



Houghton Valley School

Caring, Exploring and Inspiring Together
Ka Manaaki, Ka Rapu, Ka Whakamanawa tahi ai tātou

23.3.2020

Kia ora te whanau

With today's announcement by the Government, we are implementing with urgency our plan to support your child's learning from home. We appreciate this is a sudden and significant change, and will be heavily disruptive to many people in our community.

What kids need right now is to feel comforted and loved. To feel like it's all going to be ok. Play outside and go on walks. Bake cookies and paint pictures. Play board games and watch movies. Do a science experiment together or go on bug searches outside. Start a book and read together as a family. Snuggle under warm blankets and do nothing.

For children of essential workers, we look forward to seeing your child here at school tomorrow morning between 8.30 - 9.00am in the school library. You may wish to check if you are considered an essential worker - <https://covid19.govt.nz/government-actions/covid-19-alert-system/> however those roles include doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers and police. We continue to ask that children who are not well, do not attend school.

Over the next few days, teachers will be working together to finish our planning while we can still attend school. We will be gathering more resources which we will share with you before Thursday.

Our Term 1 holidays will now officially run from Monday 30th March - Tuesday 14th April (inclusive). During this time teachers won't be expected to send work home or check the work they have already shared with you. Please be mindful that the work we do share and set for your child/children are things they can do fairly independently and will defer from our normal programme as we are restricted by device availability. We also want our children to have time to play and be creative during this time.

If you need to have your child cared for by someone else you will need to identify that person or people as part of your self-isolated group. This will need to be done by midnight Wednesday and the group must remain the same for the whole 4 week period. The caregiver's own group (eg, their partner and children), your child and your own group (eg, your parents and other children) become one group. This group needs to be limited to minimise any risk of spread and should be no more than 20 people.

Your child will be looking to you for guidance about this decision. Parents, caregivers, whānau and teachers will have a particularly important part to play in reassuring children at this time. If you haven't already done so, you may wish to read the information put together by the Ministry of Education to support your conversations with your children – [Talking to children about COVID-19](#)

As noted by the Prime Minister these restrictions are our best chance to slow the virus in New Zealand and to save lives. We all have a clear role here to slow the spread of COVID-19.

We will continue to communicate with you over the coming days. Thank you for your ongoing support of our school staff and school community.

Ngā mihi nui

Leadership Team and HVS BOT