



# Trentham School

Empowered Learners for the Future

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Kia ora Trentham whānau

I hope that you are all safe and well in your bubbles and managing to enjoy the weather, not far from home.

As we near the end of the school holidays I want you to know that Trentham School's staff have been working hard to prepare for learning from home from next Wednesday, the 15th April and until school sites are open for business once again. We want to be well prepared for this, particularly in the event that the lockdown is extended.

One key message that I am giving the teaching staff is that in no way are we expected to try to replicate the classroom in the home. Teachers and parents cannot possibly achieve that. Let's not make the mistake of thinking this is business as usual for teaching and learning from home rather than school. To do so would be to miss the significance of our current reality.

We are experiencing an international health crisis bigger than anything we could imagine, with no clear time frames, uncertainty and global relentless news. It has the potential to change the way we live forever. Focusing on keeping teaching and learning going as it always has, is the wrong approach. To do so would be to miss understanding the emotional and psychological impact of this crisis on people.

The number one goal of schooling currently should be to nurture wellbeing.

We will work hard to support our students at home. We will keep it simple; we will not overcomplicate it and will not expect our students to be sitting at their study desks from 9am-3pm. Instead, we will focus on providing a few tasks each day that build routines that the students themselves can manage. Particularly for our junior students, we will focus on trying to make learning opportunities creative and based on the experience of being in the home.

## **Wellbeing**

These are unprecedented times that can be very stressful for everyone. Factors such as economic and employment concerns, physical and mental health, the loss of everyday activities, or our ability to maintain contact with friends and family can all contribute to our stress.

One of the best things we can all do right now are activities that build positive relationships with the people in our bubble, and nourish everyone's wellbeing.

At Trentham School, we don't want our home learning to be an added stressful burden. Instead, we want to offer a selection of learning tasks and activities which suit the needs of your child and family. Some families are in a situation where they can offer lots of support with learning at home, while others cannot do this. Factors such as the number of devices within the home, parents' work demands, internet connectivity, or a toddler in the home can all impact on your ability to support your school-aged learners.

Our staff cannot run the same programmes that they would have run at school remotely, neither are we expecting you to be your child's full-time teacher.

Here are three suggestions that could guide your decisions around what learning at home looks like for your whanau.

1. Try and make any learning activity at home fun. If it becomes stressful for anyone (your child, yourself) stop.
2. Select the tasks and activities that suit your family. Consider things like your child's interests, ability, resources within the home, can the task be done independently, or does it need lots of support?
3. Do what you can. Don't attempt to do everything. Kids need a balance of learning, fun, play, relaxation, etc.

This timetable could be something your household adapts to use after the holiday. Just adjust the times slightly for various age groups.

### Daily Schedule

Before 9:00am	Wake up	Eat breakfast, make your bed, get dressed, put any dirty clothes in the laundry
9:00-10:00	Morning walk	Family walk with the dog, bike ride, Yoga if it's raining
10:00-11:00	Learning at home	School-led learning or Sudoku, books, flash cards, study guide, journal, etc
11:00-12:00	Creative time	Lego, magnatiles, drawing, crafts, play music, cook or bake, etc.
12:00 pm	Lunch :)	
12:30	Helping at home	- wipe all kitchen tables and chairs - wipe all door handles, light switches and desk tops - wipe both bathrooms - sinks and toilets
1:00-2:30	Quiet time	Reading, puzzles, nap, radio NZ stories
2:30-4:00	Learning at home	School-led learning or iPad games, Prodigy, Educational show
4:00-5:00	Afternoon fresh air	Bikes, walk the dog, play outside
5:00-6:00	Dinner :)	
6:00-8:00	Free TV time	Kids shower time
8:00	Bedtime	All kids
9:00pm	Bedtime	All kids who follow the daily schedule & don't fight

\*Adapted from a resource developed by Jessica McHale Photography

## **Class and Individual Learning**

Teachers had plans for a learning programme in term 2, however we cannot deliver this exact programme remotely.

Teachers will be able to provide some class learning programmes specific to what was in their term 2 plan. This will be optional, and please consider the amount of work your child (and at times you) can achieve.

Some teachers in the senior classes will be able to post videos and host live video meetings.

Teachers will be able to stay connected with students and provide learning opportunities and feedback via email, Seesaw or Google. Refer back to our guidelines for learning from home that was sent home before we moved into lockdown.

## **General Learning Across the School**

Next week the teachers will be online and sending home some work. This will look different for our junior and senior students. If online learning does not work for your whanau here is a list of some tasks and activities that might appeal to learners of all ages.

**Reading:** Reading is a really useful skill to learn and practice. Read some books at home, listen to audiobooks, read online etc. Kids often love being read to. Websites like [Epic](#) have thousands of titles, plus it's free.

**Games:** Different games develop a wide range of skills from taking turns to counting, from problem-solving to sharing. Card games, dice games, board games, imagination games, memory games. Have a think about what resources you have at home to play different games.

**Outdoors:** Be sure to get your kids outside regularly. Set up an obstacle course, build a fort, play catch, do a scavenger hunt, do some chalk drawing etc.

**Cook or Bake:** There is lots of learning involved in cooking or baking, plus the satisfaction of providing a meal or snack for the family.

**Play:** Lego, blocks, jigsaws, dress-ups, cars, dolls etc. Play helps to build imagination, oral language, problem-solving etc.

**Learn:** Learn a new skill or hobby. Maybe someone in your bubble can knit or is awesome at woodwork. The internet, especially You Tube can also be inspirational in teaching you new things. Learn to code on Scratch, learn some origami.

Parents can help by sharing what your child is doing with their teacher through either email, Seesaw or Google. Our teachers are very keen to see what children have been doing, give them some praise, encouragement, and feedback.

Our teachers will be contactable. If you want specific support with something, or require more work for your child, have any questions etc, please just email your child's teacher.

This week, the Minister announced details of the package of support and resources for supporting schools to deliver learning at a distance when Term 2 begins on 15 April. You can see the Minister's press release and Q&As on the [Beehive website](#). As soon as we have more information on these resources this will be shared with you, particularly regarding the Home Learning Television channel.

As we focus on learning from home, our GROW learner profile will be more relevant than ever before. This is an opportunity for our students to be true Trentham Kids and show all the GROW learner dispositions.



# G

## Growth & Kotahitanga

- Displays a growth mindset and accepts and learns from mistakes
- Has the confidence to take a risk and make the right choices - an *I can* attitude
- Is resilient and shows perseverance when challenged
- Is happy and leads an active life.

# R

## Relationships & Whanaungatanga

- Is a team player and works collaboratively
- Is a global citizen with a sense of belonging
- Is empathetic, tolerant and establishes positive relationships
- Is kind, honest and respectful.

# O

## Ownership & Tangata Whenuatanga / Ako

- Enjoys learning and is motivated to learn more
- Is an agentic learner who takes responsibility for their own learning and wellbeing
- Is respectful of own and others' cultural identity and accepts diversity
- Is reliable and responsible.

# W

## Wonder & Wānanga

- Is a thinker and problem solver who questions and reflects
- Is innovative and creative
- Shows enthusiasm and commitment
- Is literate and numerate and an effective communicator
- Is technologically capable and a responsible digital citizen.

*Let's keep it real, be courageous and remember that our national education system is engaging in remote schooling for the first time ever. That is no small thing. COVID-19 brings a new layer of stress in the fabric of our communities. Let's enact educational leadership that is deeply sensitive to challenges families are experiencing.*

*Perry Rush (President of the Principal's Federation)*

Thank you for taking the time to read this lengthy newsletter as we prepare for the 15th April.

Take care, keep safe, be kind and enjoy the Easter weekend!

Ngā mihi

Suzanne Su'a  
PRINCIPAL