

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update Friday 03.04.20

Kia ora koutou

We have now completed our first week of lockdown and hopefully you are settled into our new way of living for the time being. It has been great the weather has been reasonably settled, which means everyone has been able to get out in the fresh air and move around a bit (within their bubble).



It has been fantastic to see some of the work and baking the children have been doing posted to our school Facebook page. We all enjoy seeing the children's smiley faces and their creativity showing through in their work. Thank you to the parents who have been supporting the children in their work.

I would like to thank Barbara Hay for continuing her support for the children by organizing some craft resources for the children so they can continue to have a focus while at home. We are blessed to have a supportive wider school community looking out for our children and families.

In this message I would like to focus on the following points

- Matt Ryland
- School library
- Ministry of Education survey about connectivity and devices
- Communication
- Well-being
- Term 2 start date

Matt Ryland

We are all deeply saddened by the passing of our caretaker and friend Matt Ryland. We ask that you keep his extended whanau in your thoughts and send them aroha during this difficult time. It will be some time before Matt's whanau can come together to mourn his passing and celebrate his life together in person. We will miss Matt and his cheeky personality around our school.

School Library

Previously we had said we would be happy to open our school library to return and issue new books, but unfortunately we will have to withdraw this offer. The Ministry of Education has instructed us that no one is allowed on the school grounds during the Alert Level 4 of the lockdown period. Should anything change during the time away from school that allows us to access the school library, we will let our school community know.

Ministry of Education Connectivity Survey

The Ministry of Education have asked that we contact all of our families and establish an accurate and clear picture of the availability of devices in households that could be used for distance learning as well as how people are connecting to the internet. Over the next week parents will be contacted by Koraunui School and asked if they have a suitable device and internet connection that can be used by their child/children as a part of their learning. This information will be shared with the Ministry of Education as a part of their planning and support provided to schools.

Communication

It has been good to hear stories about how teachers are connecting with children from their classes over the past week. We will be looking into how we will keep in regular contact with the children and families as we head into the new school term beginning on Tuesday 14th April. For now, we will continue to mainly use Facebook and email as a way of sharing information and the children's work.

Teachers will be in contact with their classes to check in and see how everyone is going. If you or your child need to contact your teacher, you can do this via email. Teachers email addresses are
Rm 23 maria.joe@koraunui.school.nz, Room 4 dale.ritossa@koraunui.school.nz,
Room 5 beth.jones@koraunui.school.nz, Room 8 sharron.handscomb@koraunui.school.nz,
Room 9 teresa.kenny@koraunui.school.nz, Room 10 harata.biddle@koraunui.school.nz,
Room 11 kataraina.karehana@koraunui.school.nz, Room 12 dianne.christenson@koraunui.school.nz,
Room 13 tim.rhoades@koraunui.school.nz, Room 14 craig.gilmour@koraunui.school.nz,
Room 15 liz.raimona@koraunui.school.nz

If you have any general inquiries or urgent questions or concerns, or need any assistance during the time the school is closed please email: office@koraunui.school.nz this email address will be checked by me, Gillian McPeake and the office staff regularly over the break and daily after the 14 April. We will do all we can to provide support and advice during this time.

Information about COVID-19 can be accessed on the official government site: <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

If you would like to join the Government Whatsapp for information sharing, the link can be found at this page <https://covid19.govt.nz/latest-updates/whatsapp-channel-for-covid-19-information/>

Looking after each other:

Hopefully you and the people in your bubble are managing to support each other, are finding time for some fun, some work and some time alone in your days. If you are finding that you are feeling stressed, anxious, overwhelmed or worried about what is happening with COVID-19 and the impact this is having on you and your family there is help that is available to you. Please do not feel you need to navigate this time alone.

Ways you can get support and help are;

- By connecting with family and whanau and talking with them
- Talking with neighbours or friends (from 2 metres away)
- Talking to those in your wider community circles (church group, extended whanau, your marae etc)
- Seeking help from organisations and professional groups.

The Ministry of Education has advice about supporting well-being on its website. You can access this here <http://education.govt.nz/school/health-safety-and-wellbeing/pastoral-care-and-wellbeing/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-coronavirus/tips-for-teachers-parents-and-caregivers-supporting-children/>

If you are in need of essential food supplies and cannot access these you can contact the Civil Defense Emergency Management Group on **0800 141 967** for help.

Skylight is offering free resource packs that can be accessed through their website www.skylight.org.nz.

Skylight is also offering their usual counselling services for those who require support, but this is now being done through video links.

If you feel you need help or support, please ask for it. There are people within our community and in the wider community who can help.

Remember to stay home, keep washing those hands and keep up social distance as much as possible.

Ngā mihi nui

Dave Lamont
Principal
Koraunui School

Email: office@koraunui.school.nz, Website: <https://koraunui.school.nz/>, Facebook: Koraunui School Page