

15 April, 2020

Covid-19 Stage 4 Planning Update

Dear parents, Whānau and friends of the school,

Kia ora koutou

We are at the start of a new school term in the most extraordinary of circumstances. On behalf of the Board of trustees and staff our best wishes to you all during the continued level four lock down. We will endeavour to keep you all well informed as the situation changes.

By now your child should be in contact with their teacher and able to access the school's online distance learning portal at:

<https://distancelearning.otuinter.school.nz/>

The Ministry of Education has also put in place learning from home resources and I have included their information below.

We would like to continue sharing these thoughts with you.

Over the coming weeks, you may see an increase in behaviour issues with your children. Whether it's anxiety, or anger, or protests that they can't do normal things - it will happen.

You will potentially see more meltdowns, tantrums, and oppositional behaviour. This is normal and expected under these circumstances.

What children need right now is to feel comforted and loved. To feel like it is all going to be okay.

That might mean that you need to tear up your perfect timetable and focus on giving them lots of love and attention.

I know this may be hard if you have the added pressure of trying to work at home with the children there. Please try to play outside and go on walks. Bake biscuits and paint pictures. Play board games and watch movies. Do a science experiment together or find virtual field trips of the zoo. Create a fitness circuit in your garden. Start a book and read together as a family. Snuggle under warm blankets and do nothing.

Don't worry about them regressing in school. Every single child is in this boat and they all will be okay.

When we are back in the classroom, we will focus on their learning and meet their educational needs. Teachers are experts at this!

Don't pick fights with your children because they don't want to do any activities.

Don't scream at your children for not following the timetable.

Don't insist on 2 hours of learning time if they are resisting it. See if you can make learning fun through their play.

If we can leave you with one thing, it is this: at the end of all of this, their mental health will be far

more important than their academic skills. How they felt during this time will stay with them long after the memory of what they did during these weeks is gone.

So keep that in mind, every single day we are in lock down.

Warm regards

Ngā manaakitanga

Henk Popping

PRINCIPAL

From the Ministry of Education:

Home Learning | Papa Kāinga TV and Māori Television education broadcasting starts 9am 15 April

Home Learning | Papa Kāinga TV will start education broadcasting for early learners and students in Years 1–10 from 9am on Wednesday 15 April, with Māori Television launching te reo educational programmes on the same day.

Content will be grouped for early learners and students by age range, and will include play, literacy, mathematics, science, te reo Māori, physical education and wellbeing. All of the programmes will feature highly experienced teachers and presenters, along with wellbeing and movement experts.

Programme presenters include nine teachers from Christchurch and Auckland.

Home Learning | Papa Kāinga TV will be on air for one month with provision to extend beyond that if needed.

Online learning – Ki te Ao Mārama

[Ki te Ao Mārama](#) is a new online space on [kauwhatareo.govt.nz](https://www.kauwhatareo.govt.nz) that provides whānau with practical advice, guidance and resources to use with their tamariki. It's also intended to support the learning plan that kaiako may have prepared for their ākonga.

'**Mauri Reo Mauri Ora**', will broadcast via the Te Reo Channel on SkyTV and Vodafone TV Channel 52, Free view channel 15 and Māori TV website <https://www.teaomaori.news/its-kura-your-own-home-mauri-reo-mauri-ora> from Monday to Friday between the hours of 9am-3pm for the next 10 weeks, starting on the 15th of April. The programmes will be aligned to the curriculum and contain age appropriate content that tamariki can do on their own, with their siblings or together as a whānau.

The programmes on Māori television are for reo Māori learners of all ages, with a focus on those who are aged 0-18, covering ākonga in kōhungahunga (early learning), kura tuatahi (primary) and wharekura (secondary).

New web portal for whānau Māori

Kia Manawaroa is a new web portal for whānau Māori that **will be live tomorrow** on [education.govt.nz](https://www.education.govt.nz).

Kia Manawaroa brings together information from the Ministry of Education and other education agencies, to support iwi and Māori audiences to increase their knowledge about educational choices available. This will therefore provide opportunities for whānau to be more actively involved in supporting their children's learning.

“Kia manawaroa” is a common phrase in te reo Māori. It is a call to action, to remain strong in the face of adversity. It was used on the battlefield, when paddling and sailing waka, in explorations for new homes or whenua, and in settling disputes. In this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is a call of encouragement, of rising to the challenge, of combining our strength to push through these dark times and emerge into the light – “Ki te Ao Mārama”

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, we have launched www.switchonsafety.co.nz - a free way to block the worst of the web for students and teachers.

Please share this website with your parent communities so that they can follow the instructions to set up their child's device for safer connectivity while they learn from home.

Remember, no technical solution is a silver bullet. Please remind your parent community to complement this with digital citizenship toolkits provided by Netsafe.

Netsafe

Netsafe provides comprehensive support and information to support everyone to stay safe as they work, learn and play online. Netsafe has new and updated resources for parents, whānau and students at <https://www.netsafe.org.nz/advice/staying-safe/>

The Connected Learning Advisory

Help desk support is available for teachers, kaiako, leaders, tumuaki, parents and whānau from early learning through to secondary in English medium and Māori medium settings. You can phone the Learning from Home helpdesk on 0800 700 401 and Ki Te Ao Marama on 0508 294 462 between 8 am and 5 pm on business days.