



Raumati Beach School

www.raumatibeach.school.nz

NEWS

Term 2

Newsletter 4/20

15 April 2020

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

Dear Parents and Caregivers

At just over the halfway point of the current four-week National Lockdown, I 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 and also families of Raumati Beach School will be facing at present due to employment and income issues and uncertainty as well as economic pressure.

Keeping that in mind, the teaching staff at RBS will be very mindful about what we can reasonably provide and expect from your children learning from home.

On the 22nd April, 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. The Board, teachers and I are considering some important things as we prepare learning for your children to undertake at home:

- *On-line learning* was the phrase that was immediately launched into our consciousness by the Ministry of Education. 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.
- 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.
- **Based on all the above, we want to keep it 'realistic'**. There is so much out there in terms of offers and ideas for online learning and learning from home that we have had to filter these so we do what we know is best for our students at.

What will we focus on for Learning from Home?

From the time Term 2 begins (Wednesday) and the planned lockdown period is due to end on April 22, we have 6 school learning 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 upcoming days as a trial, which we will build on if necessary.

What will happen next?

Your child's teacher will already or will shortly be in contact with you. They will either send an email to all parents and caregivers or use Seesaw our online platform, to provide you with links to learning. They will also communicate when they will be available to dialogue with you or your children during that time.

What else is available to support learning at home?

We are trying to keep the learning-at-home experience 'realistic' 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:

<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.

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.

Information and resources to support wellbeing

Your family's well being is exceptionally important. I also know there will be families who are struggling at this time. 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/nathanwallisxfactorededucation/> -
- 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.](#)

I am looking forward to when we can get up and running again on-site at School. We will do our very best to support your children through these uncertain times.

Nga mihi nui

Mike Farrelly
Principal

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