



Newsletter #5 - Te Pānui o te kura o Rāwhiti: 25 March 2020

***E ara ake ana i te ūruhi
Rising Above The Ordinary***

From The Principal - Te Pū kāea a te Tumuaki

Kia ora koutou, we are indeed living in extraordinary times.

This newsletter, which will be the last for some time, is to clarify the situation in regards to the school holiday dates, and to give you some information about our expectations for home learning while the school is shut.

The April school holidays have been brought forward and will now commence next Monday, March 30th and end on Tuesday, April 14th. Our teachers have already provided home learning opportunities for your children to get them through to the end of this week, and into the holidays if they wish to continue.

From Wednesday, April 15th, schools will be open for distance learning but not physically open for staff to work at the schools. This is because Alert Level 4 will continue past the school holidays - schools will only be 'open' for distance instruction.

This means that teachers will resume providing learning opportunities on line from Wednesday, 15 April, and will continue until we are notified by the Government that it is safe to return to our school grounds.

Below you will find some guidelines as to what we think Home Learning means during this extraordinary time of public lockdown.

Please take care of yourselves and your beautiful children. Our community has had to overcome significant challenge in the past, and again we are going to have to Rise Above the Ordinary.

Ahakoā te noho tawhiti, e tu Kotahi tonu ana tatou—We sit apart, but we stand together.

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‘Learning from Home’ Information for Rāwhiti Parents

As the primary educator for your child, you will be making the decisions about when they learn, and how they learn, while they are “Learning from Home”.

Our teachers will be providing learning opportunities that are:

- Simple - this means children should be able to complete the majority of the work by themselves
- Slow - this means that children will receive a trickle of work rather than an avalanche
- Steady - the trickle of work will be continuous.

When you are making decisions, don’t be afraid to think outside the box or be creative with your child’s learning. If you want to forgo the Maths activities suggested by the teachers and play a game of Monopoly or Cluedo instead please do so! If you choose to have your children spend time outside planting a garden, doing physical activity, or helping out with all those DIY projects that you have on your list, then just do it.

School may be cancelled but music is not cancelled, reading is not cancelled, family is not cancelled, laughter is not cancelled, singing is not cancelled and getting outdoors is not cancelled.

Below are some things you might like to think about as you approach “Learning at Home”:

Provide support for your children by:

- establishing routines for learning
- monitoring communications from teachers
- encouraging physical activity and/or exercise
- checking in with your child regularly to help them manage stress
- monitoring how much time your child is spending online
- keeping your children social, but set rules around their social media interaction .

Children are not:

- expected to work 5 hours a day on school-work!
- going to be online all day!
- expected to be stuck indoors all day!

Communicating with teachers

Our teachers are really keen to keep in contact with the children on a regular basis. They may be communicating with your child using Google Hangouts Meet. They will be emailing or communicating using Google Classroom and Hapara Workspace. Occasionally, the teachers might phone you just to see how your child is getting on.

Some teachers may have set times where students can chat with them online and they can deliver face-to-face lessons or small group work. It is important to remember that teachers will be communicating with dozens of other families and that your communications should be meaningful and short. You may also need to remind your child to be patient when waiting for support or feedback.

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From The Principal continued ...

As always, you can email a teacher with any questions or concerns you might have and they will respond to you in a timely manner.

Teachers will not be contacting children during the two week holiday period.

Ngā mihi ki a koutou

Liz Weir, Principal

