



**CENTRAL NORMAL SCHOOL
TE KURA TUATAHI O PAPAIOEA**

Whaia Kia Tutuki - strive to your potential

Thursday 9 April 2020

COVID-19 Whānau Update: #7

Tēnā Koutou whānau mā

A lot has happened in Aotearoa and across the world since the Lockdown was introduced and we sincerely hope that you are all safe and doing well in your bubbles. We are in an incredibly unique situation and our greatest thoughts and aroha have been with you all - our whānau, tamariki and to those of you who are Essential Workers. Our Essential Workers are doing a remarkable job and we thank you all very much for your mahi and efforts.

Over the past week, the Manawatū Team and our staff have been working on our Distance Learning programme. This pānui reads like a Frequently Asked Question (FAQs) Sheet to clarify a few things you may be wondering.

When does school start back?

School officially starts back on Wednesday 15 April, after the Easter break. This is the first day that school is "open" for Distance Learning. As the school holidays were brought forward, the Term 2 start date was also brought forward.

Does that mean it is a longer term?

Yes - the term will be slightly longer, approximately 11 ½ weeks and will finish on Friday 3 July (this date hasn't changed).

What is Distance Learning?

As we are still in Lockdown, all school sites remain closed. Instead of traditional schooling, schools will be providing Distance Learning. Distance Learning is where teachers will be working from home, providing learning activities and tasks for our tamariki that they can do at home.

How will Distance Learning look?

For the majority of our tamariki, Distance Learning will be provided through Seesaw. To complete their learning, tamariki will need access to a digital device, such as an iPad, laptop, Chromebook or computer. We know some of you collected an iPad from us before school closed to make sure your child could be connected.

We are very realistic that we cannot expect to recreate classroom learning in your home. We also know that many of you have jobs, other whānau in the home and that homes are busy places. Therefore, we have chosen to make Distance Learning as manageable as possible. As such, the tasks will be what our tamariki can mostly do by themselves, with your support or guidance.

Every day beginning on Wednesday 15 April, teachers will be posting one literacy task and one mathematics task to your child's Seesaw. Each day, there will also be four whānau tasks posted to choose from. These tasks are designed to be fun and engaging, which can be done as a family.



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Whānau Tasks will be focused on the other curriculum areas, such as The Arts, Te Reo Māori, Science, Technology and Hauora. Whānau/tamariki are asked to do one of the tasks each day, although you are welcome to do 2, 3 or all 4.

Children will then be invited to post evidence of their learning to Seesaw. The tasks will explain this.

How does my child access Distance Learning?

For your child to access Distance Learning, they must have the Seesaw **Class** App (rather than the Seesaw Family App that parents use). Children are able to login to Seesaw using the Home Learning Code that was sent home before school closed. If you have misplaced this code, please email your child's teacher or Seesaw message them to receive a new code.

What are the times that will be happening for Distance Learning?

Teachers will start the day by posting a video message on Seesaw by 9.00am to check in with our tamariki, to outline the daily tasks and allowing our tamariki to still see their teacher.

All literacy and numeracy tasks will be sent to your child via Seesaw by 9.00am. Whānau tasks will be sent to your child by 9:15am. It is then up to you, what time your child completes these tasks. When complete, your child is able to post evidence of their completed task to Seesaw for feedback from their teacher.

All staff will be available via Seesaw between the hours of 9.00am - 11.00am to answer questions, check on learning and to clarify anything.

Teachers will also be checking Seesaw and their emails throughout the day as they normally would. However, many of our teachers also have their own tamariki at home and will be balancing the learning with their whānau commitments. They will respond to messages as soon as they can. We know you will completely understand this.

What if I don't have a device at home and can't access Seesaw?

We know that some of our whānau do not have a device at home. Those families who completed the recent survey about whether you needed a device or Hard Copy learning - this has been sent to the Ministry of Education. The Ministry has made a commitment to send out devices and/or hard copy learning materials to those families. However, the Ministry has also made it clear that these will be passed out to Secondary students first, especially those with NCEA. Once this has been done, they will then start at Year 10 and move down to Year 1.

The Ministry is also realistic that this will not be achieved by Wednesday 15 April. However, they have announced that two TV channels will begin next week, dedicated to support learning at home.

The channels will operate between 9.00am - 3.00pm each day. Mainstream learning will be on TVNZ Channel 2+1 or Sky Channel 502. Māori Medium learning will be available on Māori Television and we are still awaiting further details about this.

Unfortunately, we cannot provide hard copy home learning, as we are not allowed on site at school.



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How long will Distance Learning last?

This is something we cannot answer with certainty. Information from the Prime Minister is that Alert Level 4/Lockdown is in place until April 22. However, we do not know yet if this is when Distance Learning will end or not. We will inform you once we know.

We appreciate that this is all very different and brand new. We are very understanding and realistic about balancing learning with the home, hence, why we have made our Distance Learning as manageable as possible. We also know that learning is more than just reading, writing and maths.

Learning is also: planning and preparing a meal, folding the washing, washing the car, looking after someone in your bubble, playing a board game, reading a recipe, making their bed, drawing - the list goes on. If your children engage in these activities, we would love to see photos of this posted to Seesaw as well.

As always, the Manawatū Team will be available throughout the course of the day during Lockdown via email should you need to contact any one of us. Our emails have been listed for you. Should you want to talk with us about anything to do with learning, further support you may require or something you feel we should know, please email us and we will call you.

Email contacts:

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Kia Kaha whānau. Together, we will get through this. Continue to keep safe, look after yourselves and Happy Easter.

Ngā Mihi

Regan Orr
Principal/Tumuaki