

13 April 2020



## **SPECIAL COVID-19 UPDATE – LEARNING UPDATE: BEGINNING TERM 2**

Kia ora koutou

At the halfway point of the current four-week National Lockdown, I sincerely hope that you are adapting well to our 'new normal' and that you and your families are safe, well and happy. I also acknowledge the struggles many families will be facing at present due to employment and income issues and uncertainty as well as economic pressure. Thank you to anyone who is at the coal face as an **ESSENTIAL WORKER-ka mau te wehi, you guys are awesome!**

During the break there have been plenty of online communication with the staff-Google hangouts has become our friend! In preparation for the distance learning the management team, syndicates and local principals have met several times. We also held our Board of Trustees meeting last week.

Keeping that in mind, the teaching staff at Kapakapanui School is being very mindful about what we can reasonably provide and expect from your children learning from home.

Firstly, I think it is important to look at our current timeframes and key dates:

### **Key dates**

15 April	Term 2 begins <b>(through distance learning)</b>
22 April	Current date for ending of lockdown period
23 and 24 April	Staff allowed to access school
27 April	ANZAC Day observed
28 April	Schools are being provided with a 'staff-only day'
29 April	First day back for students

During that time frame, we will find out if the lockdown is going to be extended. If the lockdown is extended, we will review what we have done in the learning-from-home space and plan ahead. We are considering some important things as we prepare learning for your children to undertake at home:

- **Much of the home learning your children can do does *not* need to occur online.** Communicating, checking in, presenting and providing ideas for learning can be conveyed through online means. Considerable learning can occur offline.
- In many families, parents will also be working from home.

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- Some of our families will be struggling just to get through this period. Many parents will be on reduced incomes and some may have lost their jobs. There may be more stress and anxiety in homes resulting from this.
- Access to a quiet place to work may be difficult for some students.
- Parents may be managing/overseeing the 'home-based learning' of several children, including some who may be in high school or have high needs.
- A number of our teachers will also be looking after their own children. This is an extra challenge with preschoolers and younger ones.
- **Based on all the above, we want to keep it low-key and 'real'.** We are not expecting parents to be teachers or for children to spend all day doing school work. In the fullness of time the next few weeks will be a fraction of our lives so please just do your best based on your particular needs. As one of our experienced teachers Felicity Bothamley often says *"the kids will still make it to university!"*

### **What will we focus on for Learning from Home?**

From the time Term 2 begins (next Wednesday) through to the first day when students can be back at school we have **9 school learning days**. **At Kapakapanui, we are going to focus on those nine days.** During that time we will review how it is going, what is working and what is not and then plan for any extension of the lockdown. We will approach those learning days as a trial, which we will build on if necessary. The local schools are all on the same page with regards to ensuring learning opportunities are available for children but we're not wanting to stress families out during this time with an overkill of learning. Please note that we are not at this stage running online classes and the work will be fairly similar to the previous work already set.

If New Zealand moves into an extended lockdown phase, we will be considering some more formal learning engagement and 'online teaching' options. In the meantime teachers will email our learning for these days. As noted above please keep perspective with regards to learning and your particular circumstances.

I recommend keeping to a consistent routine where possible. An example which my family (3 kids) have found useful is...

#### **Morning**

Some type of exercise such as online workout, run or bike ride, chores followed by school work. We are having a leisurely morning tea and lunch. My kids have enjoyed this routine as their minds are fresh and they know that it won't go on all day!

#### **Afternoon**

Less structured activities such as playing, reading, connecting online with friends, going for a family walk each day, making stuff, playing music, kicking a ball around, lego, making tik toks, baking, sorting our dinner and involving the kids in this etc.

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## Evening

Tidy up after dinner, family game, watch tv/netflix, kids catch up (connect) with friends and off to bed at our usual times.

**Devices**-I would encourage you to remove these from children during the night and aim for a regular good night's sleep. Monitor overuse as we all know that if given the opportunity many children will be 'on it all day'!

Our mental wellness is ultra important at present and by keeping to some basic routines we are more likely to keep on top of this.

I have heard many other stories of families who are enjoying more quality time together and thoroughly enjoying the slower pace of life. Each family's situation will be entirely different to the next. Please see the links below if you are looking for assistance to get through this difficult time.

- The Ministry of Education has developed a resource for parents, caregivers, whānau and family - <http://education.govt.nz/school/health-safety-and-wellbeing/pastoral-care-and-wellbeing/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-coronavirus/>.
- The Ministry of Health's website includes [Top ways to look after your mental wellbeing](#) during the Covid-19 lockdown.
- I AM HOPE is the youth and community focused support group run by The Key to Life Charitable Trust, started by Mike King - <https://www.iamhope.org.nz/>
- Nathan Wallis has some helpful videos on his Facebook page for parents and whānau - <https://www.facebook.com/nathanwallisxfactoreducation/> -
- Tips on looking after mental health and wellbeing during COVID-19 from the Mental Health foundation <https://www.mentalhealth.org.nz/get-help/covid-19/>
- a website by the Health Promotion Agency to help New Zealanders recognise and understand depression and anxiety - <https://depression.org.nz/covid-19/>
- Although overseas-based, this is a good list and highlights some things particularly important for children. Remember the rules of New Zealand's level 4 lockdown still apply - [25 Mental Health Wellness Tips during Quarantine from Eileen M Feliciano, Psy.D.](#)

## Home learning television

Home Learning TV | Papa Kāinga TV, on TVNZ, will run from 9am to 3pm on school days on TVNZ2+1 and Sky channel 502. Some lessons will also be available on TVNZ On Demand.

There will be content for parents and whānau with preschool children. There will be learning activities for those aged 5 to 15 years of age, covering a broad curriculum that includes movement, music, physical education, wellbeing, numeracy, literacy and science through an integrated approach to curriculum. There's already a lot of good education video content available, and the Ministry will be working with experts and educators to refine and further develop it.

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### **What else is available to support learning at home?**

As I have written, we are trying to keep the learning-at-home experience 'low-key' and 'real' (stress-free for families). Some of you may feel what your children are doing is enough, some may think it's too much and some may think it's not enough. My advice is for you to communicate directly with your children's teachers about this.

More online resources are available through the *Learning from Home* and *Ki te Ao Mārama* (Maori medium) websites: These are excellent resources with a broad range of learning experiences.

<https://learningfromhome.govt.nz/supporting-learning/information-for-parents-and-whanau>

<https://learningfromhome.govt.nz/age/years-1-4>

<https://learningfromhome.govt.nz/age/years-5-8>

<https://www.kauwhatareo.govt.nz/mi/resource/ki-te-ao-marama/>

You can go directly to these sites for many ideas to supplement the learning that is being provided by your children's teachers.

### **Ministry of Education (MOE) Devices and Hard Learning Materials**

Thank you to those you completed the form last week or have been in touch with classroom teachers. The MOE have since been in contact to say that demand for devices around the country has outstripped their supplies. Their focus is going to initially be on getting devices into homes of senior secondary students so this process may take a while to be actioned. Unfortunately due to the lockdown requirements there isn't a quicker way to get devices out to families. My advice is to tune into the tv programmes noted above if you do not have access to devices your child can use.

Keep an eye on Kapakapanui School's Facebook Page and school website for updates. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions on [craig.vidulich@kapanui.school.nz](mailto:craig.vidulich@kapanui.school.nz)

I am really looking forward to when we can get up and running again on-site at Kapakapanui School. In the meantime, we must all do our best to make the most of the situation in which we find ourselves.

Ngā mihi nui

Craig Vidulich on behalf of the Kapakapanui School Staff and BoT

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**He aha te mea nui o te ao?  
He tangata! He tangata! He tangata!**

*What is the most important thing in the world?  
It is people! It is people! It is people!*

