



Huia Range School

Cole Street
Dannevirke

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11th April, 2020

Kia ora e te whanau,

I have contacted 210 of our tamariki's families over the last week. Thank you to all the mums, dads and grandparents that have answered my questions about home learning and who have shared some of their stories with me. Yes I am continuing to ring those I haven't yet contacted.

Thank you also for your very kind words and safe wishes in the current unusual and challenging situation that we are all in.

I am heartened to hear that most of our whanau are safe and well, warm and have sufficient food. If you are struggling or are aware of neighbours/friends/family please text me on the school mobile 027 781 2224 and I will ring you back.

There were a number of formal announcements made on Thursday including:

1. A decision will be made on the 20th of April as to whether we will remain at Level 4 or change to Level 3.
2. If we change to Level 3 schools may begin to reopen. To start with only essential workers' children will be allowed to return to school on possibly Tuesday 28th April, and only teachers and teacher aides with no concerning health issues will be allowed at school. All other children will remain at home until we change to Level 2.
3. The Ministry of Education are sending out packs of written learning for families with no wifi or devices for their children to learn from. I expect to receive a phone call mid next week to let me know when packs will be posted to our families
4. The Ministry of Education are also beginning to send out devices to families who do not have suitable devices for their children to use while learning at home. The main priority is students working at NCEA level 2 and 3 across New Zealand. We have yet to be informed where our school/children are in the priority list. Again I expect to receive another phone call mid next week to discuss our children's needs and when we might expect iPads to be sent out.
5. Any iPads sent out to families are required to be returned to school as soon as children return.
6. It is also looking possible that I may be able to return to school next week to collect our iPads to deliver them to families. There are a huge number requirements that will have to be in place for everyone's safety before this can occur.

Some very helpful ideas from parents that I have talked to:

1. Some families are struggling with children constantly wanting to eat. This is not unusual when they are home all day.

So feed them breakfast and dinner like on a school day and pack their lunch, morning and afternoon tea in their lunch box. They then eat what and when they want to during the day (but don't top lunch boxes up during the day!). By day 3 children are managing their food really well.

2. Another really good behaviour idea is *Mummy Money*.

Make some play \$2.50 and \$5.00 notes. If your child makes their own bed, helps with the dishes, talks nicely to brother/sister then give them a play note each time. Don't give them money if you have to ask them to do something or if they do something and then ask for money.

They can spend their money in any way that you dream up - half an hour later to bed, half an hour on the playstation, playing a game of cards or a board game with dad (no one else if allowed to play, this is your special dad time!) or a special dessert made for the family.

I hope these ideas are useful to you.

The holidays end, and learning at home restarts, on Wednesday 15th April. Teachers will be putting up new learning on Class Dojo each morning by 9.00am. You can check this any time during the day that suits.

It is not expected that children do learning work from 9.00 to 3.00pm. It would be expected that they complete an hour or two each week day. They need to be outside getting some fresh air and exercise and helping with small tasks around the house.

Please contact the teachers through messages on Class Dojo or through their school email (addresses are on the Huia Range School website) if you have any learning questions.

Please contact me by texting 027 781 2224 if you have any questions about devices, home learning packs or health and welfare.

Please stay safe at home and look after each other.

Ngā mihi

Robyn Forsyth
Principal