

Kia ora whaanau

I hope this message finds you well and you are coping with the new demands that this lock down has created. As you know tomorrow sees school begin once more, but through our "learning from home" curriculum. Read on to find out how things will work for at least the next couple of weeks as well as what the future may hold.

### **What's important for us all in our "Learning from Home" curriculum**

Starting with what's most important I take us back to that first letter we sent you. What we want to ensure is the following:

- We want to create ways to regularly catch-up, to hear what's going on and to keep those relationships going
- We've tried to set up a way for children to learn away from school with shared support from their teachers and parents - it's not formal distance learning
- Different people will be able to spend different amounts of time with their children. Programmes need to be flexible and work with what parents are able to do.
- Some kids will love and want to do the more structured "school work", while for others this will be a battle. We want to encourage families and children to choose activities they can do.
- The challenge only increases when there are more children at home.
- We'll try to provide a mix of activities: For things they can do independently, things with their siblings and activities that the whole family can engage with together.
- Some will look like "school learning" while others use other ways to learn. We've avoided activities that parents will struggle to implement or require them to become "the teacher".



The common theme is creating ways that we can hear and see what the children have been doing and can respond to and encourage them so we remain united and in touch.

### **All our learning can be found through your child's Google Classroom**

We now have less than 10 children who have not accessed our Google Classrooms which is an awesome result. We are contacting these families to overcome any remaining challenges. Today I sent out a further 5 devices to support families.

Classroom is where the activities are to be found for your child. Your child has their own log in which lets them access all they need. Classroom works on every device out there.

[Our help guide can be found here](#)

### **Catching up and checking in**

Your child's class may have set up other ways to check in or share ideas such as through a Facebook group.

We're also encouraging teams to set up catch ups through Google Meet (or Zoom). This is the opportunity to see and talk directly with each other, share stories of what we've been up to, give ideas and more. Using these may depend on the children's ages. As we're already a Google school using this is really simple.

### **Expectations - doing "enough"**

We know that children, parents, whaanau and our school staff all have their own challenges, worries, children, isolation and more to contend with. The learning programmes need to work for everyone and not add to people's worries. In doing so we are looking for the following:

- We encourage children and families to try and complete **three** activities daily and to share these with you. These may be individual or shared (sibling or family) activities
- Try to establish a routine with your children where they can devote certain times to learning.

- We are expecting our staff to create a couple of tasks a day, feedback on what children have done, and to engage and interact in realtime with the children. Children should hear from one of our staff in some way each day

### **Our whole staff is now supporting you and your child**

To keep everyone involved, engaged and maintaining and building relationships we've asked all LSAs, kaiaawhina, part-time teachers and after school care staff to get involved in our children's learning too. In a nutshell:

- These staff are appointed to different classes as additional guest teachers.
- They will set their own activities - in the same way as is already happening
- They will provide feedback on their activities to children in the same way teachers are doing
- They will engage with group and class chats and catch-ups

### **Other sources for learning**

Since we made all our plans three weeks ago (doesn't it feel longer!), the Ministry of Education has got on board with providing other activities and there are a wealth of other learning ideas out there too. We'll continue to use and share these. If you find other cool things to do with your children please share with us through Classroom email.

The new Home Learning | Papa Kāinga TV channel. starts education broadcasting for early learners and students (Years 1–10) from 9am on Wednesday April 15 on TVNZ channel 2+1, on TVNZ on Demand, as well as on Sky Channel 502. See here for shows: <https://www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/home-learning-tv>

### **What the future brings - Here's the latest we have**

It is the Government's intention that on the 20th of April, two days before the current period of Alert Level 4 is due to finish, Cabinet will make a decision on whether or not the Alert Level will change. They will use the most up to date data they have to make that decision.

The Ministry of Education is looking at various scenarios and they will be based on health considerations and requirements under Level 3, particularly managing physical distancing. A hybrid model of both distance learning and on-site learning is very likely at least in the early stages of Level 3. The Public Health requirements will affect each school differently.

Assuming the alert level does change, current planning assumptions are that schools will have Thursday 23 and Friday 24 April to fully access the site and undertake a property inspection and necessary maintenance and cleaning. Monday 27 April is a public holiday (ANZAC Day observed) and Tuesday 28 April will be a staff-only day. We therefore anticipate Wednesday 29 April would be the first day with some of your students/children able to attend in person.

As soon as we have any more concrete information we'll let you know.

### **Need more help?**

If so, do get in touch with the people below:

- If you have any learning questions don't hesitate to contact your child's teachers via email or Classroom.
- If you have technical issues contact Michael Fawcett [michaelf@whatawhata.school.nz](mailto:michaelf@whatawhata.school.nz).
- For enrolment, finance or other admin questions contact Bree [brees@whatawhata.school.nz](mailto:brees@whatawhata.school.nz)
- Feel free to contact me if you have any general questions or comments [matts@whatawhata.school.nz](mailto:matts@whatawhata.school.nz)

Stay safe and stay happy out there