

25 March, 2020

## Distance Learning

Dear parents, caregivers, students and friends of the school.

Tena koutou katoa. Nga mihi nui ki a koutou katoa.

Otumoetai Intermediate will be closed until at least **Thursday 23 April** and it is possible that the closure will be extended if the spread of Covid-19 is not brought under control. Otumoetai Intermediate teaching staff are committed to ensuring that during the period of closure, all students are provided with resources to enable them to continue their learning at home.

The Ministry of Education has adjusted the 2020 School Calendar (see below) by bringing forward the April school holidays. The holidays fall within the four week closure period. Given the exceptional circumstances we find ourselves facing and the fact that families are in lockdown at home during this period, we intend to provide sufficient work for the distance learning days specified by the Ministry of Education. We will also be offering suggestions and ideas on how families can best utilise some of this time to keep themselves busy and entertained.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		25 <sup>th</sup> March	26 <sup>th</sup> March	27 <sup>th</sup> March	28 <sup>th</sup> March	29 <sup>th</sup> March
30 <sup>th</sup> March	31 <sup>st</sup> March	1 <sup>st</sup> April	2 <sup>nd</sup> April	3 <sup>rd</sup> April	4 <sup>th</sup> April	5 <sup>th</sup> April
6 <sup>th</sup> April	7 <sup>th</sup> April	8 <sup>th</sup> April	9 <sup>th</sup> April	10 <sup>th</sup> April	11 <sup>th</sup> April	12 <sup>th</sup> April
13 <sup>th</sup> (Easter)	14 <sup>th</sup> (Easter)	15 <sup>th</sup> April	16 <sup>th</sup> April	17 <sup>th</sup> April	18 <sup>th</sup> April	19 <sup>th</sup> April
20 <sup>th</sup> April	21 <sup>st</sup> April	22 <sup>nd</sup> April				

Green shows the distance learning days specified by the Ministry of Education.

Yellow shows the new school holiday period.

**It is important that students check their school email regularly during this period of closure.**

We have set out below the information you will need to understand the following:

1. How your child can access Distance Learning
2. The work that will be provided
3. The expectations around completing work
4. How and when your child can communicate with their teacher
5. What will happen should the current school closure period be extended

## 1. **How your child can access Distance Learning;**

This is the link to our distance-learning portal which will have all the activities available for your child to do during this national alert level 4 lock down period.

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

Your child's teacher will also email this link to your child's email address directly. The link will also be available on our school website.

## 2. **The work that will be provided;**

A selection of material under the core curriculum areas will be able to be accessed through the link above. There are also suggestions about other activities that students can complete.

## 3. **The expectations around completing work;**

The work on the Distance Learning site are suggestions only. It is up to individual families to decide how much of the work their children complete. They are not intended to place undue stress on your family at this time.

Don't worry about your child 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.

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.**

## 4. **How and when your child can communicate with their teacher;**

You can communicate with your teacher via email during normal school hours and they will endeavor to respond within a reasonable timeframe. Your child's teacher is the first point of contact with the school during this period.

## 5. **What will happen should the current school closure period be extended;**

You will receive communication about further Distance Learning should this be required.

We wish all our families all the very best during the weeks ahead. Once again, we ask you to consider:

*“If we can leave you with one thing, it is: at the end of all of this, the children’s 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 please keep this in mind, every single day we are in lock down.”*

Ngā manaakitanga

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henk Poppinga". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the school's name.

The team at Ōtūmoetai Intermediate School