



# St Joseph's School

TE KURA O HATO HOHEPA PAPANUI

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



## NEWSLETTER ~ TERM 2 - No. 2 - 24 April 2020

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK - Aaron Richards

#### Surveys

A huge thanks to the families who have completed the surveys over the last week or two. The surveys we have sent out are providing us with valuable information that will either help us plan for a de-escalation in alert levels or enhance the online Learning from Home programme.

The feedback we have received from parents and caregivers has been very positive. The teachers and I have greatly appreciated the messages of encouragement or appreciation that you have noted in the surveys.

#### Online Learning

We are committed to ensuring that the online Learning from Home programme is catering for the needs of all children. We have noted from your feedback that families would like us to provide more video tutorials or more video conference opportunities where the learners can meet a teacher face to face. As a result, teachers have been provided video conference training and we have drafted video conferencing protocols. Moving forward we are hoping to utilize video conferencing more regularly as part of the learning programme.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work that teachers are committing to in ensuring that the online learning from home programme is successful. It has been a big learning curve for all of us.

The school leaders and teachers appreciate that families are managing a number of challenges associated with learning at home as well as learning online. Please remember that parents and caregivers have control with regard to the learning that takes place at home. We are suggesting that each child completes an hour of home learning each day. This follows suggested guidelines provided to schools. Parents can decide if their child does more or less than an hour a day. Parents can decide not to engage with online learning. Parents can decide when home learning is done and what is submitted online. Although parents may decide not to submit learning online for feedback, we encourage all families to connect with their homeroom teacher at least once a week.

### Move to Alert Level 3

The government has announced that schools will open for instruction when we move to alert level 3. The key message from the government is that if your child/ren can learn from home, then they should remain at home. That means that the school will be working onsite and online at the same time. To make this work effectively the teachers need to work collaboratively as some of the teachers will be required to work at school. Because they are doing this they will not be able to spend a lot of time online. As a result the other teachers in the collaboration will be monitoring and providing feedback for this teacher instead. So next week your child might find that they are communicating more with a teacher they do not normally work with.

The government has announced that it will be a nationwide **Teacher Only Day** on Tuesday 28 April. This time has been provided to school leaders and teachers so we can meet together and prepare for working online and onsite at the same time. For this reason, it is likely that teachers may not be available to respond to the children on this day. The online learning programme will continue as normal on Wednesday 29 April.

A huge thanks to the families who responded to the Alert Level 3 survey and have confirmed that their child/ren will continue to work at home or that they require their child/ren to be supervised at school. We have used this information to organise staff and reorganise the learning programme.

The vast majority of staff and students will continue to work at home. However, a restricted number of staff volunteers will be supervising children on site. If you have indicated in the survey that your child needs to attend school because there is no one at home to supervise them, we have placed you on the on-site register. An email will be sent out to these families this evening confirming their attendance at school and will provide details on how the school will operate.

If you do not receive an email this evening then your child has not been placed on the On-Site register and **they must not enter the school site even if you believe it is an oversight.** If you believe that it is an oversight, please email the school office - [office@stjopapa.school.nz](mailto:office@stjopapa.school.nz).

Alert Level 3 guidelines means that the school must not receive visitors. Although the office will be responding to emails and phone calls from the 28th onwards, the office doors will be locked. Only students on the On-Site register may enter the school grounds. Parents and caregivers dropping off and picking children to school must not venture past the Library of Ashby block.

We are nearly there. By working together our country may be one of the first countries in the world to have eradicated the virus from our shores. We should congratulate each other on how we have achieved this together. So on behalf of the teachers I would like to thank all parents and caregivers for their ongoing support.

### Learning from Home - Year 1-2

Thank you to all learners and parents for all your hard work this week with your online learning and keeping your minds mentally active. The teachers have enjoyed reading through the responses that you have created, ka pai! Learners should be extremely proud of their creativity and compassion during this time. We look forward to seeing what week 3 brings, Kia Kaha everyone.

### Learning from Home - Year 5 to 8

Teachers are very impressed with the resilience learners are displaying in persevering with this very challenging situation. We are now confident that most of the technical issues are sorted. If learners have any issues, please email [communication@stjopapa.school.nz](mailto:communication@stjopapa.school.nz) for help. Learners are uploading delightful completed tasks and are receiving feedback from their teachers. There are still some children who are working hard at home but are not submitting their work. Please upload your child's work to receive feedback from your teachers.

### Winter Uniform

A reminder that as we have moved into Term 2 we change into the Winter uniform. You can find details regarding the winter uniform on the school's website - <http://www.stjopapa.school.nz/Web/45/>

It is understandable that families will need to upgrade uniform items before students return to school. I appreciate that this process is complicated during the isolation requirements. As a result students who have registered to return to the school site next week are permitted to wear mufti. Unfortunately we will be unable to sell second hand uniforms until the Alert Level is de-escalated and social distancing rules are relaxed.

Mainland Uniforms are receiving uniform orders now. To avoid the rush you could consider ordering uniform items by phone or email.

Mainland uniforms will start shipping orders once we move to Alert Level 3. Please check out the Mainland uniform website for more information - <https://www.mainlanduniforms.nz/>

### Villa Maria College - Enrolments

Are you wishing to enrol your daughter at Villa Maria College for the 2021 school year? Now's the time to get started! Visit their website for information about how to enrol <http://www.villa.school.nz/new-parents/enrolment/> Download an enrolment form, then send the completed form, along with a scan of your daughter's birth certificate, immunisation record and preference certificate to [villa@villa.school.nz](mailto:villa@villa.school.nz) You can also do an online Villa Virtual Tour <http://virtualtour.villa.school.nz/> - which is in place their traditional Open Day, which they are unable to present this year.

Enrolments close on Friday 26 June 2020.



### YOUR LIBRARY DURING LOCKDOWN -

#### *We're still here in your virtual library!*

I am still supporting learning and recreation, working from my home library office, the *Imaginarium*.



You can see my two Library assistants, Muffin and Maple. I'm hunting out neat e-resources for teachers and students, recording read alouds

from our personal collection, processing new books and answering any queries. The library homepage (more info below) will be continually updated with useful links and fun for the duration.

Manja

### Wheelers E-platform for school e-books

<https://stjopapa.wheelers.co/browse>

is where you find all our school library e-books, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. You can search for books by age on the left hand side. You should all have your usernames and passwords now; if you have any problems, please contact the librarian:

[manja.pieters@stjopapa.school.nz](mailto:manja.pieters@stjopapa.school.nz)

### School Library Homepage and Catalogue

<https://aiscloud.nz/SJSP/#!/dashboard>

is where you can connect to news, useful resources such as free read alouds, e-books, audiobooks, databases and fun activities, as well as search the library catalogue. Please note, the best place to look for the school e-book options is via the Wheelers platform itself. I will be building functionality on the library homepage over the next few weeks, including more links to databases for senior research, etc.

If you have artwork, reading or writing you would like to share, please email it to me! Write a story about what you've been up to during lockdown, or tell us what you've been reading via a review. Our family is reading my son's height in books before lockdown finishes; you'll see a little story about this on the homepage... along with some other fun.

Here's the format for book reviews, some of which you can find on the homepage already (thank you Ben and Caitlyn Fraser).

**Book Review by:** <your name>

Title:

Author and illustrator:

First line:

What the book is about:

What I did and didn't like about it:

I would recommend this to:

Interesting line:

### Your Public Library

I would also strongly encourage you to make use of your local library via your CCC Library membership: <https://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/>

You can join online if not already a member. There are amazing resources and fun activity sites beyond their amazing e-book and audiobook collection, such as their [e-resources for Tamariki](#):