



St Joseph's School

TE KURA O HATO HOHEPA PAPANUI

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



NEWSLETTER ~ TERM 2 - No. 3-1 May 2020

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK - Aaron Richards

This week the school moved into Alert Level 3 along with the rest of the country. Thanks to the continued cooperation of families, the days have run very smoothly with only a small number of learners returning to school. Under Alert Level 3, we are operating under very tight restrictions that enable us to comply with social distancing guidelines.

Feedback from the week 1 surveys indicated that families wanted the school to provide video conferencing so that teachers and students could interact. This week the teachers have continued to enhance their IT skills by participating in training sessions that focused on video conferencing. By now most learners will have been invited to participate in a video conference with the teachers in their team.

Now that we have Alert Level 3 up and running, our sights turn to operating under Alert Level 2. At this point in time we have not received any guidance from the government as to how we should operate if we should change. Information will be provided to families as soon as we have worked through the details.

Preparation for Returning to School

Now that the school has successfully transitioned to Alert Level 3, we will start planning for a transition to Alert Level 2. Flexibility will be built into our 'Back to School' plan to accommodate for a range of challenges to prepare children for a return to school such as purchasing uniform items. Details on the 'Back to School' plan will be provided once we have received guidelines from the Ministry of Education.

Learning From Home Resources in Diverse Languages

The Ministry of Education has a website with information to support parents with learning at home. There are links with information in 17 different languages including Tagalog, Chinese, Samoan, Hindi and Korean.

<https://education.govt.nz/covid-19/distance-learning>

The following link also has information in 10 Pacific Languages. <https://learningfromhome.govt.nz/pacific-communities>

You are your child's first and best teacher. You have skills, knowledge and experiences that can help your child to learn and grow. Remember too, that learning happens in every language. If your home language is a language other than English, use that language when communicating with your child. You can use your home language to talk about activities the teacher has provided and the activity can be completed in English.

Pastoral Care

During the Covid19 Alert Level 4 period, the parish and school have been working together to support vulnerable families and individuals. If you or someone you know needs support, please contact Megan Stewart - meganstjopapa@gmail.com

Sparklers at Home wellbeing toolkit

Sparklers at Home, supported by the Ministry of Health, is to enable parents and caregivers to support the wellbeing of their tamariki while at home. It is free and contains 23 fun and easy to do wellbeing activities that parents and caregivers can do with their children in their living room or on their lawn - <https://sparklers.org.nz/>

Congratulations

A huge St Joseph's congratulations to Mr McGuire and his wife Melanie on the birth of their son, Joshua John McGuire, born 8:58am 28/4/20, weighing 8.91 pounds. Baby and mum doing well. We wish them well in their first few weeks of parenthood.



HERO - School Communication

At the start of the year the school changed to a new student management system. This new system packages up a number of functions that were carried out by a number of separate online systems. As we expand the functionality of Hero, it will enable us not only to communicate with parents but also; report student achievement, enable parents to give permission online, and update students details online.

At this point in time we are continuing to push out messages on Hero as well as the School Links software. In the future the School Links messaging will cease so it is important that parents link up with the school using the HERO app. If you have not yet installed, and logged in on the Hero app, please read the instructions which have been emailed separately on SchoolLinks.

*Loving God, many times I wonder where you are
when bad things happen in the world.
Help me to remember that you are not the cause of
these things,
But that you are with us in the fear and worry,
and in the effort to make things right.
You never leave us alone.*

*We remember that your son Jesus
cared about those who were sick.
Help me to be like Jesus - to be kind to myself,
my family, my friends and others.
Remind me to smile.
Help me to cope with being separated, and with
feeling trapped or stressed.
Give me the strength to do what is asked of me
with good spirit - even if it's just staying at home,
or washing my hands.*

*Please, help all people who are sick now,
or scared about getting sick,
Especially in Aotearoa,
but also in the whole world.
Thank you for the people who love me
and care for me.
I know that with them, and you,
I am never alone - you are with me.
Amen.*