

Tuesday 14 April 2020



Good afternoon everyone,

I hope you are all happy and well in your bubbles and have managed to enjoy some Easter festivities! I imagine you are wondering what is happening regarding schools re-opening following the Covid-19 lockdown.

The holidays finish tonight and so **tomorrow, Wednesday 15 April**, we are supposed to be back to some form of schooling. The actual school site, however, will remain closed during lockdown.

We are in Alert Level 4 and this will remain until Wednesday 22 April, which means schools cannot open. On 20 April, Cabinet will decide whether or not the Alert Level will change. Assuming the Alert Level does change, we will then need time to clean and prepare school. Having an educated guess, I would think at Alert Level 3, some students might be back at school on Wednesday 29 April. I will keep you updated as much as possible, as the Ministry of Education (and us) are preparing for several possible scenarios – maybe opening only for staff, opening for essential workers' children, opening in shifts so that children can stay 2m apart, a combination of distance and on-site learning, staggered opening, not opening for a number of weeks etc. We need to be prepared for whatever the decision is once the data becomes clear. Be assured though, there will be ample notice before school is open.

Until then, teachers have put together some plans for your children's learning, which may be a mix of online and other learning activities. We are expecting that you and your children will devise a timetable to do these learning tasks at times that will best fit your family's situation. It may be that you break the tasks in to 20 minutes at a time, if that works for you and your children. It would be great to factor in some outside time and some exercise time each day as well. Please do not feel stressed about the expectations. Contact us if you need support.

This learning will become available tomorrow morning. PLEASE could you reply to your teacher tomorrow, so they know you are receiving the communication?

For students in Room 5, we are expecting approximately 2 hours each day to be spent on the set learning. Please feel free to contact Mr Hepburn malcolm@ngatimoti.school.nz

For Indigo students, we are expecting approximately 1 to 1 and a half-hours each day to be spent on the set learning. Please feel free to contact Mrs Milnes laurenemilnes@gmail.com

For students in Rooms 1 and 3, we are expecting approximately 1 hour each day to be spent on the set learning, with adult support. Please feel free to contact either Mrs Roberts rochelle@ngatimoti.school.nz or Ms Reid heatherr618@gmail.com

Of course, some students might like to do more than the suggested amounts of time, which is absolutely fine if it is ok with you 😊.

As always, please take special care and maintain good cyber security practices when allowing your child to be online. Check in regularly with what your children are doing, and remind them about cyber safety. This website comes from the Ministry of Education and I recommend that parents check it out. <https://switchonsafety.co.nz/>

As well, the Ministry of Education is beginning a series of shows on TV, starting tomorrow, Wednesday 15 April, from 9 a.m.

Home Learning | Papa Kāinga TV will be shown, free to air, on TVNZ channel 2+1 and on TVNZ on Demand, as well as on Sky Channel 502. It will run from 9am to 3pm on schooldays with programming for children and young people aged 2 to 15, as well as for parents. Home Learning TV will initially be on air for one month – with provision to extend beyond that depending on the COVID-19 situation

If you need anything, including a better device for your child, paper or pens, please let me know. principal@ngatimoti.school.nz

This will be a challenging time for us all, so let's be kind, be positive and be brave!

Kind regards

Ali Turner

