

Bruce McLaren Intermediate School

COVID-19 Update – 9 April 2020

Kia ora koutou katoa

I hope you are all keeping safe in your bubble. Just a quick check in before the Easter break.

Having met again today, Thursday, 9th April at 2pm, for the last time before the Easter Break, our BMIS teachers are all set and ready to embark on a new method of teaching and learning. With your child/ren, our teachers are about to navigate uncharted waters with minimal preparation time for a Level 4 Alert Lockdown – thrust into a rapid technological learning environment, as well as having very little certainty as to what exactly they are preparing for – with a number of possibilities as to what Term 2 will look like.

We love your children – our students, and educating your children is still our #1 priority. However, as we are mindful of our school families in their bubbles, please be mindful of our teachers who have children home in their bubbles also, as they try to deliver a lesson or talk with students from Wednesday, 15th April. We are all in this crisis together. We've got this!

NB: LEVEL 4 ALERT LOCKDOWN:
NO BMIS CHROMEBOOKS WILL BE ISSUED AT THIS TIME.
WHEN THIS IS POSSIBLE – WE WILL NOTIFY OUR COMMUNITY.

Today, the biggest challenge I'm facing *right now* is how to not go crazy at home in isolation with those I love. Especially if it's hard to find the loving moments when the dishes are left all over the sink, the wet towel is not hung out to dry, the beds are not being made by the normal time, the food cupboard has items missing ... If you've found yourself trying to be a parent, home-school teacher (even during the holiday break), entertainment officer, disinfectant police, and chief anxiety and stress reducer then you're not alone.

Here are three things I've come across that have been useful:

1. Boredom is OK, and giving ourselves some slack is really more than OK, it's essential.

Dr Brené Brown has some sound advice in her new podcast, 'Unlocking Us' which dropped a week ago. We are on the front line so we're all making mistakes figuring out how to do this and that's part of it. Go easy on yourself. She says it's OK for kids to be bored and it can be good for them (the Complaints Department in our house officially closed last week and won't be handling bored questions anymore).

She also says – after doing her own remote teaching at university for two decades, to not expect the teachers, who are doing their very best, to get it right all of the time so go easy on them too when school kicks in again.

2. Just because a show or app says it's educational, it doesn't mean it is.

For working parents it's hard to find things for children to do all day inside and we're all leaning heavily on screens, which [Nigel Latta](#) says is just fine. However, developers and producers may throw 'educational' into a marketing line but that doesn't mean it is. Here are three questions the [Huffington Post](#) suggests asking of an app or show: does it build skills, does it give kids' agency and choice rather than tell them facts and what to do, and are the creators trustworthy? It's easy to check out creators of apps and shows online, and lean on [Common Sense Media](#), who rate thousands of games, shows and apps.

3. Have an imaginary blame person in the house/home office.

My favourite tip on working and living in the same house *suddenly* with my husband and children is to have an imaginary house mate to blame things on like hogging the WiFi, toys or devices found strewn through the house, making a mess all over the workspaces, and leaving the dirty dishes on the bench. We all need some humour to get through this – our house mate is Owen! Owen was a name chosen by the younger members of the house. “Owen left food on the bench!” “Owen, left the fridge door open AGAIN!” “It wasn’t me – it must have been Owen!” I will be pleased when it is time for Owen to move on ...

With our COVID-19 numbers looking reassuring, I know that we are all wanting to return to what we once knew as a reality – and the sooner the better.

So ... stay safe, stay home, save lives!

HAPPY EASTER.

Liz Wood - Principal
Bruce McLaren Intermediate School

