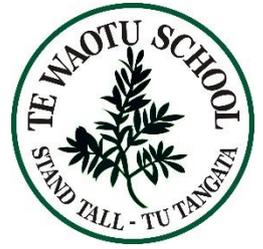


TE WAOTU SCHOOL

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Telephone: (07) 8832815 Fax: (07) 8832891 Email: office@tewaotu.school.nz

Website: www.tewaotu.school.nz



25th March 2020

Dear Parents and Whanau,

Thank you for your patience as we have been preparing for distance learning. While we were thinking that school closures were inevitable, the pace at which this has happened has caught us by surprise. You will be aware that to help schools get prepared the Ministry of Education has brought forward the school holidays to cover the period 30th March-14th April. That means we are officially required to have distance options up and running from the 15th April however teachers are pretty much ready to go and will have some tasks available for the next couple of days, with more to come from 15th April.

I would like to acknowledge the teachers for their efforts over the last few days. They have been working extremely hard, combining strengths, to implement an online and school wide system for distance learning. I am excited to see what becomes of this both now and for our learning at Te Waotu School beyond this time. I would also like to acknowledge the IT support that Claire Birks has provided us during this time as well.

Our plan for distance learning:

All children will receive a logon for Seesaw. This is an online learning journal where teachers will post tasks for students, and where students will leave their responses. There is also the ability for the teacher to respond to work and for communication between both the student and the teacher. <https://web.seesaw.me/>

The logo for Seesaw, featuring the word 'Seesaw' in a blue, rounded, sans-serif font.



Many families are already using reading eggs and we encourage our younger children to continue to use this. <https://readingeggs.co.nz/>

Also in the area of reading, we are going to make available to families a reading website called Epic. This is free to students, by invitation from teachers, until 20th June 2020. This site will give children access to age related online reading material and activities that can be done under the guidance of parents. <https://www.getepic.com/>



We are also extending our mathletics licences to encompass all levels of the school. Within this programme teachers set tasks for children, connected to the level they are working at. There are both live games and activity options and I encourage parents to ensure that children are doing the activities as these are directly connected to learning outcomes selected by the teacher. <https://www.mathletics.com/nz/>

The role of teachers and parents:

One aspect of distance learning that will be critical to the success and achievement of the children will be the role played by parents or caregivers. Without teachers being available your role as a facilitator of learning is crucial. Set aside some time to work through tasks with your child(ren) and use strategies like modelling, prompting, questioning, feedback, telling, explaining or directing to help them. In order to support you we'll upload information to our school website such as the learning progressions (or learning outcomes) for reading, writing and mathematics; essential spelling lists; and links to useful websites so that you can create opportunities to extend their learning.

Very shortly, teachers will be sending out emails to all families with logon information for the programmes children will be using. They will also set some simple tasks for all children within Seesaw with the purpose of developing their familiarity with this, and these can be done over the next couple of days. With the holiday period being 30th March-14th April work will start to appear with regularity from 15th April.

Since the learning needs of the children in Rooms 1 and 2 are different, there is a learning pack with resources available from today that must be picked up. These packs are named, and will be left outside the school office. The online options mentioned in this letter are also available to these children. Please be aware that while these packs are available now, they are for use from 15th April.

If you have any problems logging in or navigating your way around these online spaces then please make contact with your child's teacher via email. Teachers will be uploading work, and responding to posts Monday-Friday, between the hours of 9.00 am – 3.00 pm.

Thank you for supporting your children with their learning during this time.

Regards,

Te Waotu School teachers