



Sunday 13 April

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whanau,

Happy Easter to you and your families, I trust that you are all doing well as we navigate our way through isolation and living within our bubbles. Term 2 begins this coming Wednesday 15 April albeit in a very different way than we are used to, as we take on “at home learning” via online platforms. I have met with staff via Google Meet and we have spent some time reviewing our previous classroom info with regard to online learning. For your reference this is included below and may contain some slight changes.

As with the previous notice, this is all unmapped territory for everybody involved, but together with some common sense, flexibility and patience we will be able to provide a modified programme for your children. Please be mindful to balance this with your family's well being and other commitments. Develop a routine that works for your personal family circumstances and one that is manageable. As a staff we will continue to review how we can provide long distance learning and will keep you updated with changes.

Opoutere School staff have provided varied content and resources via online learning from home using Storypark or Google Classroom platforms.

Please note that as our junior classes do not have access to Chromebooks, Kowhai and Rimu will receive **hard copy MOE Learning Packs** via the mail to supplement their learning. The packs contain a range of educational resources with guidance for parents and whānau and some stationery supplies. Follow this link to see what resources are in each pack. Each pack is levelled by year group.

<https://learningfromhome.govt.nz/supporting-learning/years-1-10-hard-copy-resource-packs>

Learning from your home can also occur in the following ways:

Kowhai

Maxine and Michelle will be posting new ‘conversations’ into Storypark each morning. Maxine will post ‘show and tell’ videos on April 15th, 16th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd of her animals with a provocation for the children to do a follow up activity at home. Michelle will post a ‘shared story’ of her own favourite books on April 17th and 24th (Fridays). Please share these videos with your child, then add questions/comments OR they would love you to upload your own video in response!

Rimu

Whaea Brooke has set up a Storypark Rimu 2020 forum. Please invite Whaea Brooke to join your child's e-portfolio on Storypark using this email: brooke@opouterschool.com You can invite her as a teacher, and not as whanau. She looks forward to catching up on Storypark and will post learning on this platform.

Whaea Brooke is available to communicate via email brooke@opoutereschool.com if you have any questions. You may like to encourage your child to keep a journal of their thoughts and feelings during this time. It might simply be one good sentence, or you could write together.

Below are some useful links:

- <http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/> Heaps of information in kidspeak with videos and photos covering a large variety of science topics.
- <https://nzmaths.co.nz/families-and-wh-nau> Heaps of practical problem solving activities to do around the home.
- <https://www.sunshineonline.co.nz/parents.php> The parent tab signs you up for free, for two weeks. There are Maths and Reading activities at different levels.
- www.wonderopolis.com creativity, interesting wonderings and questions and answers.
- www.howstuffworks.com short clips on how things work.

Puriri

Mrs Katie Speedy and Mrs Beryl Hughes are available to communicate via email katie@opoutereschool.com & beryl@opoutereschool.com

Student learning and ideas will be via Google Classroom.

Please join Puriri classes (Katie Speedy) to view new assignments and links such as;

- Keep a diary of this moment in history - thoughts and feelings
- Links to reading and math resources
- Matariki - activities
- Kindness Bingo - see how many you can tick off
- AKO - Online scrapbook - share your play (making huts, baking) and write a comment about it.

Teachers will be running class catch ups/Whanaungatanga time 10.30am Mon-Wed-Fri weekly using Google Meet. Students can join via the link set up on their class page. After the first initial set up it will simply be a matter of clicking the button each time to connect with our class.

Instructions - Go in to your Google Classroom - Click on Meet link - Follow the steps to allow the camera to connect/click camera icon - Then click join (Our first Meet will be on Wed 15th)

Students are **expected to join their classrooms, complete activities of their choice and tick off what they do each day.** There is not a set amount each day. Children can decide when and how much they complete. We look forward to seeing you all digitally.

Totara/Kauri

Mrs Resink and Mrs Webb are available to communicate via email: annelies@opoutereschool.com & laurie@opoutereschool.com

All student learning, useful links and ideas will be posted via Google Classroom.

Teachers will be running class catch ups/Whanaungatanga time 10.30am Mon-Wed-Fri weekly using Google Meet. Students can join via the link set up on their class page. After the first initial set up it will simply be a matter of clicking the button each time to connect with our class.

Instructions - Go in to your Google Classroom - Click on Meet link - Follow the steps to allow the camera to connect/click camera icon - Then click join (Our first Meet will be on Wed 15th)

During this time students will be able to meet face to face with the teacher and their classmates and will be able to ask any questions they may have in regards to the online work that has been set.

Totara children must please accept Mrs Resink's invitation to their Google Classroom (they will find this invitation in their school email). More information will continue to appear on our TK Hub Opoutere School facebook page.

Information for parents and whānau (From MOE website www.learningfromhome.govt.nz)

Working together with your child's early learning services or school, you can support your children to learn from home. It's key to remember that your home does not have to be a school. Learning happens anywhere and everywhere and your home is already a learning environment. It is not necessary to turn your home into a classroom.

First and foremost, communicate with your child's teacher. They will have a plan for learning at home – you aren't expected to replace the teacher.

You will need to consider the different ages of your children learning at home. Those at secondary level may need a separate quiet space, whereas you may be able to find learning opportunities for younger children through everyday activities.

Learning happens in every language. If your home language is a language other than English, use that language when communicating with your child. You can use your home language to talk about activities the teacher has provided and the activity can be completed in English.

The next section 'Planning for learning at home' provides some guidance on the things you may want to start thinking about with your whānau.

Planning for learning at home

Your home is already a learning environment. It is not necessary to turn it into a classroom or service. Learning opportunities happen anywhere every day. Remember that learning should be fun, and that it should be in the language you are most comfortable with using.

Plan what your day will look like. Sit down with your child or children and work out what you will be doing together and what they will be doing alone.

Discuss what works best for you and your family when planning learning. Remember, learning doesn't only happen between 9am – 3pm.

It's important to take regular breaks, get outside for some fresh air and do some physical activity.

Some things you might want to support your child with each day:

- *Read (or hear) a story.*
- *Write something.*
- *Challenge your child's thinking on a subject or topic.*

- *Solve a problem.*
- *Do something active.*
- *Hold a conversation about a topic that is interesting to them.*
- *Include your child in everyday home activities, like cooking, washing and cleaning.*
- *Have time to rest and play.*

Connect with your early learning services or school to see if they have prepared anything to help you support learning at home – these might include tips, ideas, activities or how to access resources.

Confirm with your child’s teacher how best to communicate with them while your child is learning from home.

Create a space to discuss the day or week's learning. This could simply be the sofa or somewhere outside.

Home Learning Television

We want to ensure that every learner and ākonga has at least one channel for accessing educational content from 15 April – either through this package or through their school or kura.

So, we have been working with teachers and leaders, alongside staff from ERO and Te Kura to develop Home Learning TV | Papa Kāinga TV, on TVNZ, which 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 and tamariki, and lessons for those aged 5 to 15 years of age will cover 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.

Keeping on line safe

You may want to encourage your parents, caregivers and whānau to discuss internet safety with their children - of all ages. They should agree with their children what they can do online including sites they can visit and appropriate behaviours including:

- *reviewing and approving games and apps before they are downloaded*
- *reviewing privacy settings of sites and apps*
- *checking children’s profiles and what they are posting online*
- *check the sites your child is accessing*
- *reminding children that anything that is posted online will be permanently on the internet*
- *taking the time to understand what sites they are visiting and who they are talking with and check in regularly*
- *some social media sites have age restrictions to join, check these before letting your child use them or join them*
- *monitoring a child’s use of the internet and consider having them use it in an open, common area of the house*
- *making sure your children know to report any activity they don’t feel comfortable with to parents and caregivers straight away.*

There is a unique opportunity during the lockdown of families going out together, albeit it close to home, but if your child is going out on their own it’s still important to check where they are going.

Netsafe continues to be available to provide you and your parent and caregiver community with support for online safety. They have information for parents and caregivers and have pulled together their top tips for online safety during the lockdown. To report an incident To Netsafe - <https://www.netsafe.org.nz/reportanincident/>

If you think a child in your care is the victim of online exploitation or abuse, report it to Police - if you or a child are in danger or a crime is being committed, call 111 or visit your nearest Police Station immediately.

If we all work together to make sure children are safe online, we can make the internet a great tool for people of all ages.

Schools have been informed that some students could start returning to school for face to face lessons on Wednesday 29 April, should the Level 4 lockdown be lifted after 4 weeks. This will depend on what Level 3 will look like and public health information. Parents should be prepared for a variety of different learning scenarios and potentially keeping children longer than for the end of lockdown.

These will be trying times with online learning being very different for a lot of us and the near future still uncertain. Remember that we are here to help in any way we can and staff can be contacted via email for any questions or queries you may have. Together we can continue to provide modified learning for your tamariki during these unprecedented times. We will continue to update families and whanau as further information comes to hand.

We look forward to seeing you all again in the near future.

Warm regards,

Jethro Dyer

Principal