

Ahiahi marie Postgate School

What a fascinating week. So many different emotions and feelings.

Firstly, thank you for your wonderful support. Your response on Wednesday to come into school and collect packs and devices was food for our souls. We also knew that families had what they needed at home. Nicole has loved receiving your photos and videos of your workouts; a short movie is attached from Nicole.

We had a staff meeting this afternoon via Zoom and our staff wanted me to stress a massive thank you for your work. Our staff are very proud of our school and their sense of Postgate PRIDE has been elevated through your support. We love your work!

We also understand that some families haven't had the opportunity to join us in learning. We understand that this week has created a new layer of complexity to our lives. When you are ready and when you have the time, please make contact with your child/ren's teacher. They would love to hear from you

One of our regrets from Wednesday is we should have opened the library so you could collect books. Oh well, next time. It has been great to see teachers still reading to their classes. Hopefully, parents are also reading to their children.

Second point- Learning at home. With education, there will be different levels between schools and between classes. We know schools are not the same. I applaud the professionalism of our teachers who have been very active, looking to continue learning, as best they can, while also providing a bit of fun for all. Our teachers want to provide learning, continue the Learning Process. There is a huge difference between tasks and learning. Teaching is a profession. It has been disappointing to hear of schools where no contact at all has been made. I would question whether these teachers/schools should be in the education profession. When so many people are facing job uncertainty, educators can still play their part the very best they can. Doing nothing is a lack of professionalism and I question if they should be teachers at all or at the very least be on leave without pay. Just my rant.

THANK YOU Postgate staff who have continued the learning with their class, the best they can. I know of many staff members who were going to families' homes on Tuesday to drop off devices/packs, meeting with parents to discuss learning, dropping off care packs and then looking out for their pupils by sending out messages on Tuesday. This is professionalism, this is caring, this is Postgate PRIDE!

We'd like to know how you have found the first few days of online learning. To be honest, we were unsure if what we thought, would work, so please let me know- The positives, the challenges, and what we need to change to make it work for you and your child. At this stage, there are eight days of online learning next term. However, we are mindful that this could be longer.

Thirdly, we want to reiterate the importance of ensuring your child/ren feel safe. This is still number 1. The way to do this is to ensure you are ok. If you are ok, your child will be also. Remember, don't worry that your child never listens, worry that they are always watching. Kids don't miss anything. We can see from the first few days that while life is a bit different, we will be fine.

4th thingy, not all learning happens at school. Actually, what you do over the next few weeks will have more of an impact on your children than what we could ever do. keep baking together, keep playing cards, keep playing board games, keep having fun, keep stress-free, keep doing exercise, keep watching movies with home-made popcorn (that's an experience in itself- making popcorn), keep reaching out via technology to others.

Fifthly, if you need anything or know someone who does, please make contact. We are here for you and yours. We talk about Postgate PRIDE and putting one's pride to the side to ask

for help can be tough; however, we all want the best for our children. Enjoy the holiday break with them. This is a time in their lives they will never forget. Finally, a huge thank you to our doctors, nurses and all our other front line workers. Playing our part by staying at home is easy; it's hard to imagine going face to face with this virus every day. If you are an 'essential worker' or know someone who is, Postgate School is very grateful and thankful beyond measure.

Take care. Be safe - isolate (your bubble)

Dates To Remember

26 March = Alert Level 4 commenced
28 March = School holidays begin
10 – 14 April = Easter including the Tuesday after Easter
15 April = Term 2 begins (through distance learning)
22 April = The current date for ending of lockdown period
27 April = ANZAC Day observed
28 April = Physically everyone is back at school (To be confirmed)

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"Ma te mahi ngatahi, ka tu pakari te matauranga"

"Together, We Learn and Achieve"

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi Engari, he toa takitini;

Success is not the work of one, but the work of many

Nga mihi

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