

St Joseph's School

TE KURA O HATO HOHEPA PAPANUI

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



27 March 2020 - Covid19 Update

Kia ora koutou parents and caregivers,

Since the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday afternoon that the whole country would go into lockdown from midnight Wednesday, the teachers and Senior Leaders at St Joseph's School have been busy supporting the children of workers in essential services, responding to the direction of the Ministry of Education, and preparing ongoing support of our learners by developing an online Learning from Home programme.

I would like to acknowledge the hardwork and commitment of our teachers, office and library staff who have worked tirelessly over the last few days to ensure all was in order for the school to continue to operate remotely during the period of isolation.



Supporting Families over the Term Break

Today, Friday 27 of March, is the official end of Term 1. We now move into the term break which will last approximately two weeks. During this time, the teachers will be working remotely from home, preparing online learning activities ready for the start of Term Two - Wednesday 15 April. To assist parents and caregivers keep children busy over the coming two weeks of isolation, we have developed a 'Time Filler' Googlesite. This Googlesite provides families with information and access to a range of online learning activities. It also includes links to a range of family support information you may be interested in. This includes links to various government ministries as well as links to a range of Catholic sites that we hope you can utilize to remain spiritually strong. To access this Googlesite, please enter the following URL into your digital device -

<https://sites.google.com/stjopapa.school.nz/stjotime-fillers/home>

Term 2 / Online Learning from Home

As stated above, the term break will officially finish on Wednesday 15 of April. However, we will remain isolated at home until such time the Government declares that the lockdown is at an end. During this period of time, the school will operate an online Learning from Home programme so that all learners can continue their learning at home. The Learning from Home programme will include a range of online and offline activities. Access to this online Learning from Home Googlesite will be sent out to families on Wednesday 15 April.

Teachers have endeavoured to customise the online Learning from Home programme so that it is age appropriate. As a result, the Junior Team (year 1-4) and Senior Team (year 5-8) have taken a

different approach to delivering the online Learning from Home programme. While the Junior Team are using Google Docs to deliver the programme the Senior Team will be using Google Classroom to interact with learners. The use of these Google apps provides educators with an easy and effective way to provide online learning. Learners in years 7-8 already know how to login to their school-Google account. Over the coming week, parents and caregivers of learners in Years 5-6 will be sent details regarding their child's school-Google account. All Senior learners will need to log into their Google account to access their Google Classroom.



All parents and caregivers of learners in the Junior Team will need a Google account to access the Google Docs the Junior Team are using to deliver online learning for year 1-4 children. If you do not already have a Google account you can create an account by entering the following URL into your digital device - <https://support.google.com/mail/answer/56256?hl=en>

If you are having difficulty accessing the school's Google site or need information regarding log in information, please send an email query to communication@stjopapa.school.nz

Internet access

Some good news to support you either working at home and/or studying at home - Spark, Vodafone, Vocus/Slingshot, 2Degrees and Trustpower have all advised they have removed their data caps and the possibility of any extra charges based on usage.

If you do not have a data plan the Ministry of Education has also provided information about an alternative solution for connecting to the internet. 'Skinny Jump' is flexible prepaid broadband: Only \$5 for 30GB of data, no contracts or credit checks - <https://www.skinny.co.nz/jump/home.html> Skinny Jump is a not-for-profit service supporting those most at risk of digital exclusion, including families with children, job seekers, seniors, people with disabilities, refugees and migrant communities, and those in social housing. If you think this sounds like a plan that can support someone in your community, please share with them.

Catholics Special Character

Easter is the most important event in the Liturgical Year. At school we usually participate in a number of events to prepare ourselves for the end of Lent and Easter week. With the lockdown in place, Catholics all over the world will be trying to find new ways to continue our faith practices.

Tomorrow morning at 6am the Vatican will hold a live-streaming prayer led by Pope Francis. This can be viewed live on the Vatican Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5YceQ8YqYMc>

The Christchurch Diocese is very mindful of supporting all Catholics during this special time. Online Mass, as well as links to a range of prayer and witness resources are available on the diocese website. We have also included these links on the school's Family Support Google site for easy access.



School Site is closed and Off Limits

As you can appreciate, given the seriousness of the state of emergency, there is a very tight control of the movement of all citizens. As a result the Government has made the decision not to allow access to school sites. They are doing so based on considerable information about the nature of COVID-19 and its progress in New Zealand and they are making decisions under pressure of time. The decision to prevent access to school sites and all playground facilities is one they have made.

Essential Workers

Following the announcement that all schools must close, schools throughout the country played an important role in looking after the children of essential workers while they prepared for the lockdown. This service was ended by the Government on Wednesday night. As schools are no longer able to provide this service the Government asked that essential workers to contact one of the following three providers if they have been unable to make their own arrangements:

- Barnardos - covid19enquiries@barnardos.org.nz
- Edubase - [Home Grown Kids](#) & [Kids at Home](#) 0508 44 54 37 or info@hgk.co.nz
- [PORSE 0800 023 456](#)

Residential Addresses

The school maintains details regarding students residential addresses and contact information. If your address or contact information has changed recently then please send an email to office@stjopapa.school with the new information. Similarly, if students are in lockdown at a location other than their normal residential address, we will also need to know this information.

Pasifika Families

For our Pacific families, if you are not aware the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' has been working to ensure useful information is available to Pacific peoples. A one-hour special will be aired on Tagata Pasifika's segment on Saturday at 9am; and on Sunday at 7.35am, Tagata Pasifika will share messages from community leaders. The Ministry is asking you to reach out to all your family members, community groups, friends and group chats to ensure our Pacific community groups are watching the programming on both days.

Covid19 School Calendar

28 March	School term break begins
10 – 14 April	Easter including the Tuesday after Easter
15 April	Term 2 begins (through distance learning)
27 April	ANZAC Day observed

I will keep in touch with our community through this newsletter each week. Our website will also be updated with relevant information. Please look after yourselves and your families. Email the school to alert us if you have particular needs that we may be able to assist with. Whilst in lockdown and the state of emergency, there are limits to what we can do, but we do want to know if there are issues that arise for you.

These are very challenging times, but we must have faith and pray that we manage through these next weeks. Remember, be kind to yourself and others.

Ma Te Atua koutou e manaaki e tiaki - May God bless and care for you all

Aaron