

Tuesday 14th April 2020



Nga matua ma nga kaitiaki, Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Hoping you and your whānau are well and are making the most of your 'bubble' time together. For those of you who are working with the public in essential services, we cannot thank you enough. By now you have probably developed a daily 'bubble rhythm'. Working from home brings its own challenges and benefits! I hope you are making the most of family time and are enjoying time to slow the pace of life.

Teachers have been busy behind the scenes setting up activities and collecting ideas in preparation for the Learning at Home programme to begin for Term Two tomorrow, on 15th April. Learning ideas, suggestions and links will continue to be available (and regularly updated) on our Tokomaru School website (the 'What's Happening?' page). All activities and ideas are available to all children, and you can tailor your child's tasks to suit your family's needs.

Staff Contacts

Please feel free to email teachers along the way to give feedback and ask questions. We are all learning and we will be adjusting things as we go to make the best of this! Seesaw is a great way to stay connected to your child's class and their teacher. If you are unsure how this works, please make contact with one of us.

Room 1 mscott@tokomaru.school.nz

Room 2 anne@tokomaru.school.nz and vwimms@tokomaru.school.nz

Room 5 smacdonald@tokomaru.school.nz

Room 3 jfrost@tokomaru.school.nz

Room 4 sarmstrong@tokomaru.school.nz

Principal principal@tokomaru.school.nz

As you are aware, the school terms have been moved with the start date of term two moved to Wednesday 15th April, finishing Friday 3rd July. Other term dates remain the same.

Home Learning Packs

Some children received basic Home Learning Packs from us (prior to our lockdown; those who we knew were either away from school or were going to be due to risk factors). I know some children will have been carrying on this learning through the school holiday period and others will have had a break and put them aside until after Easter. How you organise your days and the learning is completely up to you and your family. Unfortunately we are unable to access the school facilities in order to make up further packs, however the Ministry of Education will be providing packs for those families who need them the most (they will be targeting NCEA students and disadvantaged areas first). We will be in touch with families who we think could benefit from this additional support, but do get in touch with me if you need any help too.

Learning at Home

Children will not come to any harm if they have a break from formal learning for a while. I am sure many of the experiences they are having at home with you at this time will be creating special bonds and memories for life. Please do not feel any guilt over unfinished tasks! We do not want to add any pressure at this already-stressful time. There are some amazing online learning opportunities that we have been sharing with you already through

our Facebook and website pages. Try some out; I am sure these links and others you have found will engage students in many rich learning activities.

The Ministry of Education has created a new website <https://learningfromhome.govt.nz/>, so do try some of these tabs:

<https://learningfromhome.govt.nz/supporting-learning>

<https://learningfromhome.govt.nz/supporting-learning/information-for-parents-and-whanau>

This is a whole new experience for all of us and we don't want it to be overwhelming for anyone. So please remember that wellbeing comes first, then learning. Below is an overview of what each teacher has set up / is expecting from their class. Please remember that this home learning is a guideline only; once again I say how you organise your days and the learning is completely up to you and your family.

Classroom Overviews

Room 1: We will be using Seesaw, Facebook and email to stay connected (invitations will be sent out this week). Work will be a poem task, a couple of open-ended Maths tasks, a Writing activity and a PE task weekly. Miss Scott will video herself for 'Reading Around the Rooms' and will share her Passion Project baking ideas.

Room 2: We will be using Seesaw to stay connected. There is work coming out on the 15th of April which includes some reading, writing and maths. We would like the children to be reading for at least 15-20 minutes a day (reading to or with your child) and also working on IXL for 15-20 minutes each day.

It would be great if the children who are learning the alphabet went onto 'kidstv123' phonics song 2 and practised this daily with their family. The rest of the children could go onto 'Alpha blocks phonics' - YouTube and practise this with their family. As other teachers have stressed, please enjoy this time of shared learning with your children and try to make it fun and related to life skills. Preparing food, going for walks, household and gardening jobs can all have a maths, reading and writing component. We'd love to hear about games you've invented to keep learning alive with your children!

Room 5: We will be using seesaw to stay connected. This is where students can share their learning that they are doing at home as well as engage in the weekly activities that will be assigned. These will be around maths, reading or writing. Miss Mac would also expect for students to be reading daily for at least 15-20 minutes and spending some time on IXL on the assigned tasks. This is a great time to learn spelling words and times tables too. For extra support or extn don't hesitate to email Miss Mac or message via seesaw.

Room 3: Our primary contact will be through Google Classroom. Mrs Frost would like each student to commit to 30 minutes reading and 30 minutes of either IXL or Prodigy per day. There is work coming out on Google Classroom from the 15th April. It would be great if students could also complete at least one activity from the Reading, Writing or Math activities that have been set each week. There are lots of fun and creative activities that are also in 'Extra for Experts'. We do not expect you to do everything! Pick and choose what suits your child(ren) best.

Room 4: Our primary contact will also be through Google Classroom. Miss A would like each student to commit to 30 minutes reading and 30 minutes of either IXL or Prodigy per day. There is work coming out on Google Classroom from the 15th April. This will include pages of reading with a Kahoot quiz posted, interesting writing prompts and assignments, video saying Hi from Miss A and assigned areas of IXL maths and english. Our class currency system will also keep running for those who complete weekly assigned tasks. Please don't stress if these

don't get completed, as mentioned above, this is a very new way of learning in an already stressful time, so if you vary from the assigned learning to something that you and your children want to learn about that is perfectly fine.

I encourage you to set up a rough timetable (I suggested one in my email 27th March) for your children to follow so that they can do some reading, writing and maths every 'school day'. That way they can do a mixture of 'school work', play and family time; all of this is learning! See the ideas below for simple things you can do as part of reading, writing and maths every day (that aren't all online), if you are having trouble accessing the set material.

Daily Learning Ideas (try to do one from each area each day; learning doesn't need to be screen-based or a solo activity)-

Reading - read a book/poem out loud to one of your toys, read to Mum/Dad while they are making dinner, have Mum/Dad/big brother/sister read to you, follow along with an online story that has captions, read the instructions for a new board game....

Writing - write a letter/card/email to a friend/relative (or email Mrs M!), help write the shopping list, write out a favourite recipe and decorate it, keep a diary of your lockdown - 1-3 sentences each day (draw a picture/diagram/heading to match)

Maths - try out Prodigy (online Maths) or log into your IXL account and practise for 10-20mins each day, make up your own Kick It sheets and time yourself (can you get faster each day?), create a picture using shapes from found objects around the house (can you make a person/animal/creature?), use a ruler or measuring tape to measure the distance from your bedroom to other parts of the house; which room is the furthest? Create a favourite food/meal/drinks/game/hobby graph by asking your family members; will it be a pictograph or a bar graph?

Please get in touch with me, or your child's teacher if you need further advice, help or ideas, or to share what your children are doing at home. We would love to hear from you. Also, please get in touch if you have internet or device issues and we may be able to get a hard copy pack of resources sent to your child from the Ministry of Education. (Please remember that due to the huge numbers of requests MOE has had, NCEA students will be first priority, and then they will work their way down the year levels).

We are all here to support you and your children through this uncharted water! Take care, and please remember that any work set or provided by the teachers is a guideline only. We look forward to hearing how everyone is getting on.

Smiles, Sonia Mudgway 😊

Principal