

Kia ora kotou e te whanau o Postgate School

We trust this looonnggg but very important email finds you all well and you are finding the positives of this stay at home to remain healthy period. Term 2 starts on Wednesday and if our Distance Learning is to be successful, we all need to have a very clear understanding of how this will work.

First of all, I'd like to thank our wonderful staff who have continued to work over the holiday period in preparation for our first day back on Wednesday. Their dedication and commitment to our children are top-shelf. We are very fortunate to have such caring and professional staff. Our Leadership Team had a Zoom Meeting this morning and their positivity, energy and forward-thinking is a testament to their leadership ability. Once again, we are very fortunate to have high-quality leaders across our school.

The success of our Distance Learning endeavour is a partnership and is dependent on careful planning by our dedicated Staff, appropriate student motivation and engagement, and strong parent support for this alternative way of learning. The result of such learning experiences will continue to develop student academic progress and will keep children involved in the learning process.

For our Distance Learning to be successful all children will need to have a device. If your child does not have one, please let us know now. We will be at school on Monday handing out devices for families. We thank those families who have already let us know. An email will be sent later today informing families who have requested a device of the collection time. We will hand out these devices on Monday at Postgate School.

All families must be accessing Seesaw. If you are not on Seesaw, please email kelvin@postgate.school.nz for details on how to log on to Seesaw.

From your feedback/feedforward we have a plan that we know will work for all, hopefully. While, at this stage, we are looking at 8 days of Distance Learning, there are signs that it might be extended. The Government has poured 88 million dollars into Distance Learning, eleven million dollars a day! The 2 TV channels are booked for a month, and comments made suggest a longer time away from school or a staggered start to school; we'll know more next Monday. In the meantime, this is what we know, for sure (oh fo sho):

26 March = Alert Level 4 commenced

28 March = School holidays began

10 – 14 April = Easter including the Tuesday after Easter

15 April = Term 2 begins (through Distance Learning)

20 April = Government to announce where to next

22 April = Current date for ending of lockdown period

27 April = ANZAC Day observed

28 April = Staff Only at school

29 April = Physically, everyone is back at school (To be confirmed)

Our plan moving forward for our Distance Learning is:

- The next day's timetable is posted by 5pm at the latest, the day before. This will help parents who are also working from home have direction around their day and will help with their timetable as well. Everyone will know what the plan is for

the day the day before. Perhaps, each family could have their own daily timetable? This way, everyone knows when their mahi/work time is.

- Teachers are online with children between 9-12. However, this may vary as it might work for some teachers to be offline during part of this time and online a little later. Again, a clear plan will be sent from your classroom teacher. Please remember, our staff also have children that are doing Distance Learning and juggling their day is also very important.
- From 12 -3, teachers are available for children for one on one learning, responding to children's work, and talking with students/families. For Years 1-3, the learning is until 12:30pm. Your child's syndicate teams will send out the exact timetable for you.
- From 3pm, teachers are planning the next day's timetable and work.
- From 4pm, (this part is very important) teachers are offline and will respond to questions etc the next morning. This is the biggest concern, teachers are online all day and night. It is vital they switch off from being online as well and have time to themselves, their families and their mental health

It is important that all students treat the digital platforms that we will be using, including Zoom and Goggle Hangouts, as spaces for schoolwork and school-related communication only. These are not social media platforms and students need to adhere to the following guidelines when in the digital learning space:

- Make all comments **work related** when communicating;
- Be respectful. Do not make personal, derogatory comments about anybody else;
- Use language that you would use in a normal classroom environment with the teacher present;
- Do not set workspaces up behind closed doors, parents must be allowed to look at your work;
- Ensure that all communication is suitable for your parents or teacher to read;
- Digital footprints last forever – read twice and think of this before you press enter;
- Be kind, helpful and understanding. Writing with grace takes time and effort, but gracious words in an email and other online platforms can build relationships and preserve integrity.

In terms of best practice, parents and caregivers need to take an active role in supervising their child's online behaviour and work ethic. Ensure that your child has a workstation that is accessible and easy for others in the household to monitor (such as the kitchen table rather than in their bedroom behind closed doors). Devices (including cell phones) should be left out of bedrooms at night to ensure students are given the best opportunity to get a full night's sleep. Although we are at home learning, we still want to form healthy work habits/lifestyle choices moving forward. The research around children having devices in their rooms at night is clear; this is a no no!

It is important that parents and caregivers are open to having conversations with their children about cyber safety and what it means to be a good digital citizen.

The past few weeks have been very difficult for many. This morning I was watching a funeral service, online. Only the Pastor was allowed at the service. The wife, sons, daughters and extended family were all watching online as only one person was allowed to attend. This is heart-breaking. There are many parents who have lost their job. There are many on their own. There are people who are suffering in silence. We ask Postgate School to reach out to those around you, please check in on those close to you, next to you, over the fence from you. If there is anything Postgate School can do for anyone, please let us know. Please put personal pride aside, this notion of whakama. We are all here for each other and here for you. While the lockdown may soon be over, financial hardship will remain, and we will all need to be One Family to help each other through this year.

Please stay safe, stay positive. The Easter season reminds us that there is light after the darkest day. We all just need faith, hope, and love; with the greatest of these being love. Sprinkle in a bit of peace and happiness for good measure and we are well on our way. We have attached a short video for you to watch. If I was a whiz on the computer, I'd put Postgate images in and take out the Auckland ones. We are all looking forward to seeing everyone again. We do miss our Postgate Family.

Be safe, keep your bubble intact, and reach out to those around you.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YKyekQ1njNQ&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR1gavALUrXd7PR2edVylBUGuma_kG5jbJw9F6-qCEXNw010djUPqfhs00

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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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