



Kia tiki ake te pai
ACCENTUATING THE POSITIVE



1 April 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to April. We are halfway through the first week of the holidays and although it is different from typical holidays, I hope you have found time to try new things and do something fun together as a family.

Over the last couple of days in my house we have played some games we haven't played for a while, exercised daily, baked a cake and enjoyed some time playing outside in the backyard,

It has been great to hear that some families have reached out to teachers for ideas. I take this opportunity to remind you that teachers are willing to be contacted if you need some ideas.

I also draw your attention back to an earlier update where I shared the different lists of ideas of activities you could do at home. These links are still available for you to visit when needed.

- [School's closed! Now what?](#) - A mix of online and offline activities. There are things you can do at home and in your community (practicing good physical distancing of course).
- [30 Day Lego Challenge](#) - ideas for something different every day for 30 days that you can do with Lego. This could also be adapted to using blocks or boxes around the home or things you find around the house or garden
- [Activities you can do at home](#) - 16 fun things you can do around your house.

In our latest update from the Ministry of Education, they reminded us about the importance of online safety. They advised that it is a good idea to make an agreement with your children about what they can do online, sites they can visit and what appropriate online behaviour looks like. They have provided some good tips of the types of things you could do;

- reviewing and approving games and apps before they are downloaded
- reviewing privacy settings of sites and applications
- checking children's profiles and what they are posting online
- check the sites your child is accessing
- reminding children that anything that is posted online will be permanently on the internet
- taking the time to understand what sites they are visiting and who they are talking with and check in regularly
- some social media sites have age restrictions to join, check these before letting your child use them or join them
- monitoring a child's use of the internet and consider having them use it in an open, common area of the house
- making sure your children know to report any activity they don't feel comfortable with to parents and caregivers straight away.

They also reminded us that there is a unique opportunity during the lockdown for families to go out together, albeit it close to home, but if your child is going out on their own it's still important to check where they are going.

The Ministry of Education shared the following information with us;

- [Netsafe](#) continues to be available to provide you and your parent and caregiver community with support for online safety. They have [information for parents and caregivers](#) and have pulled together their [top](#)

[tips for online safety during the lockdown](#). To report an incident To Netsafe -

<https://www.netsafe.org.nz/reportanincident/>

- If you think a child in your care is the victim of online exploitation or abuse, report it to Police - if you or a child are in danger or a crime is being committed, call 111 or visit [your nearest Police Station](#) immediately.

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

Stay safe, stay positive and enjoy your time together.

Nga mihi nui

Amanda Bennett

Acting Principal