

BIRKDALE

NORTHschool

Respect Integrity Perseverance Empathy

Manaaki Whakakotahi Manawanui Aroha

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Friday 17th April

2020

Newsletter

Term 2 No.4

Principal's voice:

Tēnā koutou, talofa, bonjour, malo e lelei, kia orana and hello,

I hope this finds you well and you are managing to cope under these very unusual circumstances.

Well here I am typing the newsletter in my office at home today! I must admit from the



perspective of getting things done it is very good for me!

But I have no children to keep busy at the same time - no easy task for all of you juggling with getting your own work done and managing the children.

I am at home with my husband Davy, my son Stuart and his partner Trish and we are lucky enough to all have our own spaces, so it is working out well.

When I am at school and have spent a long time in the office I love nothing more than getting out and interacting with our children. I often say that the children ground me and remind me of why I do the job I do.

I guess you don't know what you have until it's not there! Can't wait to get it back again!

At the moment we are still unsure of when we will be back at school. As I have already indicated we are waiting for our lead from the Ministry of Education who

in turn are waiting for our government to make decisions on what alert level 2 and 3 might look like. As soon as I have any information I will pass it on - sorry if there is a lot but it changes almost daily. At the moment as I have informed you already the date that we have been given for schools **possibly to reopen** at some level is Wednesday 29th April. At this stage we do not know what that will look like. A good thing to say to your children is that some time in the future we will get back to school - don't give specifics as we cannot make promises.

ONLINE LEARNING, HARD COPIES and TV

The teachers have been doing their best to get online learning out to everyone. There is a basic plan or timetable for all the children that has been emailed out to you and I know that some teachers have set up some video conferencing with their students. They have added links for your children to go to and are making as much contact as they can. I am very proud of all of our teachers and want to say a very big thank you for their support and positive approach to this very new and never before encountered situation. I feel humbled at how much care and effort our teachers have put into this.

Part of our PD this year is to get onboard with all of the new technology we have invested in at BNS, so for many of the teachers their learning path has been a very intensive one - having to get onboard with lots of things at a much faster rate than we anticipated. With that in mind some teachers find the world of IT an easy journey and some need a little more support (just like our children), that is why there are no strict guidelines around expectations of e-learning. We do have expectations that as teachers they are available to help the children and parents within school hours and that they will make communication reasonably frequently and make sure you and your family are managing. And we do ask that if nothing else is managed you do some reading, writing and maths each day with your children in whatever form that you can manage. (Some days even this might be too much and that is OK.)

I have added everyone who requested a hard copy learning pack to the database but have no more information at this time as to when you will receive them. If you do get them can you drop an email to Marion and let her know please.

Remember to utilise the learning channels on the TV as well. Here is a link to help you:
<https://learningfromhome.govt.nz/>

Network for learning and netsafe

With all the online learning happening and with people trying their best to juggle children and work commitments it is important we try our best to ensure the safety of our children when on devices, especially at times where they are not fully supervised.

For now while we are in lockdown we have also secured all the year 4-6 gmail accounts by restricting the access to children within the birkdalenorth.school domain. This means that if you do not have an email address ending in birkdalenorth.school.nz then communication is blocked.

Free internet safety filter for parents

While children are learning from home, they are away from the online safety and security services provided by Network for Learning (N4L) at school. So together with N4L and Netsafe, we have launched www.switchonsafety.co.nz - a free way to block the worst of the web for students and teachers.

You can follow the instructions to set up your child's device for safer connectivity while they learn from home.

Remember, no technical solution is a silver bullet, we ask that you complement this with the digital citizenship toolkits provided by Netsafe.

Netsafe

Netsafe provides comprehensive support and information to support everyone to stay safe as they work, learn and play online. Netsafe has new and updated resources for parents, whānau and students at <https://www.netsafe.org.nz/advice/staying-safe/>

The Connected Learning Advisory

Help desk support is available for teachers, kaiako, leaders, tumuaki, parents and whānau from early learning through to secondary in English medium and Māori medium settings. You can phone the Learning from Home helpdesk on 0800 700 401 and Ki Te Ao Marama on 0508 294 462 between 8 am and 5 pm on business days.

We are now on School Apps

As another way of communicating notifications we are now part of School Apps.



Some of you may already have it if you have older children at Birkdale Intermediate or Birkenhead college. This is a great app if you have several schools you need to keep up to date with and it allows you to have as many schools as you need on the one app (our feeder schools all seem to be part of this app) Schools App is an easy way to connect to our website, facebook, notices etc. Please click on the link to see how easy it is to get the app:

[How to get School Apps NZ](#)



What are our children up to - let's have a look:



Lots of different learning happening here!!! You are Awesome!

If you have photos you would like to share
email them to tarynw@birkdalenorth.school.nz
And we will pop them onto our website and facebook.

Blue Certificate winners

We will get back to blue certificates when we get back to school.

Take care in your bubble!

Jan