

Waimate Centennial Pandemic Newsletter three

Nga Mihi Huri Rautau Kura - Greetings Centennial school

He waka eke noa- we are all in this together

A helpline has been set up for anyone needing assistance with accessing essential household goods and services, such as food and medication, due to the COVID-19 lockdown. If you need urgent assistance call 0800 24 24 11 and you will be put through to your local area to discuss your needs.

I am consistently hearing that one of the most important things we can do for each other is to reach out and remain connected during these times. I am very happy to be able to send you these few words in the hope that they find you safe and well within your bubbles.

Expectations for student online learning

These very extraordinary times require that we respond in extraordinary ways. It is important to note that teaching and learning will not be a 9am.- 3pm exercise during this time. Students will not have the teacher online and available like a normal school day. Teachers will have activities for students to work on, but this will not be like the normal classroom routine at home. Teachers have spent a lot of time thinking about what the best learning will look like. They have thought about what you have been saying to them about how your students are managing at home.

Teachers will be providing activities that:

- students can return to over time and re-engage with.
- they will be open ended
- there will be alternative ways of responding to the tasks
- the emphasis will be on thinking, being creative, problem solving, editing and revisiting tasks several times
- we will be trying to create opportunities for students to work with siblings and other students online so that there can be some cooperation with the outcomes and the learning.
- We will not require students to be on the computer for long periods
- The activities we will put online will take students away from the computer and encourage them to work with other materials

Teachers will be available to respond to student's questions and provide feedback between the hours of 9 and 3 pm. Given that there are many students in each class you can expect that your child will have some personalised contact every couple of days.

For families that are wanting advice my suggestion is that students work for short periods of time like 10 - 20 minutes on a task. They have a break of a few minutes to get up and move around. They return to the same or another task for a further 10-20 minutes. After three to four of these sessions have a break outside of 20-30 minutes. These times need to be flexible depending on your child. If you can manage two of these cycles in a day to start with and work toward three you will be creating a suitable learning environment for your child. If your child is toward the older end of the school, you might modify this to stretch times out a little.

It is important that students continue with their learning during this time of uncertainty. What that looks like will be different for each family and it may be different each day.

Survey for Families

On Thursday last week we set up a survey for parents to let the school know how they were getting on. Thank you very much to those of you who have already completed the survey. I am already seeing patterns from the responses and this will help us as we deliver the learning activities your children require. I urge those who have not yet completed the survey to please do so. See the link below. As a follow up to the survey staff will be ringing each family to see how we can help straight away. Thank you again for this information.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YGY2ZHK>

Kiwi Can

We are very excited to be able to now share with you all our own Kiwi Can Canterbury YouTube channel.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UckfEdCLrz4X7IlluHZ1t-nA?view_as=subscriber

Try Raewyn 's dance moves

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/357180994487023?view=permalink&id=1223473144524466>

Changes to COVID 19 alert levels

The Minister of Education noted it would be wrong to assume that all schools and early learning services will reopen at Level 3. A hybrid model of both distance learning and on-site learning is very likely at least in the early stages of Level 3. The Public Health requirements will affect each school differently.

Assuming the alert level does change, Monday 27 April is a public holiday (ANZAC Day observed) and Tuesday 28 April will be a staff-only day. We therefore anticipate Wednesday 29 April would be your first day with some of your students/children able to attend in person.

We will confirm these dates closer to the time.

Five Ways to Well-being

Centennial teachers have been working with the Mental Health Foundations 5 ways to well-being. These are:

- Connect - talk and listen to each other, build relationships with those around you
- Give - your time, your words, your presence; do something nice for your family, a friend or stranger
- Take Notice - be curious
- Keep Learning - embrace new experiences, see opportunities, surprise yourself
- Be Active - do what you can; enjoy what you do; move your mood.

At home you can use these actions to focus on being well. Spend a few minutes each day carrying out one of these activities and you will notice the benefits.

Take care of yourself and look out for others

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou katoa
Jonathan