

COVID-19 update
Thursday 9 April



Dear Parents/whanau of Te Atatu Intermediate.

Tena koutou katoa and a very Happy Easter to you all.

From **Wednesday 15th April**, the new start date for term 2 officially begins. During this time, we will be in lockdown learning, or distance learning until further notice. Over the last few weeks, the Ministry of Education has put a lot of thought into what this may look like and how they can best support schools and families to continue the learning process from home, which I'll include at the end of this letter. We have also spent some time in working out what we will also be doing as a school to support home learning.

For us as a staff, this coming Wednesday, TAI staff will be having a Google Meet video session to work on how teachers can best support students during the remaining time we are on lockdown. I would like to stress that this will likely be quite different from a traditional 9-3 classroom model. In fact the MoE have included this snippet in a recent email; *'Learning happens everywhere and your home is already a learning environment. However, you don't have to turn your home into a classroom and you are not expected to replace your child's teacher.'*

I've been hearing stories of students baking, designing, learning new tasks, making and creating all sorts of things away from a computer screen and I would continue to encourage this hands on approach. There are many opportunities that are really great learning opportunities that can continue to be worked on away from a screen.

Prior to the holidays, teachers put quite a bit of work for students to work through on Google class. There should still be work to continue with, especially in this shorter first week back however,

I will include the previous websites from the last newsletter that students can investigate as well.

- Sparklers - activities including supporting well being for students
<https://sparklers.org.nz/activities/>
- Kiwi kids news <https://www.kiwikidsnews.co.nz/> which has tasks and activities
- The Scholastic site - A daily reading for intermediate (Grade 6+). A selection of high interest articles with follow up questions and tasks. E.g. 'All about emojis'- how they are created, designs etc, 'Robot dog vs real dog'.

<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome/grades-6-12.html>

- Also, there is the following - 30 days of lego prompts for lego construction projects <https://theshirleyjourney.com/lego-play-free-printable-calendar/>
- For coding there is <https://code.org/> or <https://scratch.mit.edu/>
- Some great Science experiments <https://www.stevespanglerscience.com/lab/experiment-library/>
- Literacy tasks <https://www.literacyshed.com/home.html>
- Maths fun tasks https://www.transum.org/Software/Fun_Maths/

Teachers will check in on students on the first Wednesday back to see where they are at in their learning. They will also be preparing some specific lessons that they will also share from after ANZAC weekend that are specific to the class. Along with these sessions, teachers will also set tasks that students can work on across all curriculum areas. A reminder that this is a unique period we are in and the health and wellbeing of all children is our main priority. Therefore, smaller amounts of learning time throughout the day, or a designated time is probably best. Please undertake whatever is going to work for your family during this time.

The MoE has the following starting 15 April and they have stated;

Home learning television

We want to ensure that every learner and ākonga has at least one channel for accessing educational content from 15 April – either through this package or through their school or kura.

So, we have been working with teachers and leaders, alongside staff from ERO and Te Kura to develop Home Learning TV | Papa Kāinga TV, on TVNZ, which will run from 9am to 3pm on school days on TVNZ2+1 and Sky channel 502. Some lessons will also be available on TVNZ On Demand.

There will be content for parents and whānau with preschool children and tamariki, and lessons for those aged 5 to 15 years of age will cover a broad curriculum that includes movement, music, physical education, wellbeing, numeracy, literacy and science through an integrated approach to curriculum. There's already a lot of good education video content available, and the Ministry will be working with experts and educators to refine and further develop it.

Please let us know if there is any way that we can support you or your child in their learning over the coming weeks.

Stay safe, and once again I hope you enjoy your Easter staycation

Nga mihi nui

Lloyd Evans

Principal / Tumuaki

Te Atatu Intermediate