

Newsletter #6—Te Pānui o te kura o Rāwhiti: 14 April 2020

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

From The Principal—Te Pu kāea a te Tumuaki

Kia ora koutou, we have been thinking about you all over the past few weeks and hope all is well in your 'bubble'. We would really like to acknowledge all the members of our Rāwhiti School community who are carrying out roles as essential workers in these extraordinary times.



Term 2 is due to officially start tomorrow, Wednesday April 15th, and this newsletter contains a lot of updated information so please do take the time to take a look at each section.



New Staff

We have two new staff members joining us this term. Well, I say new, but they will be well known to many of you. **Anna-Belle Graham** will be re-joining the teaching team in Ata Hapara, and **Judith Boeren** will be back in Rongo ma tane. Both will be with us till the end of the year and we are very happy to have them back home safe.

Term 2 Distance Learning

From Wednesday of this week children will be able to access learning opportunities from our school website www.rawhiti.school.nz. Click on the About Us tab and you'll see the Our Learning section. Each studio [Blog and Learning Site can be found here.](https://www.rawhiti.school.nz/our-learning/blogs/) (https://www.rawhiti.school.nz/our-learning/blogs/) This is where our teachers will be putting new learning opportunities throughout the week. Our teachers will be keeping 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 have set times where students can chat with them online and they can deliver face-to-face lessons or small group work.

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Each family situation is unique so you need to think about what is viable for your situation. The school does not expect that parents have to try to be maths and reading teachers because we know that all parents have got enough to cope with currently, rising to the challenge of managing everyone working and learning at home. Getting children cooking, or out in the garden is really good for them. Please, do what you can manage. You decide what is right in your household and we trust that you will make the best decision for your family.

Ministry of Education Digital Devices and Resource Packs for Children

Last week the Ministry of Education also announced that they would start to deploy digital devices and resource packs, where required. Some of you have been asking us when these resources will arrive and I'm afraid we do not have an answer to this question. We do know that the Ministry is prioritising NCEA students in Years 11-13 in the first instance.

Thank you very much to those of you who completed the survey we sent out last week to let us know if your child has access to a device at home. We understand that there was a tight time frame for this, but we too were working under very short notice from the MoE and needed to submit data to national office by last Thursday at the latest. We were able to get information on 515 of our 540 current students, which we think is a fabulous response, so thank you, again.

So what happens to the information you gave us in the survey?

- If your child does not have access to a device at home we have added their name to the national distribution list and ordered a pack of resources to be sent to your child at the address you provided in the survey.
- We have ordered a pack of resources for all children in Years 1-3, regardless of whether they have a device at home or not.
- We have ordered a pack of Maori Medium resources for all children in our Level 2 bilingual programme.
- If your child is in Year 4-8 and has access to their own device, they will access their learning from their studio teachers via their class learning site. They will not be receiving a pack of resources at this stage.

What if you did not complete the survey?

- If a survey was not completed for your child we have ordered them a pack of resources to be sent to the most recent address you have supplied to the school.
- If you did not complete the survey and confirm your lockdown address we have been unable to order a device for your child.
- Please be aware that the packs of resources being dispatched to some students have not been compiled by our teachers. They are coming from a central distribution point and there is only one pack available for each Year level, a 'one-size-fits-all' approach. This means that the materials provided may not be pitched at the right level for your child. Like Goldilocks, they may find that the resources are too easy, too hard or just right!

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At this stage we are not able to tell you when any of the above resources might arrive.

School Owned Chromebooks

We have applied to the Ministry of Education for permission to access our school site and prepare some of our school-owned Chromebooks for sending out to students. I am sure you will understand that there is quite a bit of work involved in this and I am really grateful to the staff who have agreed to undertake this task.

At this stage we will be deploying our devices to our Year 7 and 8 students, based on the information provided to us in the survey last week. The Chromebooks will be couriered this week to the address you provided. You will receive an email with additional information prior to dispatch.

If you do not have an internet connection at home we will not be sending a school owned device. However, your child's name will stay on the national distribution list, along with a request for an internet connection to be arranged.

TV Education Channels Launching on Wednesday 15 April

Home Learning | Papa Kāinga TV will start education broadcasting for early learners and students (Years 1–10) from 9am on Wednesday April 15. Māori Television will launch a series of te reo educational programmes (for ages 0 to 18) on the same day. Home Learning | Papa Kāinga TV will be free to air, on TVNZ channel 2+1 and on TVNZ on Demand, as well as on Sky Channel 502.

(<https://learningfromhome.govt.nz/supporting-learning/home-learning-tv>)



Proposed Date for School to Reopen

You may have heard the Minister for Education, Chris Hipkins, speaking yesterday about plans to reopen schools. 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.

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

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We will not have any more information until next Monday, April 20th when the Prime Minister makes her announcement. Following this we will receive directions from the local Director for Education and will pass this information on to you.

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

Liz Weir
Principal

