



ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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22 August 2021

Kia ora tātou

I hope you and your whānau are having a great weekend and making the most of the 'bubble' time together.

For those of you who are working with the public in essential services, we cannot thank you enough and we ask for continued blessings for your own health and safety.

By now you have probably developed a daily 'bubble rhythm'. Have a think and create a bit of a schedule for the week with your children. You will need to consider your family context. Create a timetable for class teacher Zooms (see table below), time to complete learning tasks from teachers (see parent emails today / tomorrow) and time for reading, screen time, recreation and walks / bike rides and time for chill / quiet time around parent work commitments. Most importantly make sure you have time for daily prayer. Our children can lead you in what they do in the classroom each day. We will share more ideas during the week.

Teachers will connect with children via Zoom for a face to face session a couple of times a week. During the first week these sessions will be ensuring families can use Zoom and iron out any little issues. The learning that is shared for families and children will involve independent tasks and some tasks where a little guidance or shared learning with an adult may be required.

While we request that children spend some of each 'school' day completing learning tasks, we will leave the schedule and amount of time to families to decide. Just being involved in your children's play and activities will lead to curiosity, questions and natural learning. I can remember families doing all sorts of things last year, building with offcuts, searching for insects around the section, planting seeds, making cheese, cooking, astronomy and just having fun playing.

We will continue to share ideas on our Facebook Page. Search for St Joseph's Catholic School, New Plymouth and like our page. We currently have an art challenge running for children and families. We are also sharing out cool events and ideas on the page. I would recommend joining the animal quiz tomorrow afternoon. It looks like heaps of fun.

Religious Education:

Teachers will include ideas in their Home Learning ideas. If families are looking for more we will share ideas via Facebook. The following link will also take you to the Faith Alive site. Within this page you can also link to the Family/Whanau book to read more about the RE Curriculum.

<http://faithalive.org.nz/curriculum>

Teacher Communication:

Please feel free to email teachers. The teachers will love to see and hear about the learning you are getting up to, at home. You can email pics and clips of what you have been getting up to. Teachers will respond during the school week within 24hrs to email requests. Please respect teachers' time in the weekend / evenings. If teachers need to make phone contact with parents, they will be using their personal phone with the caller ID removed. Please answer 'No Caller ID' phone calls if you are expecting a phone call from a St Joseph's staff member.

School Emails:

Trinity Julia Ropitini julia@stjosephnp.school.nz

Pohutukawa Fiona Hopkirk fiona@stjosephsnp.school.nz

Barbier Jenna Woods jenna@stjosephsnp.school.nz

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Heidelberg Mylene Tribo mylene@stjosephsnp.school.nz

Fatima Jenna Gawler jennag@stjosephsnp.school.nz

Office Sharon Fisher admin@stjosephsnp.school.nz

Principal Mike Dowd principal@stjosephsnp.school.nz

Learning Packs, Devices and Learning TV:

Devices: Devices should arrive during the week by courier. If at any stage a device does not work or becomes damaged, please email Mike Dowd.

Learning Packs: Learning packs with paper copies and texts etc will be delivered by DX Mail during the week. Some of the laptop devices also have the learning pack inside the box.

Ministry of Ed – Home Learning Website and Home Learning TV: Head to <https://learningfromhome.govt.nz/> for lots of ideas for learning and play at home. There are also links

Zoom

To enable staff to connect with students, you will need to become familiar with Zoom. We would love to see as many students as possible at these sessions. We do understand if this is not possible for some households. The purpose of the Zoom is a relational connect and to discuss some of the home learning.

A zoom meeting schedule for your child and the school will be provided each week. Teachers will email out the link to the Zoom sessions via parent emails.

For this week the timetable is as follows: (Shaon Thomson our Literacy Support Specialist will also be in touch with some learners as well)

	Mon 23 Aug	Tues 24 Aug	Weds 25 Aug	Thurs 26 Aug
9am	Pohutukawa Mission	Redwood Trinity	Pohutukawa Mission	Redwood Trinity
10am	McKenna Carroll	Lourdes	McKenna Carroll	Lourdes
11am	Barbier Lawn	Te Hononga Heidelberg	Barbier Lawn	Te Hononga Heidelberg
1pm	Fatima Cullinane		Fatima Cullinane	

Learning at Home - some thoughts...

Children will not be disadvantaged if they have a break from formal learning for a while. We didn't see a change in our school achievement data last year. What we did see was heightened children and an increase in some anxiety. Keep well-being at the top of your list! I am sure many of the experiences children are having at home with you at this time will be creating special bonds and memories for life. Please do not feel any guilt or angst over unfinished tasks. Remember... the memory of this time that children will hold onto, is how they felt during the lockdown. Keep learning fun and of interest to you all.

God bless you all.

Mike Dowd

Principal