

Bruce McLaren Intermediate School

Schooling Update: Week 1, Term 2

Kia ora koutou katoa

I hope that the Easter Break was positive and expect that you and your whanau are well in your bubble.

Day#?? of Level 4 Alert/Lockdown and the weather has, generally, been very kind to us. Daylight Savings is a distant memory, the Easter break has been and ANZAC Day is in our sights.

There has been much MISINFORMATION in the media about when schools will reopen once we move out of Level 4 Alert/Lockdown.

To clarify:

- 1. No decision has been made yet about when schools will reopen.**
- 2. At the very earliest schools would open 29th April. This would only be for SOME students, not all.**
- 3. The Ministry of Education (and BMIS) are preparing for possible scenarios: opening ONLY for staff, opening for Essential Services workers' children; opening in shifts so that students can stay 2m apart; opening for just NCEA students; a combination of distance and on-site learning, staggered opening, not opening for a number of weeks...**
- 4. There will be ample notice before schools open. They will not be closed for one day and then open the next. Health and Safety regulations must be put in place before students return. Teachers need to complete planning for the re-entry of students.**
- 5. The Ministry of Education has been very clear that we will NOT be moving out of Level 4 Alert/Lockdown early.**

The Minister, Chris Hipkins, is this week working on Guidelines for what Level 3 Alert could look like for schools. We look forward to his guidance on this matter.

And so Wednesday, 15th April is almost upon us when we commence a different way of continuing our students' learning journeys. Whether online or through a hard copy pack, whether from TV Live Learning channels or doing chores, our students continue to learn.

As you know, over the next weeks our staff at BMIS are moving teaching away from the school site and to 'online' during this COVID-19 global crisis and are hoping that parents/whanau see that it is not the delivery of lessons via technology (or a hard copy pack) that is the success, but instead - how much more skilled their students will become at problem solving; collaborating; managing routines, motivation levels, expectations, and learning on their own terms.

This is an amazing opportunity to help students develop their personal learning and communication skills that are increasingly in demand for them to thrive in the future. So let's enable our children/our students to create their own questions, determine their own outcomes, design and display unique ways of showing what they have learned – using the BMIS platforms of Googleclassroom and SeeSaw while working with our staff.

There are only two things that you need to know about 'Home Learning':

1. Invite curiosity
2. Grow courage (discuss feelings)

Home Learning is NOT a classroom. Children thrive in home environments if they have permission to be curious. This is how they learn, how they problem solve and how they become open to creativity. Having the courage to speak about feelings strengthens their mental health. When children can express how they feel, they are free, free to be curious, free to be courageous, free to learn. **Don't stress that they're not learning. They are.** Enjoy the time you have with your child/ren – we often don't get this much time with our child/ren as parents or whanau due to other stresses or work commitments. **Make the most of it – have fun!**

I am hopeful, that I will be contacted by the Ministry of Education soon to be informed/directed as to how our families without devices/internet will be supported. **I look forward to having some positive news to share.** 20% of our school families do not have a device/internet at home, for one or more of our learners. With the dedicated mahi of our teachers, these students have had a BMIS hard copy Home Learning pack sent to their home address, that was requested to be updated by parents/whanau before the end of Term 1. The MOE is also providing generic learning material in hard copy learning packs.

Your child/ren's teacher will be in contact over the next few days, whether virtual kanohi te kanohi (online face to face) or by phone to check in and see how we are all going.

I want to reassure our parents/whanau and community that our staff and Board of Trustees are available to support our students and our families in the upcoming weeks. If you have any queries beyond your child/ren's learning (or the request for a device/internet), please email me directly at principal@brucemclaren.school.nz

To all our Essential Service workers, thank you so much for your manaakitanga, for all that you are doing, and juggling, to support our nation in this time of need.

Finally, our thoughts are with our Pacific neighbours, especially Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga as they battle with and recover from Cyclone Harold.

Here is to a new era of learning for our akonga with a lot of hope, love and laughter!

Our nation depends on our kotahitanga – our unity.

Stay safe, stay well, stay at home

Nga mihi

Liz Wood – Principal
Bruce McLaren Intermediate School