



"Raising the Bar"

Somerset Crescent School

Hello Tena koutou Talofa lava Fakaalofa atu Talofa ni
Malo e lelei Kia orana Ni sa bula vinaka Malo ni

Hello Whanau & Friends of Somerset Crescent School,

Welcome back to Term 2, as 'distant learners'. This is the first time across New Zealand that all schools have been faced with providing a learning programme that can be achieved from a 'distant' – be this online learning or by using hard copy learning materials.

I am incredibly proud of all the teachers who have been working very hard on your children's behalf trying to pitch a learning programme that they will be able to cope with at home, and which you will be able to support from home. Our focus is to provide material that compliments your home life and routines, and can be incorporated into your normal daily lives. There are activities that our children will all be familiar with, and these will bring a sense of security. I highly recommend that you log into our school website and the teams Facebook pages as there are some wonderful videos, links, stories and learning tasks that will help fill your days and continue the learning journey that we really are doing in partnership. Our main hope is to contribute positively to your homes and bring happiness and security, not stress or overload. All of the tasks and activities have been deeply thought about for your children's' sakes and for yours as well.

Mr Argyle and Mrs Day have been working incredibly hard over the past 3 days preparing devices to be sent to your homes (for those families whom we have been able to make contact with). This is a mammoth task. We are very fortunate to have an IT technician available to be part of this team, and Mrs Day who is passionate about providing the necessary technology to our students.

I have arranged for the Government to connect the internet for those families who have indicated they need this. I do not know when this will occur but our school is on the list waiting for this service. I have also asked for hard copy learning packs (that have been mass-produced) to be delivered to all homes.

We are all thinking of you while you live and learn during the lockdown. We hope you have been safe and staying in your bubble and listening to the advice and guidance we have been given so we can return to some level of normality as soon as possible.

Teena Johnson
Tumuaki/Principal

Distance Learning - options to consider:

You are not required to 'teach' your children as if they were attending school for 6 hours a day. Focus on what you can do at home!

Plan your daily timetable to also include breaks, healthy snacks, outside activities, challenges and passion-based projects, alongside distance learning provided by your classroom teacher.

Tune in to the TV educational programmes for a selected part of the day. Home learning/Papa Kainga TV will start education broadcasting for early learners and students in Years 1-10 from 9am to 3pm on Wednesday 15th of April, with Maori Television launching Te reo Maori educational programmes on the same day. Home Learning/Papa Kainga TV will be free to air, on TVNZ channel 2+1 and on TVNZ on Demand, as well as Sky Channel 502.

Content will be grouped for early learners and students by age range, and will include play, literacy, mathematics, science, te reo Maori, physical education and wellbeing. All of the programmes will feature highly experienced teachers and presenters, along with wellbeing and movement experts.

17th April 2020

Ministry of Education update:

No decision has been made yet about when schools will reopen. This decision will be made based on data about the spread of COVID 19 and how we are managing to stamp it out.

A decision will be made on Monday 20th of April.

The very earliest schools would reopen on Wednesday 29th April, and this is likely only to be for some students.

The Ministry of Education, together with teachers, are preparing for several possible scenarios; opening only for staff; opening for essential workers' children; opening in shifts so that children can stay 2 metres apart; opening for a combination of distance and onsite learning; staggered openings and not opening for a number of weeks.

Somerset Management wants to be prepared for whatever the decision is once the data becomes clear.

There will be ample notice before schools open. They will not be opened one day and then risk being closed again the next day. We will be given ample time to ensure our school has a deep clean, that our planning for the term is completed (in whatever shape it takes) and that we have put in place any health and safety regulations.

Chris Hipkins, the Minister of Education, is working on guidelines for what Alert Level 3 could look like for schools. We look forward to his guidance on this matter.

Contact Details -

Very Important:

Please advise the school office of ANY change in your address, phone numbers, email or emergency contacts.

Please phone the school on any of the numbers listed below or contact us via our school email address.

Coming Events

15th April - Term 2 begins via 'online distance learning'

WHILE YOU ARE IN SELF ISOLATION IN YOUR BUBBLE DID YOU KNOW THAT:

Your school Public Health Nurse Service is still available.

If you have any concerns about your child's health and wellbeing or if you are currently using the service and have not been in contact with the nurse for a while feel free to call.

The nurses can provide support and advice over the phone and are also available to assist with medications for some conditions.

They are contactable via 0800 153 042.

schoolhlth@midcentraldhb.govt.nz



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