



18 August 2021

Dear Parents/Caregivers and Whānau

With the move to Level 4 on Tuesday I thought I would quickly write and let you know our school plans for this, hopefully short, period of disruption. With the very sudden announcement we were unable to get printed work documents to those who would like them, and also we were unable to provide our very limited supply of chrome books to those who do not have access to devices at home. However, we feel confident that should this period of lock down extend, we will be able to help in some way.

I will be meeting (virtually) with senior staff this morning, and then they will also meet virtually with their teaching teams. They will be discussing how best to help our students should this lock down extend past this week. In the meantime, could I suggest the following:

- Most of our children have access to Maths Buddy – spending time on this site would be very worthwhile;
- Reading books can be a very good way to pass the time and to extend vocabulary and imagination;
- Helping around home, perhaps cooking some of the recipes on the Weebly sites <http://kwichallenge.weebly.com/> (from our Technology teachers).
- Perhaps they can help by reading to younger siblings, making up a game, washing the car, digging the garden ready for the planting season;
- Inquiring into something they are really interested in through the internet;
- Making up a dance and filming themselves;
- Creating an Art work;
- Writing a diary of their experiences and feelings during this time – this could be really good to reflect on when they are older;
- Home Learning TV On Demand programme may help with home learning;
- And I'm sure there are many other activities that will keep them busy!

I think it is really important to not stress yourself or your children during this time – perhaps even consider this as a time for family walks, talks and time together. It seems at sometimes that we are all so busy that we don't have the time to spend with our children – perhaps we can use this time to reconnect and talk about what your children are doing, and what they wish for the future. Perhaps the key is to see the positive possibilities that this time gives us.

You will receive an email from your child's teacher this week with times where children can contact them (or you can) and they can help - we find using email to be a very effective way of communicating. Our school does not use "Zoom" but we can connect through Google hangouts and Microsoft teams. If the lock down goes on, your child's teacher will let them know how to connect.

Thanks for reading all this – I hope it makes sense. You are always welcome to contact me should you so wish.

All the very best for you and your whānau. Kia kaha

Phil Tappenden
Principal