



Kia tiki ake te pai
ACCENTUATING THE POSITIVE



8 April 2020

Dear Parents and Caregiver

I hope this email finds everyone well, and enjoying the last week of the school holidays together.

I was reflecting recently on how, in my family we have settled into our new normal. We have definitely found things we are enjoying during our time together. Highlights for us have been cooking and eating together and family movie nights. I hope that in your families, you have found joy also.

Many of you will have seen today's update from the Minister of Education. The Ministry of Education have released their plan for supporting distance learning over the coming weeks.

This plan includes providing devices and internet connections for homes who do not have them or hard copy learning materials. They also advised that they would make a TV channel available which will broadcast learning material. This channel will provide different material for different levels throughout the day.

The Minister advised that any devices provided would be delivered in waves and that it would take time, as they do not yet have enough devices to cater for all those that need them. We have notified the Ministry of Education of any of our families that may require support.

At Rutherford, we start distance learning next week on the 15th April. Our teachers will be sharing their plans with you this week. I reiterate that our current priority is for you to do whatever works for your family.

Our intention is not to recreate school at home. Teachers will send a range of activities, and will give suggestions of things that you can do with your children during the day, however there is no expectation that children will be engaged in a full school day like they would at school. We encourage you to do as much or as little as you are able to do.

We are coming to the end of our second week at alert level-4 and lockdown, and preparing to move into the new space of distance learning. I know that this can bring a mix of emotions and struggles. The Ministry of Education has provided a wide range of links to information you can access during this time including looking after your well-being. I have attached these links to this email.

Wellbeing information for families, caregivers and whānau

- [Tips for teachers, parents and caregivers – supporting toddlers](#)
- [Tips for teachers, parents and caregivers – supporting children](#)
- [Tips for teachers, parents and caregivers – supporting young people](#)
- [Mental wellbeing](#)
- [Supporting children and young people at home](#)
- [Managing self-isolation](#)
- [Care options for children of essential workers](#)
- [Financial support for employers and employees](#)
- [Staying safe online](#)

- [Preventing harm from bullying](#)
- [Family harm](#)
- [Responding to discrimination – through the Human Rights Commission](#)
- [Accessing healthcare](#)
- [For people vulnerable to COVID-19](#)
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My thoughts continue to be with all of our Rutherford community.

If you have any questions, please contact me at amandab@rutherfordprimary.school.nz

Nga mihi nui
Amanda Bennett
Acting Principal