

# Principal's Update

Thursday 9th April 2020

## Term 2 Update - Starting Wednesday 15th April

Kia ora,

Welcome to the beginning of Term 2 in a somewhat different context. I really hope you're all safe and well, prioritising well-being (Hauora) and enjoying some home-based activities. We have been working hard behind the scenes to make sure that our wonderful community is all good-to-go for distance learning when Term 2 officially starts on Wednesday 15th April. I would like to thank you all for being such great people to deal with. From answering questions based about your home learning capabilities to updating your contact details, you have been incredibly helpful in an uncertain time. I would also like to thank our Deputy Principal Kelly Rawcliffe for posting up daily activities on our school Facebook page for our families to complete, as well as all of our staff for being so committed to ensuring that your child/ren will be supported in distance learning.

Our Board of Trustees has conducted meetings on Zoom to make sure everything is ticking along as normal and that the well-being of your children is our number one priority. They have been fantastic as always and have provided me with some feedback and/or questions that you have mentioned about what distance learning will look like for Matapu School.

We have put together a daily schedule (attached to this notice) that has two highlighted blocks of learning on it. Your child's teacher will send them a message in the morning every day (Mon-Fri) with set tasks to complete. This will be done through Seesaw. We understand that not everyone has the same access to a device and the internet so there will be paper based and physical activities for your children to complete as well. The teachers will then be available online during those learning blocks to answer questions and provide their students with feedback. Once your child has completed an activity we would really appreciate it if they could take a photo of it or just simply send their teacher a comment to say that they have finished it. This just gives us a heads up that the activities are getting through to the right places.

The daily schedule is not a hard and fast set of expectations for the day, we just know that some families and students would like structure to their days and we felt the daily schedule provides you with a good base to work off. We know many of our students might be helping out on the farm, building something with a parent, which is all great learning as well.

I have fielded a few inquiries about the devices that the government is offering. It is my understanding that the government is prioritising devices and resources for year 11-13 students. Therefore I am unsure when a device may be delivered to those who need it from our community. The Ministry of Education has also put together a wonderful website called <https://learningfromhome.govt.nz/> which has a variety of resources available to you. If you click on the page titled 'Learning Resources' you can browse over age specific activities. In addition to the website, the Ministry is working on a TV channel aimed at delivering learning through that platform, which will be live on Wednesday 15th April.

I have attached to this notice links to the Netsafe and Covid-19 websites. Please check them out, there are some great ideas, reminders and suggestions on them.

Lastly, when school starts back up on Wednesday, can I please ask you to not expect our teachers to message you or your child back after 4 pm every day. Where it has been the school holidays, all of our teachers have not had much of a break, as they have been working tirelessly to get themselves and their students ready for distance learning and going forward we also need to look after their well-being.

Thanks again for being such a great community to be involved in and have a wonderful time with your family over Easter.

Ngā mihi nui,

James Willson  
Principal Matapu School  
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# Daily Schedule

Before 9:00am	Wake up	Eat breakfast, make your bed, get dressed, put any dirty clothes in the laundry
9:00-9:30	Morning walk	Family walk with the dog, bike ride, Yoga if it's raining, run on the farm
9:30-11:00	Learning at home	School-led learning (include morning tea)
11:00-12:00	Creative time	Lego, drawing, crafting, play music, cook or bake, etc.
12:00 pm	Lunch :)	
12:30	Helping at home	# wipe all kitchen tables and chairs # wipe all door handles, light switches and desk tops # wipe both bathrooms - sinks, etc.
1:00-3:00	Learning at home	School-led learning (include afternoon tea)
3:00-4:00	Afternoon fresh air	Bikes, walk the dog, play outside
4:00-5:00	Quiet time	Reading, puzzles, nap, radio NZ stories, Storyline Online
5:00-6:00	Dinner :)	
After 6:00	Free TV time	Kids shower time
	Bedtime	10-20 mins of Reading

## Useful Links

[Netsafe \(please click on this title\)](#)

- This is a really good website that has heaps of helpful tips about how your children and family members can stay safe online

[Well-being \(please click on this title\)](#)

- This link takes you directly to the government's Covid-19 page, which has a lot of information about how you can look after your mental well-being and get further support if needed



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