

Bayview Primary School

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Tuesday 24th March 2020

Kia ora Team Bayview

With yesterday's announcement by the Government, we are implementing with urgency our plan to support your child's learning from home. We appreciate this is a sudden and significant change, and will be heavily disruptive to many people in our community.

For our children, we will be supporting their learning from your home in the following ways:

- *Practical, authentic learning ideas*
- *Teachers will engage with you and with learners through seesaw*
- *On our website, www.bayview.school.nz we will have a 'home learning' tab under the 'our learning' tab with a compilation of possible learning ideas.*
- *Parents will be able to make contact with their child's teacher through seesaw. You are also welcome to email Di dianer@bayview.school.nz, or Shelley shelleym@bayview.school.nz with any other queries.*

You will be aware that the government has brought forward the school holidays. These now start on **Monday 30th March** and will end on **Monday 13th April**. This means learning from home will not begin until Tuesday 14th April. Our staff are available to you between the hours of **9am - 3pm from 14th April**.

At this time we feel it is very important for you to spend the rest of this week setting up a calm atmosphere developing a family plan. This is a time where your children may be feeling a little confused and maybe anxious. Your child will be looking to you for guidance. You may feel inclined to create a rigid schedule for your children and to sign up to a range of online learning apps. We feel that this is not the time to be overwhelming your children with new apps and different websites, because here's the thing...our children are just as scared as we are right now, they hear everything and feel our constant tension and anxiety. Like us they have never experienced anything like this before and as much as being off school for four weeks sounds great, the reality of being trapped at home and not seeing their friends and teacher hasn't occurred to them yet. What children need right now is to feel comforted and loved and to feel like it is going to be ok. This might mean that you tear up your perfect schedule and love on your children a bit more. Play outside, bake, paint pictures, play board games and watch movies, do a science experiment or find virtual field trips or just snuggle under warm blankets and do nothing. Let them play!

We continue to urge you to seek out [official information](#) of what you can and cannot do during a level 4 alert. Here are a couple of websites you may find helpful:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/>

<http://education.govt.nz/> .

<https://www.health.govt.nz/.../dis.../covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

As noted by the Prime Minister, these restrictions are our best chance to slow the virus in New Zealand and to save lives. We all have a clear role here to slow the spread of COVID-19.

If we can leave you with one thing, it's this: at the end of all of this, your child's mental health will be more important than their academic skills. How they felt during this time will stay with them long after the memory of what they 'did' during those weeks is long gone. So keep that in mind every single day.

*Stay calm, stay safe and be kind to each other.
We've got this!*

Team Bayview Staff