

St Joseph's School

TE KURA O HATO HOHEPA PAPANUI

EMPOWERING STUDENTS TO BECOME CONFIDENT, MOTIVATED LEARNERS, LIVING GOSPEL VALUES.



Thursday 2 April 2020 - Covid19 Update & Newsletter

Kia ora koutou parents and caregivers,

Self-isolation affects people in many different ways. At the Richards' household the first few days were a novelty. We took advantage of the warm autumn days and walked or scooted around various areas of the neighbourhood. The silver lining of the self-isolation is the compulsory quality time we are having as a family. However, the monotony of isolation is now starting to settle in. The daily routine of Mum and Dad working from home and the necessity for the children to find things to do so the parents can work is becoming more of a struggle. So I can strongly empathise with all the school families out there.

I am also very conscious that the Covid19 lockdown is having a negative impact on a vast number of businesses in our community. For many families this has caused businesses to close and loss of jobs. This is a very stressful time for these families so my thoughts and prayers go out to you at this time.

Please remember that there is still support out there. The St Joseph's School and Parish are there to support families in need. If you need support please let us know. All information provided to us is confidential. The Government has also implemented a range of support packages to assist families that are feeling financial hardship. If you would like more information regarding these Government support packages, please visit the following website - <https://covid19.govt.nz/government-actions/financial-support/>

Our Prime Minister has asked us all to unite against Covid19. She has reminded us all to remember to be strong and be kind at this time of crisis. I was provided this whakatauki that I thought was appropriate for our current situation.

*Āio ana te rangi,
Āio ana te whenua,
Āio ana te ao katoa,
Āio ana te moe a te whānau,
I roto i te māi,
Te matihere,
Me te māoriori e,
Kia au, kia au, kia au te moe.*

"The sky is tranquil, the earth is still, everything is calm, our whānau sleeps peacefully, immersed in deep love and contentment, sleep well."

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday commemorates the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1–9), when palm branches were placed in his path, before his arrest on Holy Thursday and his crucifixion on Good Friday. It marks the beginning of Holy Week, the final week of Lent.



Here is a palm cross activity you could do at home to celebrate Palm Sunday. All you need is some flax and access to the internet. Please click on this link to watch the instructional video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmtg7m7lon8&t=113s>



Palm Sunday Prayer

*Loving God,
Give us joy in our hearts as we shout Hosanna,
Welcoming Jese our King with palms
Celebrating all that we hope for as the Easter story unfolds
Then, as the journey of Jese turns towards Good Friday,
Help us know that you are with us when celebration turns to sadness.
Give us the faith we need to follow you on the way of the cross,
which leads to life.
Amen*

Online Learning and Support

Again, I would like to thank the teachers for all the hard work they have put into developing the online Learning from Home platforms. This has involved learning a whole new set of skills and regular online meetings to ensure that our approach is coordinated. As I have previously confirmed, the school's online Learning from Home programme will begin on Wednesday 15 April. This is the start of Term 2 which has been extended due to the official Easter break.

We understand that families have been seeking support with activities over the official term break period. As a result we have put together a Time Fillers googlesite for families to use. This website provides information relating to activities families can do during the term break. It also provides links to a large range of online learning sites.

Google Education Apps are an efficient and effective way the school can deliver online learning opportunities. When the new term begins the Senior Team (Year 5-8) will be using Google Classroom to facilitate online learning. Yesterday a message was sent out on HERO advising all families with year 5-8 learners how to log into their individual school Google account. If you have not seen this message, please check HERO now to locate the instructions.

The Junior Team (Year 1-4) will be using Google Docs to participate in online learning. All families with Year 1-4 children will be required to have a google account so that they can access the Google Docs. Yesterday a message was also sent on HERO to families with

year 1-4 students regarding information about accessing the Online Learning from Home Google Doc. If you have not seen this message, please check HERO now to locate the instructions.

HERO

HERO is a new app the school implemented at the start of the year. At this point in time HERO is the primary way we send messages out to all school families. Later in the year families will be able to access their learners' progress and achievements via HERO.

If you have not already downloaded the Hero app and signed into your account, please do it now by visiting the following website - <https://hero.linc-ed.com/pages.php?page=parent&>

From the Junior Team

On behalf of the teachers and teacher aides associated with the Junior Team, we wanted to connect with you, our learners in our team. After leaving school, we have all started a new phase of New Zealand's response to COVID-19 and it is very different from anything most of us have ever experienced. We wanted to reassure you that your teachers will continue to be available to support your learning and wellbeing in the next few weeks. As learners in the Junior Team, we understand the importance of routine and that our school and family routines have been shaken up. The teachers in the Junior Team encourage you to use the school break to enjoy going for a walk (locally), baking, painting, playing board games and watching movies. We are working towards a schedule of learning that will support you all. As with our collaborations your learning needs to be fun and have choices. Your learning will include a variety of learning activities covering many Curriculum areas. The teachers will be in regular contact with you via the online learning and we would like to say that the feedback we have been receiving showing your support and/or sharing your suggestions (of which we are either looking into currently, to plan on putting in place or looking at, for future growth of St Joseph's) is very much appreciated.

Be kind, keep safe, and look out for each other.

Arohanui He whānau kotahi tātou - We are one family

Kind regards, The Junior Team Teachers

Annette Fraser:	annette.fraser@stjopapa.school.nz
Sarah Philpott:	sarah.philpott@stjopapa.school.nz
Katrina Taylor:	katrina.taylor@stjopapa.school.nz
Angela Bennett:	angela.bennett@stjopapa.school.nz
Annie Woods:	anne.woods@stjopapa.school.nz
Nina Kickhefer:	nina.kickhefer@stjopapa.school.nz
Isabella Byers:	isabella.byers@stjopapa.school.nz
Mathew McGuire (Co-Leader):	mathew.mcguire@stjopapa.school.nz
Karen Burt (Co-Leader):	karen.burt@stjopapa.school.nz

From the Senior Team

We hope everyone is doing well and looking after the health and well being of themselves and their families. As the lockdown continues we appreciate the fact that families are doing their best to establish some form of routines. The arrival of cold wet weather has meant we have had little choice but to stay inside our bubbles and be more creative. We hope families have made use of the Time Fillers as well as attempt their own creative projects. If you have created something amazing, whether it is art, a lego structure or some biscuits, we would love you to take a photo and share it with us, maybe write about it as well.

You might like to try the challenge below but please check with your parents first!

(This is a great one to try with some younger siblings - maybe share the story first.)

Planet Oobleck challenge - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNwrx1dctbo>

Dr. Seuss story about Oobleck - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDef7vCgrk0>

Behind the scenes the Senior Team has been preparing for online learning. We have had lots of fun creating tutorials using Zoom. It is definitely a new learning experience watching yourself! You will be able to judge for yourselves from 15 April to see if we have done a good job.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone once it is safe for us all to return to the classroom but till then keep up the great work on the home front.

Nga mihi nui, The Senior Team Teachers

Melissa Tucker: melissa.tucker@stjopapa.school.nz

Alice Johns: alice.johns@stjopapa.school.nz

Phil Gray: phil.gray@stjopapa.school.nz

David Harrison: david.harrison@stjopapa.school.nz

Philippa Green: philippa.green@stjopapa.school.nz

Jacque Culling: jacque.culling@stjopapa.school.nz

Mel Walsh: mel.walsh@stjopapa.school.nz

Erin Kreft (Co-leader): erin.kreft@stjopapa.school.nz

Marietjie Verweij (Co-leader): marietjie.verweij@stjopapa.school.nz

Covid19 and School Closure

Alert Level 4 means New Zealanders not working in essential services must stay at home and stop all physical interactions with others outside of their household. Schools and early learning services are not considered essential services under Alert Level 4. This means that the school's site is closed until further notice and no one is allowed on site including all school employees.

It is currently the term break. Term 2 will start on Wednesday 15 April with online learning. The school site will remain closed until further notice. At this point in time the government is planning for schools to reopen on Tuesday 28 April. This could change depending on the nationwide Covid19 situation. The school will continue to keep you updated as we are provided official advice from the Ministry of Education.

If you would like to find out more about Covid19 and the Government's ongoing response to the pandemic, please visit the following websites:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/>

<https://www.education.govt.nz/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-3/>

Flutracking

The Ministry of Health, Flutracking is an online survey which asks if you have had a fever or cough in the last week and which can help us track COVID-19. Registering online will help our surveillance efforts by providing early detection of community spread of the flu and also of COVID-19 symptoms. The Ministry of Health encourage people to register online at <https://info.flutracking.net/>

This is a practical thing everyone can do to help us monitor flu and COVID-19 symptoms throughout NZ.

From our ESOL Teacher

We have students from lots of different countries and cultures at St Joseph's School. There are resources available about Covid19 in lots of different languages. This website has information in Te Reo Maori, NZ sign language, Cook Islands Maori, Fijian, Hindi, Niuean, Samoan, Tokelauan, Tongan and Tuvaluan:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/resources-and-translation/translations/>.

This is the only place I've found information in Tagalog (as well as Samoan and Mandarin):

<https://www.sitesafe.org.nz/news--events/covid-19/protect-yourself/>

While you're at home, you may like to help your children learn and use their/your first language. Maintaining your home language is important as it's a big part of identity and feelings like you belong in your culture. Use it at mealtimes, or choose a few phrases that are used a lot and insist they use them! Play some games using your home language or sing some songs. uniteforliteracy.com has books in English that can be narrated to you in 43 different languages, including Tagalog, Russian, Samoan, Korean and Chinese. Click on 'English' then search for the language you want.

Any Pacifica families in need of support at this time are invited to contact E Tu Pacifica, a local Health and Social Services provider on 03 599 9083. They are able to provide packages of support which include food and household items. More details can be found by clicking on this link <https://www.cdhb.health.nz/health-services/etu-pasifika/>