

Maungatapere School Newsletter

Lockdown Update Thursday 16 April



Kia ora family & whanau

Welcome to the second term, one that is very different than we have experienced before. If nothing else, we hope everyone has been able to connect in some way with their teacher. Where to from here will be different for everyone.

We would like to welcome Mr Brad Jensen to our school this term. He has taken over Room 3 from Tina Hodgson. Tina has taken leave until the end of the year and returned to act as the NZEI Support Officer for Northland. Brad has previously been teaching at Dargaville Primary and introduced himself online to his new class this week.

The next 2-3 weeks will be evolving as we all develop a system for learning at home that works for us as teachers and families; many of whom are also managing working at home and family care commitments. Our teachers have worked hard to get systems in place, but communication will be the key, so please make contact if things are not working or you are not sure of expectations etc.

Free internet safety filter for parents

While children are learning from home, they are away from the online safety and security services provided by Network for Learning (N4L) at school. So together with N4L and Netsafe, the Ministry have launched www.switchonsafety.co.nz a free way to block the worst of the web for students and teachers.

This is the link that has been highlighted on TV and shows how it can be added to your devices. Internet safety needs to have good parenting guidelines and management around it also. N4L has great guidelines for parents.

Home Learning | Television Education

Education on TV will be free to air, on TVNZ channel 2+1 and on TVNZ on Demand, as well as on Sky Channel 502. It will run from 9am to 3pm on school days with programming for children and young people, as well as for parents. [Learning from Home](#) will give up to date programme content. Generally, programmes for the younger students start in the morning and they move through to the older students as the day goes on. This can always be a great place to start.

Devices: The school has shared some devices with those families that did not have any. You will need to manage the use around your children and the times they need to connect with their teachers. They are not always needed for students to complete work on but we hope they will assist. These will need to be returned to school when we are up and running again.

Where to next? The information schools are getting is the same as that being given over the news, so we are all waiting to see what will come after 20 April decision. However, schools will need to take some time to prepare for the safe return of staff and students, including cleaning and managing guidelines set. Schools may take longer than dates currently being talked about to be ready for students, so settle into a routine for the next 2-3 weeks and make sure you keep a good balance as suggested here. We will keep the community informed as to how we will manage any move to Level 3 and the return of some students when we have further information.

We have included a timetable below, but this is only a suggestion/guide, not an expectation.

Structure your days – one day at a time

- If your routine has been shaken up, like you're now working from home, it's good to structure your time. Routines are reassuring and promote health and physical wellbeing.
- You can encourage children and young people to keep up with activities at home. Invite them to try different learning activities. These might be sent from school, be things they enjoy, or activities you decide together that would be good to do at home, but don't push them if they seem overwhelmed.
- Make the most of the reality of spending more time together as a family - establish new goals together, think about learning something new together and/or helping others who may be in need (while ensuring physical distancing boundaries and lockdown expectations).

- Before you go to bed, write a list of five things you are going to do the next day — it will give you a framework to hang your day on, a way to keep moving forward and a sense of achievement at the end of each day.
- Here’s an example of a routine for children:

Example daily Schedule

Before 9:00am	Wake up	Eat breakfast, make your bed, get dressed, put any dirty clothes in the laundry
9:00-10:00	Morning walk	Family walk with the dog, bike ride, Yoga if it’s raining
10:00-11:00	Learning at home	School-led learning or sudoku, books, flash cards, study guide, journal etc
11:00-12:00	Creative time	Legos, magnatiles, drawing, crafting, play music, cook or bake etc.
12:00 pm		Lunch
12:30	Helping at home	# wipe all kitchen tables and chairs # wipe all door handles, light switches and desk tops # wipe both bathrooms - sinks and toilets
1:00-2:30	Quiet time	Reading, puzzles, nap, radio NZ stories
2:30-4:00	Learning at home	School-led learning or Ipad games, Prodigy, Educational show
4:00-5:00	Afternoon fresh air	Bikes, walk the dog, play outside
5:00-6:00		Dinner
6:00-8:00	Free TV time	Kids shower time
8:00	Bedtime	All kids
9:00pm	Bedtime	All kids who follow the daily schedule and don’t fight

The Ministry of Education has provided some good resources in regards to the wellbeing of our children during this time. Children may have some confusion, worry, anxiety and simply missing their friends. The link below provides some tips on how to answer some of these questions to ensure they have a good understanding of what is going on and feel reassurance and safe.

- [Tips for teachers, parents and caregivers – supporting toddlers](#)
- [Tips for teachers, parents and caregivers – supporting children](#)
- [Tips for teachers, parents and caregivers – supporting young people](#)

We will keep sharing information and ideas on a regular basis.

Stay connected, stay in your bubble and ask for support if needed.

Regards

Judy Eagles & Maungatapere School Staff
Principal