



Kia tiki ake te pai
ACCENTUATING THE POSITIVE



15 August 2020

Kia ora e te whānau. Greetings families

I hope you are all enjoying some whānau time, and fun in the sun this weekend. My family are enjoying a break from weekend sport. We have used this time to get the board games out.

You will be aware that last night the Government announced that Auckland would remain at Alert-Level 3 for 12 more days. For Rutherford Primary, that means that school will continue to be available for families who have to work and who can not arrange alternative care for their children. The advice from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health is that if children can learn at home, then they should.

There are a number of requirements we must meet at school in regard to social distancing, so if you need your child/ren to come to school, please let us know as soon as possible so we can make arrangements.

Our teachers will continue to support you with distance learning. Our main platform for distance learning will be Seesaw. We appreciate that families need to do what works for them. It is important to us that we have contact with all our families. If you are having trouble with Seesaw or the online learning program, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance. All teachers will be contactable through email and Seesaw.

Our expectation is that teachers will be providing:

- the opportunity for their classes to have at least two **Zoom** sessions per week.
- a range of activities for you to select from via Seesaw. These activities will be designed to be largely independent.
- access to reading texts through www.sunshineclassics.co.nz

If you are unsure about any of the learning or if you find that your child is requiring a lot of support, let your child's teacher know, they will be able to adjust the activities.

There are also many learning opportunities that can be found at home. Great things that children can do every day include;

- Reading
- Developing oral language by story-telling and talking about what they have been doing.
- Helping around the house
- Counting in board games
- Sorting and patterning with objects around the house
- Practising basic facts and times tables

Remember also the kete of ideas on the school website. There are suggestions of activities that children can do independently and with support in the Kete of Ideas on the school website:

<http://www.rutherfordprimary.school.nz/distance-learning.html>

The Ministry of Education has provided a short clip to help families prepare for distance learning;

<https://vimeo.com/409610410>

Some important things to remember;

- School is closed on Monday - Staff only day, staff will be planning, and engaging in professional learning. There will be no distance learning this day.
- During Alert-Level 3 the school grounds are only open to registered staff and those children of essential workers learning at school.
- The school playground is closed

Please let us know if you need any support over this time. We have a number of options to provide support to our families.

If you need to book your child into school or you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at amandab@rutherfordprimary.school.nz

He waka eke noa

Ngā mihi nui

Amanda Bennett

Principal