



COVID-19 Update for Thursday 9th April 2020

Dear Parents / Caregivers

I hope you, your friends and family members are all continuing to do well. Despite the lock down and the challenges this brings to you all, I hope you too are enjoying a few positives in your day that you can appreciate and are being kind to yourselves.

It definitely is a strange time, however personally a few positives I have had are more contact with family and friends each day via Facetime, Zoom etc, I am getting to know a few of my neighbours better (even with social distancing rules in place), more frequent daily exercise in my neighbourhood, learning how to do a few more essential “handyman” jobs around the house that have popped up (with the coaching of one of my brothers online!)..as well as trying to keep our school running, working with our staff and trying to keep our community up to date with the numerous Ministry updates etc.

At present we still are unsure what the weeks ahead will look like. I will continue to do my best to help keep you informed about what we know as a school. If you do have questions that are not contained in an update then let me know. I will try and help you via future school updates, emails or in those cases I don't know the answer I can ask the Ministry on your behalf. My email is principal@greytown.school.nz

FAMILY WELL BEING

Please remember at all times the biggest priority during this time is the happiness, well being and safety of you and your family.

Here are some important points to remember:

- Yes learning starts on Wednesday 15th, however what that will look like for you and your family is different. We understand that for many of you there are other things impacting on your daily schedules and your own well being eg: work, multiple children learning, under 5's running around, household activities etc....This will be the same for our staff too. Remember instead...**Everyday is**

different, be kind to yourself and your kids. Achieve or do what you realistically can.

- The learning that we prepare and roll out next week is there for you and the kids...however if it is too much please do not feel pressured to complete it all! Do what is achievable for you and your kids. We will try to include fun things that the kids can do that doesn't involve screen time.
- Your kids will keep learning and will be okay. Learning can happen within your daily activities.... not just with the things that we have prepared! Kids learn lots from family time, playing, cooking, cleaning (yes you can tell them I said that! lol!), building, going outside etc.... Take time to keep enjoying and valuing those things too as they help to shape the wonderful kids that you already have.
- Parents and kids will want different things. Some parents and older kids might enjoy the challenge of having more learning online...others may not. That is ok. We will try to provide options, ideas etc... however again do what is achievable for you and your kids.
- As a teaching team it will be a learning curve for us as well as you. We all have different skill levels with digital learning and learning remotely. Hopefully together we can find our own unique "Remote/Distance Learning style for Greytown School". Please remember **we are not recreating "normal" school.**
- Remember we are here to help. Send us an email.

TEACHERS GETTING READY and SCHOOL DAYS

As you would expect teachers are getting ready for learning to begin next Wednesday 15th.

Your "remote school day" will look different. Sit down with the kids and plan a schedule...try it...adapt it...etc At any point, we do not expect you and your child to sit down for formal learning from 9 am to 3 pm Monday to Friday during term time. However teachers will be available between these times to help and will send out learning each day.

Before Tuesday your child's teacher or syndicate will send out information that will help you and your family access online learning for next week.

For those families that are non-digital the Ministry of Education will be sending out packs to those we know have requested them. I am unsure of when these will arrive. Some are being sent out today while others will be early next week. Please do not panic if they do not arrive by Wednesday.

CYBER SAFETY

It is incredibly important to note the following

Our children (like us) take for granted a few things that are important systems at school when using the computer for learning. These are

- Extensive firewalls/cyber protections - At school we have a Network that significantly limits searches and access to content that could be inappropriate, harmful or too "open" eg: Inappropriate content, chat rooms etc
- Active supervision - At school teachers are present to actively supervise computer use during learning times. This means we can limit or stop kids who may "pop" into their favourite game or do a random google search for interest.
- Cyber safety reminders - At school we give constant reminders of how to stay safe and what to do if something out of your control happens.

Unfortunately the first point is critical for you to be aware of at home. The internet access at your house **will not have the same firewalls/cyber protections as school**, therefore we are encouraging parents to:

- Keep screens visible to adults - use them in high traffic flow areas.
- Take a few minutes to make sure your children are able to access the learning they need for the day. Any issues email your teacher and they can help.
- Parents (or older siblings with permission) - do random "history" checks on children to see where they have been. At school we make it clear that history can only be deleted by supervised adults. No history can be more suspicious than a long list of history. To check this...
 - **Step 1** Click on the web/internet browser that you have installed on your computer. Many people use Chrome, Internet Explorer or Mozilla. The browser will open.
 - **Step 2** Click the button for "History." Depending on your browser, it may be located in a different place. For Chrome it is on the top tab of the screen fourth option along, Mozilla, it is the middle tab on the top of your screen, Internet Explorer, it is on the left hand side.
 - **Step 3** Click on the option that you would like to view. You can view all history at once, see the sites that have most recently been visited, or view a list of tabs that have been open.
- Remind children that to have fun on a device you need to keep yourself safe. Here are some ways to stay safe on the internet and to monitor it.
 - Remember that you still need to be S.H.A.R.P (Safe, Honest, Achieve, Respect and Pride) on devices at home just like school.

- Stay on approved internet places (ie: avoid public chat areas or programmes that give access that is not extremely well controlled). Teachers may use Zoom and Seesaw, however we have controlled these.
 - Never interact with or send information/photos with a person they do not know unless you have permission prior from your parents or teacher.
 - All online interactions need to be respectful ie: Even with your friends!
 - Keep your full name, passwords, addresses, phone numbers etc private and confidential...even from your friends!
 - Report any strange behaviour or content to adults immediately.
 - Behave online like your teacher and parents are always watching over your shoulder...as they may see what you are doing and there is a record left behind!
- Take regular breaks. Too much screen time is not good either.
 - Remember learning online is not about getting the answer first pop...you may need to have paper and pens beside you to do working out, take notes etc.... Learning online still requires good old fashioned thinking, problem solving and writing too.

Cyber safety information:

- ★ Netsafe www.netsafe.co.nz - they offer assistance and resources to parents including filters/blocking material, apps to avoid etc
- ★ Hector's World www.hecotrsworld.com - online activities and games to teach children about cyber safety.

Please read the attached Ministry update on the next page.

Wishing you all the very best.

Thanks

Patrice O'Connor

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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION UPDATES 08 and 09 April 2020

This afternoon, the Minister announced details of the package of supports and resources for supporting state and state integrated schools and kura 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](#).

It's important to state up front that the Government is still working to a timeframe of a four-week lockdown, lifting on 22 April, but we're planning for every scenario so that we have a resilient system and are taking this opportunity to invest in closing the digital divide.

Distance-learning education package for students

Preparations are well underway to support schools and students with distance-learning when term 2 begins on 15 April.

Every learner in New Zealand will have at least one way to access education, even if they do not have a device or an internet connection at home.

While New Zealand's Alert Level 4 lockdown is due to end on 22 April, the Ministry of Education is planning for every scenario.

The education package includes:

- *Increasing the number of students who have internet access and devices.*
- *Hard-copy packs of learning materials for different year levels.*
- *2 television channels that will broadcast education-related content for at least a month – for English and te reo Māori audiences, as well as tailored content for Pasifika and other communities.*
- *More online resources for parents on the Learning from home and Ki te Ao Mārama websites, and ways to connect with learning support remotely.*

[Learning from home](#) [Ki to Ao Mārama](#)

Devices and materials will be delivered in waves

The Ministry of Education is working with telecommunications companies and internet service providers to connect as many households as it can as quickly as possible. It is also working with schools to identify students who do not have a device at home. It will deliver as many devices and materials as possible to students who will benefit the most.

Supports are also being prepared for households with children under five, to help parents and whānau keep their children engaged in learning through play.

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 TVNZ 2+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.