school. The Ministry of Education is working on guidelines for what Alert Level 3 could look like for schools.

Please take care of each other, stay safe and be kind to everyone. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school when we are advised we can reopen.

Ngā mihi

Cathryn Naera – Principal