

Kia ora te Whānau,

Day one of the term break. I hope that everyone is adjusting to life in our family isolation bubbles. Our support and thoughts are with all of you who work in essential services.

The following is a summary of the most recent Ministry of Education updates. We have adapted this summary from recent communication from Mt Maunganui College and then added information from the latest update from today. The key points are below.

Schools are closed. From 11.59 pm Wednesday, no one is to go on-site to schools during the lockdown. If there is an emergency Police and/or Fire services will respond.

Learning from home website and Ki te Ao Mārama. In addition to the two platforms that we have chosen, the MOE went live with two online spaces this week. These have been produced with other agencies and are available online at:

<https://www.learningfromhome.govt.nz/>

<https://www.kauwhatareo.govt.nz/ki-te-ao-marama/>

With resources for parents and whānau, teachers and leaders spanning early learning through to senior secondary. Ki te Ao Marama has been developed to support those students learning te reo Māori and for those in kōhanga reo, kura and Māori medium settings. They have been purposefully packaged to support learning at home.

Access to devices and the Internet.

We know that not all households will have access to devices for their children to use for their learning and so we have issued a significant number of devices to our community as well as some paper packs. We also know that some households will have Internet connectivity issues. The Ministry is working hard on increasing connectivity and getting devices to households that need them.

Removing data caps for the internet.

Please be advised most of the major telcos have now removed data caps and the possibility of any extra charges based on usage. See links below for more detail.

[SPARK](#)

[VODAFONE](#)

[SLINGSHOT](#)

[2 DEGREES](#)

Keeping on line safe

We strongly encourage you to discuss internet safety with your children - of all ages. It is important to agree with their children about what they can do online including sites they can visit and appropriate behaviours including:

- reviewing and approving games and apps before they are downloaded
- reviewing privacy settings of sites and applications
- checking children's profiles and what they are posting online
- check the sites your child is accessing
- reminding children that anything that is posted online will be permanently on the internet
- taking the time to understand what sites they are visiting and who they are talking with and check in regularly

- some social media sites have age restrictions to join, check these before letting your child use them or join them
- monitoring a child's use of the internet and consider having them use it in an open, common area of the house
- making sure your children know to report any activity they don't feel comfortable with to parents and caregivers straight away.

There is a unique opportunity during the lockdown of families going out together, albeit it close to home, but if your child is going out on their own it's still important to check where they are going.

- [Netsafe](#) continues to be available to provide you and your parent and caregiver community with support for online safety. They have [information for parents and caregivers](#) and have pulled together their [top tips for online safety during the lockdown](#). To report an incident To Netsafe - <https://www.netsafe.org.nz/reportanincident/>
- If you think a child in your care is the victim of online exploitation or abuse, report it to Police - if you or a child are in danger or a crime is being committed, call 111 or visit [your nearest Police Station](#) immediately.

If we all work together to make sure children are safe online, we can make the internet a great tool for people of all ages.

Flutracking

As noted yesterday by the Ministry of Health, Flutracking is an online survey which asks if you have had a fever or cough in the last week and which can help us track COVID-19. Registering online will help our surveillance efforts by providing early detection of community spread of the flu and also of COVID-19 symptoms.

We encourage people to register online at <https://info.flutracking.net/>

This is a practical thing everyone can do to help us monitor flu and COVID-19 symptoms throughout NZ.

Enjoy your holiday break. Moving into term two, the best advice we are receiving about how you can support your children is to create a routine. This will obviously look very different from your normal routine but a regular start to the day with allocated chores and study time alongside recreation and exercise is important to keep continuity throughout the lockdown and ease the transition back to school when this occurs.

We will keep you all updated as information comes to hand.

Take care in your bubble everyone.

Ngā mihi

Lisa Morresey

Principal