



Newsletter number 6 30th April

Kia ora e te whanau - Hi families

Nga Mihi Nui Ki a Koutou - big greetings to you all

Welcome to newsletter number six during the Pandemic. Discussion has started to emerge about the numbers of students who are engaging with online learning and the level to which they are getting involved. I am told that in classes there are core students who try everything they are given by their teachers. These are the students that help to make teaching online a joy. There are students who are checking each day what is available and doing some of the work. And, there is a third group who are not yet engaging with materials teachers are putting online.

By this time all students should be getting involved again in their learning. We have suggested that parents need to make decisions each day about how long and which activities children work on or that on a particular day it might be appropriate that no online learning takes place. In general, though students should be engaging in some learning on most weekdays.

If your child struggles with one type of learning, restrict that to a minimum and focus on what they can manage. It may be that there is another way to carry out the same task that your child finds manageable. For example, if they are struggling with writing using a pen then get them to dictate either to you, an older sibling or using the voice to text function on a cell phone. There is such a wide variety and choice of learning materials available for students it should be possible to find something that they can manage independently for some of the day.

Learning is a social experience

Everything teachers plan for students has some interaction included. While this is difficult during a degree of isolation it is not impossible to achieve. The following is something you might like to try out occasionally with your children. This is not a strategy you would use with everything your child learns but used occasionally it can be very successful.

Online learning: Tip for extending the thinking of a child

Think, Peer, Share

Quality of work is improved through discussion - It is important to make each learning opportunity a social experience where your child can talk about the answer to a question rather than just giving it. This is an opportunity for you to question and see if your child will "dig a little deeper" to find an answer that is better than the first comment they make which was all about the child going through the thinking process out loud.

A teacher will often ask a question and then say to the class, “nobody is allowed to answer until you have had an amount of time to think about the answer.” Maybe 30 seconds? This is the “think” phase. In a class the teacher will then say, “now turn to the person right beside you and share your answer with them then listen to their answer.” This is the “Peer” phase. “Do you want to change your answer before you share it with me?” This is the “share” phase. At this point you should have managed to get your child to think about alternative answers to those questions.

School bubbles information

1. The principle of Alert Level 3 (and 4) is those that can stay home, should do so. Only the Principal and school secretary are on site.
2. We have only one teacher on site during the school day. Mrs Soper for the first week and Mrs Paul for the second week.
3. Students should stay 1 metre distant from others, wash their hands often, and stick to their school bubble.
4. Tui classroom is the class in use. It has been set up quite differently to accommodate the 6-8 students we have attending. Each child has their own desk. It is in a specially marked place that adheres to social distance requirements. Students will sit at the same seat each day and if they do not attend on any day no one else will use their seat.
5. Staff at school are asked to maintain all physical distancing requirements - a minimum of 1 metre however 2 metres is recommended.
6. Any visitor and all staff who enter the school must complete a register with contact details in case any contact tracing is required.
7. Hand washing facilities are available at the office door for all people accessing the school.
8. School playgrounds are out of bounds for the duration of level 3
9. Students arrive at school at 8:45 and leave at 3 pm. Teachers meet the students at the gate and escort them back at the end of the day.

Are you up for a walking challenge next week?

The Centennial school community is invited to accept the challenge of walking from Bluff to Auckland next week. How can we do this during level three isolation? We can manage this if we all walk part of the way and we add the distances together. If everyone of the students walked one kilometre every day we would walk more than 150 kilometres per day. If the teachers walked 1 kilometre as well the total would be 172 KM per day. If a few parents helped out we might be able to walk 200 KM per day.

I can hear you saying how will we know how far we have walked? You can download an APP on a cell phone - I use “Strava” This is a free APP. There are others, or you can use your fitbit watch if you have one. You might drive around a block and measure the distance using the car speedometer then walk that each day.

It is 1,658.6 Kilometres from Bluff to Auckland. My challenge to you is that we can walk from Bluff to Auckland in 7 days. We will start walking on monday morning. Each day next week I will

be asking the teachers to gather the number of Km you have walked and send me the results. I will add them all up and show you how far we have walked each day. I might even be able to find some awards for the classes that walk the furthest.

I will see you out on the streets and farm roads next week.

Ministry of Education Packs for learning at home

Early in the lockdown phase of the Pandemic I surveyed parents about their ability to connect to the internet and the quality of devices that each household had available. One of the reasons for this was because the Ministry of Education offered a hard copy of learning materials for families who had no devices or no internet connection. After the survey I completed an application form from the Ministry requesting materials for those families that met the criteria. I believe these hard materials have been delivered to Waimate families and I hope they are meeting the needs of these few families who really needed them. For all other families there is a wide range of learning resources available to you to use with your internet connection and your devices. Please do not hesitate to ask your child's teacher if you need additional support for your child's learning.

Online learning survey

Please keep an eye out for the Survey we are sending out next week about how you are managing the online learning in your bubble.

Internet safety

Netsafe have recently launched a great new resource for parents and whānau, the 'Online Safety Parent Toolkit'. This interactive PDF offers parents and whānau practical tips and tools to help them talk to their children about online safety. It includes:

- quickstarter tips for parents, whānau and young people
- information to enhance digital parenting knowledge
- details about the online risks and challenges their children may face
- advice about how they can help their children.

<https://www.netsafe.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Online-Safety-Parent-Toolkit-R2.pdf>

Tui Bubble news

We have 6 children from across the school as part of our Tui Bubble. Mrs Soper is working with them for the first week (29th - 5th) and then Mrs Paul working with these children for the second week (6th - 12th). Megan - one of our amazing teacher aides - is coming in for part of each day to help out. We had a really good first day, the children are a joy to work with. There was lots of chat, creativity, fun and of course some learning. We had lots of laughs today especially while completing the paper plane challenge. Mrs Soper and Mrs Paul have lots of fun activities & challenges planned for the next two weeks.

Tui online news

Tui's are working very hard on their Seesaw tasks. As Jono mentioned above we too have our core group that respond every day. And respond they do! Mrs Soper and I have both laughed out loud at many wonderful (and hilarious) responses. We have also shed the occasional tear at the beauty of some of the shared learning. It has been a time to really get to know our learners in a different environment as they interact with their caregivers. So for that we are thankful.

Please continue to use the Seesaw app to supplement the experiences you are sharing as a family. If there is a way we can help please reach out for support.



Pukeko News

Today has been different for some of us in our bubbles as many Dad's/Mum's/Caregivers have headed back to work. We have been hearing about how much tougher this makes learning from home when there is only one very s-t-r-e-t-c-h-e-d adult to help! It is awesome to see the way Pukeko's are helping at home and filling others buckets. This is something we all need to try more now than ever! The sunny days are calling us to go outside and play and we try hard to encourage parents and children to enjoy this time. Build in the sandpit, bounce and sing the alphabet on the trampoline, and connect as often as you need. We are always here...

Piwakawaka News

You young people are an absolute joy to work with. I am loving all the creative things that you are posting on seesaw. It is lovely to see people doing their own activities and showing us through videos, photos and pictures what you have been doing. I am finding it hard now to stay with the programme and your posts keep me going each day, so thank you for making me laugh, cry, sigh or just take a moment to appreciate all the hard work you are doing. Keep going, keep being kind to one another and find something you love to do and enjoy it.

Kakapo News

In Ruma Kakapo, children are getting creative too. I read somewhere that now is a perfect opportunity for them to become online creators instead of online consumers. So far we've had Diana's cooking show, Aaliyah's Samoan language and dance instruction and Diana teaching us the Russian alphabet. By the time this newsletter goes out, we might have even more. Thank you those parents who have reached out to me in private messages regarding screen time, amount of work to be completed or other issues concerning their child. We're all in this together. I am more than happy to help with anything you might need.

Ruma Takahe

Hi everyone - another beautiful autumn day in Waimate!

I'm just wondering - as a truck rumbles past our house - if you have noticed the increase in noise and traffic about the town since Level 3 came into place. Even just going for a walk yesterday, there was so much more traffic driving back and forth into town!!

We have been busy with our space theme - listening to astronauts in space reading stories, designing moon buggies and wondering if we could live on other planets. Today we took a sidestep and decided to send some messages to our friends in Ruma Takahe, who we haven't seen for such a l-o-n-g time, via seesaw. You have very special, kind and caring children living in your bubbles at home with you!!

Take care, keep that distance even though it's not always easy, and make sure you stay kind to yourselves.



Kea News

Kea children have started on a Literacy Challenge and some problem solving for maths this week, as well as continuing to participate in a variety of other activities. The skills of the

children who are frequently using tools on Seesaw are continuing to grow - I'm sure we have some budding TV or radio announcers, and photographers, in our midst. We have seen work which shows a lot of thought, especially a few ANZAC poems which were quite moving and beautifully presented.

Most keas are now participating in online and offline activities to some degree. Thank you to all the family members who are helping out. It has been lovely to see and hear brothers and sisters working on activities together and there have even been some parents who have been coerced into joining in fitness activities. Keep up the great work because it makes our day when we see children engaged in the activities we have made available for them.

Weka News

The children of Ruma Weka continue to produce many examples of excellent work and it is always very enjoyable viewing what the children have to share on seesaw or when sending their work to us. It is rewarding to see the vast majority of children are now regular active members of our homeschooling programme. Mrs Waller and myself are certainly being kept very busy providing feedback on a wide variety of completed activities.

Recently, ANZAC day certainly proved to be a great motivation for the children to share many different forms of presentations, ranging from thought provoking poems and photographs, to many forms of meaningful ANZAC art and craft presentations. It is great to see that this very special day maintains importance in the children's lives.

In conclusion, Mrs Waller and myself would like to thank the many parents and care-givers for the support they continue to provide and the huge role they play in Ruma Wekas homeschooling programme. Your support is simply invaluable.

Mr Burt and Mrs Waller.

Thank you again teachers for taking all the time you are to provide these amazing learning opportunities for your students.

Kia kaha Be strong

Kia Maia Be brave

Kia manwanui Be focused

Nga mihi mahana

Jonathan