



# Normanby School

3 Hunter St, Normanby 4614 [ph/fax 06 272 8023](tel:062728023) [email admin@normanby.school.nz](mailto:admin@normanby.school.nz) [www.normanby.school.nz](http://www.normanby.school.nz)

Tuesday 24 March 2020

Tēnā koutou e te whānau and families of Normanby School

Please find attached the latest information regarding Covid-19 and school closure. We appreciate that if you have specific information regarding your child and/or circumstance, that this is communicated via email to the principal, via our School Facebook Messenger, or if really urgent you can text Janelle on 0275 464 344.

Firstly, a huge thank you to everyone for the way in which you are supporting us, as well as each other, and especially your children as we head into our four weeks of isolation and lockdown.

We have had good communication from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education so I would like to highlight the key points for you.

## **COVID-19 Level 4 Alert**

On Wednesday 25 March, New Zealand will go into COVID-19 Alert Level 4. School is now closed for most families, until further notice. We are only open until Wednesday 25 March for those children of “Essential Workers”. The school closure is likely to remain in place for at least four weeks where we will continue to support the Ministries of Education and Health advice as we stop the spread by staying at home and reducing the contact.

### ***Level 4 means: (from the COVID19 website)***

“**Level 4 Eliminate** - Likely that disease is not contained.

### **Risk assessment**

Sustained and intensive transmission

Widespread outbreaks

### **Range of measures nationally**

- People instructed to stay at home
- Educational facilities closed
- Businesses closed except for essential services (e.g. supermarkets, pharmacies, clinics) and lifeline utilities
- Rationing of supplies and requisitioning of facilities
- Travel severely limited
- Major reprioritisation of healthcare services”

## **Our Staff**

Our staff are working from home until the end of this week to prepare themselves for the possibility of Term 2 online learning. You are welcome to contact your child's teacher via their school email address if you have any questions that need answering ONLY relating to your child's learning. Any other questions need to be directed to the principal.

Deputy Principal – Jude Sklenars	<a href="mailto:judes@normanby.school.nz">judes@normanby.school.nz</a>
Pukatea / Room 2 – Taylah Gilbert	<a href="mailto:taylahg@normanby.school.nz">taylahg@normanby.school.nz</a>
Tawa / Room 3 – Tina Ryan	<a href="mailto:tinar@normanby.school.nz">tinar@normanby.school.nz</a>
Kahikatea / Room 4 – Tash Campbell	<a href="mailto:tashg@normanby.school.nz">tashg@normanby.school.nz</a>
Ngahere / Room 5 – Amy Boyd or Jude Sklenars	<a href="mailto:amym@normanby.school.nz">amym@normanby.school.nz</a> <a href="mailto:judes@normanby.school.nz">judes@normanby.school.nz</a>
Ngahere / Room 6 – Kat Jones	<a href="mailto:katj@normanby.school.nz">katj@normanby.school.nz</a>
Matai / Room 7 – Morgan Cowper	<a href="mailto:morganc@normanby.school.nz">morganc@normanby.school.nz</a>
Karaka / Room 8 – Clarissa Dravitzki	<a href="mailto:clarissad@normanby.school.nz">clarissad@normanby.school.nz</a>

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's learning, you can contact your classroom teacher and they will help you where applicable. Any other concerns should be directed to Janelle Jones at [principal@normanby.school.nz](mailto:principal@normanby.school.nz)

## **School Holidays**

The school holidays have been brought forward – these are now from Monday 30 March until Tuesday 14 April inclusive. Term Two will now start on Wednesday 15 April but what this will look like is yet unknown as it will still be in our nationwide lockdown period. If schools remain closed in Term 2 we will be providing some form of online learning as well as activity packs for those families with limited internet access or devices.

## **Normanby School Digital Resources Survey**

On Monday 23 March you were all sent a link to complete a survey online to give us an indication the digital resources – if you have not yet filled it in, here is the link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LZPD36W>

## **Email Addresses**

We have managed to load all email addresses onto our communication network, however, we have 23 families who have not supplied us with email addresses – if you could check with any of our school families by text or messenger to check if they have received an email from us. If not, then could they please email Janelle Jones ([principal@normanby.school.nz](mailto:principal@normanby.school.nz)) with their email address and it will be added to our network as well.

## **Learning From Home**

Below is our statement of intent for our distance learning options that we wish to provide for families and will continue to develop in the coming days.

### ***Some key points to note before we set out our distant learning options:***

This is NOT home-schooling. This is an unprecedented emergency situation impacting the whole world. Over the next few weeks we are not expecting you to become teachers for your children or to follow a normal school routine. This is an unsettling time for you and your children and we do not wish to cause you any angst.

Home-schooling is a choice - we have not had a choice. Schooling from home in a pandemic **SHOULD NOT AIM** to replicate the school environment, daily routine or curriculum instruction at home. You do not need to have your day start at 9.00am. You are not trained teachers, so you are not expected to do what we do with your children on a daily basis. Do what is best for you as a family/whānau.

The relationship you have as a family is the most important thing to maintain throughout this whole situation. Your children's overall education will not suffer from not having formalised education for the next little while.

If you decide that your child isn't going to engage with anything we share and is going to spend the entire time playing in the dirt, or baking, or watching TV, that is your choice. Again, you know your children better than we will at home.

At the beginning of Term 2 (after Easter and the school holidays) we will be in contact with you all to begin sharing what the term's learning will look like for our school.

Don't worry about them regressing in school. Every single child is in this situation and they all will be alright! When we are back in the classroom, we will all meet their needs as to where they are at academically. Teachers are experts at this!

Don't pick fights with your kids because they don't want to do "academic learning". Please don't mandate 2 hours of learning time if they are resisting.

Normanby School has created some learning from home tips for families that can be accessed from our school website should you want to engage with this. Please go to [www.normanby.school.nz](http://www.normanby.school.nz) → Normanby School Home Learning Resources, where you will find relevant learning tools and/or activities that are age/level-appropriate. You will also find a variety of resources that have been shared on our School Facebook Page as well:

<https://www.facebook.com/Normanby-Primary-School-NZ-112485312165840/>

At the end of all of this, your children's mental health will be more important than their academic skills. And how they felt during this time will stay with them long after the memory of what they did during those weeks is long gone. Keep that in mind, every single day.

We have put together a list of resources that may be of interest to you and your child. These are not must do's, instead they are things you can do together. These are the same resources that we have uploaded onto our school website. We will be continuing to add to this list during the isolation period. The link to them is below:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/11ZRHao60CPvh\\_Y\\_XqlunYiQGyK\\_E-65aZSHAoFjrJcw/edit?ts=5e77fccf](https://docs.google.com/document/d/11ZRHao60CPvh_Y_XqlunYiQGyK_E-65aZSHAoFjrJcw/edit?ts=5e77fccf)

### **Life Skills**

Here are a few ideas of what we consider to be important activities that you can do with your children during the Lockdown period:

- Read every day if possible – whether it is your child reading to you, your child reading silently or you reading to your them. Ask them questions about what they're reading, read together, make predictions, discuss why characters behave the way they do)
- Plan a menu and follow a recipe to cook something
- Teach them how to tie their shoe laces.
- They can tidy their room - I know! Not trying to be funny!
- Teach them how to look after the house (mow the lawn, do the recycling, budget & pay bills)
- Ring, text or send an email to a grandparent every day
- Writing activities (keep a journal, keep a gratitude list, write instructions for something, write an alternate ending to favourite story or movie, write a story, keep a book of facts)
- Weed the vegetable garden
- Learn how to work the washing machine
- Teach them how to maintain a vehicle (how to check the oil, how to change a tyre)
- Make a fort in the lounge
- Write a story and send it to someone via email.
- Play a musical instrument or a board game
- Card games - take out the picture cards and play "Make 10's or multiply them together to learn your tables"
- Board Games – teach them how to play Chess. If you don't know how, find out on You Tube.
- Arts and crafts
- Play charades
- Make something out of recycled materials

- Get the children to put on a concert for you
- Run around or make a scavenger hunt around your house
- Share an idea with a friend of something to do
- Practice Kapa Haka, Waiata, and the National Anthem.
- Play outdoor games (cricket, Frisbee, kick a soccer ball, shoot hoops)
- Build fine motor skills (draw, colour, knit, crochet, cross- stitch, sew, weave)
- Go outside! Walk or bike (most outdoor activities keep you at least 10m away from other people)
- Show them how to exist without the internet (unplug it for a few hours every day)
- Spend time with your kids! Talk to them - ask them about their hopes & dreams & fears.
- Get them to research things they're interested in (a place they'd like to visit, a career they might like, a hobby they'd like to learn)
- Get them to do a technology challenge (build a tower, boat, bridge) out of random materials around the house
- Make sure you have down time. Kids need this. They need "boredom time" because out of this comes creativity.

Many of you often don't get to spend enough time with your children due to other commitments - if we are all under quarantine we can use this as an opportunity to reconnect. Please don't sit your kid at the kitchen table doing worksheets for a month - there are so many more important things to learn.

### **School Grounds Playground**

A reminder that our school grounds and playground is closed and completely out of bounds during this lockdown. Do not send your children to school to play during this time. Please let us know if you are concerned about the safety of our school.

### **Reminder about Mental Well Being**

Your /our children are just as scared as we all are right now. They not only can hear everything that is going on around them, but they feel our constant tension and anxiety. They have never experienced anything like this before. Although the idea of being off of school for weeks sounds awesome, they are probably picturing a fun time like the summer holidays, not the reality of being trapped at home and not seeing their friends.

Over the coming weeks, you may see an increase in behaviour issues with your kids. Whether it's anxiety, or anger, or protest that they can't do things normally - it will happen. You may see more meltdowns, tantrums, and oppositional behaviour in the coming weeks. This is normal and expected under these circumstances.

What kids need right now is to feel comforted and loved. To feel like it's all going to be ok. And that might mean that you forget about any home learning activities and just

shower them with extra love and attention. Do some of the suggested activities outlined earlier in this newsletter. Play outside and go on walks. Do some baking. Play board games and watch movies. Snuggle under warm blankets and do nothing.

If at any point learning activities becomes stressful, stop! We want children to have fond memories of their time with their families at the end of this. So if we can leave you with one message it would be your kids mental health is 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 these weeks is long gone. Keep that in mind, every single day.

Please note there is some fantastic information from Nathan Wallis Neuroscience Educator: Check out his webpage: [www.nathanwallis.com](http://www.nathanwallis.com) around anxiety for tamariki.

### **Informative and Reliable Websites**

Please continue to follow information from these three reliable webpages:

#### ***Ministry of Health***

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

#### ***Ministry of Education***

<http://www.education.govt.nz/.../nationwide-alert-system-for.../>

#### ***COVID19***

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

Again, we are sincerely grateful and thankful to all our staff, BOT, students, whānau and families for being exceptionally understanding, very patient and working together with Normanby School in these concerning times around COVID-19.

We will continue to work hard and keep you all informed. These are unprecedented times. We appreciate your support and understanding, together we can get through this.

Now that schools have closed the essential thing is to stay safe. We need to follow the guidelines stated by our Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern. Stay home and do not leave your property unless it is absolutely essential. Your welfare is paramount, and this may be a frightening time for you and your families. But this **WILL** pass.

We are in a situation that changes rapidly, we need to be patient, stop what we are doing, and focus on being safe and taking care of our loved ones and each other...and stay put. Our children will learn a lot about caring for others.

We will inform you through Facebook with updates, especially at the end of the school holidays.

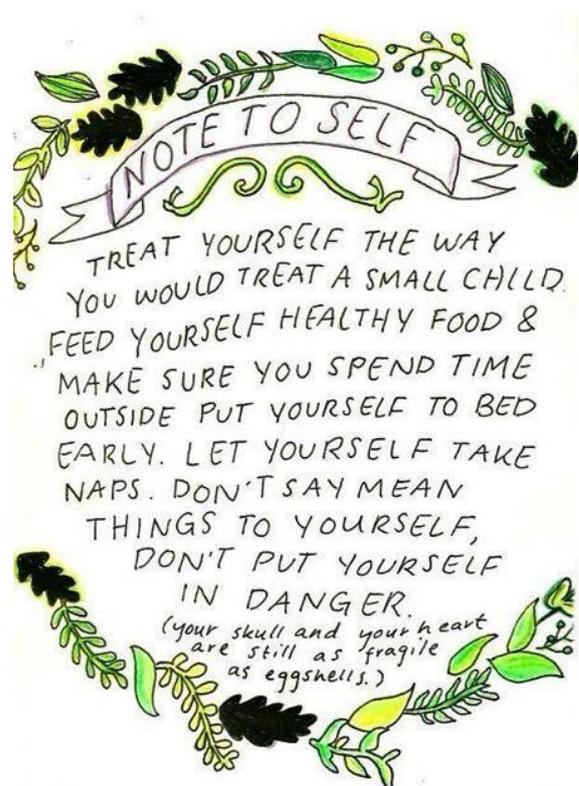
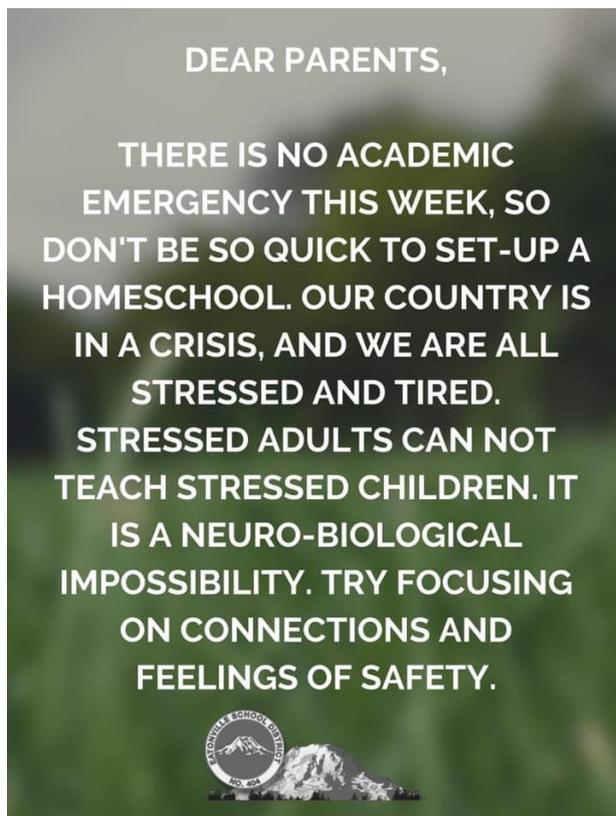
We thank you all for your continued support during this national emergency. Be kind by checking-in on others, especially the elderly and vulnerable.

Please look after yourselves and your whānau.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Kia Kaha, Be Strong**  
**Kia Mia, Be Steadfast**  
**Kia Manawanui, Be Willing**

Ngā mihi  
Janelle Jones  
PRINCIPAL



<p><b>RELAX</b> Take time to sit quietly each day for 5 minutes and write 3 things you are grateful for.</p>	<p><b>ART</b> Study an artist and recreate your favourite piece of their work.</p>	<p><b>PHYSICAL</b> Set a physical challenge and complete this for 20 minutes each day. e.g. skipping, run, walk.</p>	<p><b>AROUND THE HOME</b> Wash the car - check with caregivers before starting!</p>
<p><b>SERVICE</b> Provide an act of service in your home or for someone you know.</p>	<p><b>CREATE</b> Create and make a new moon rover for NASA.</p>	<p><b>IN THE KITCHEN</b> Design and cook a 3-course dinner for your family.</p>	<p><b>INTERVIEW</b> Interview an adult about something major in the world that has happened during their lifetime.</p>

**KIWIKIDS NEWS**



## Kiwi Kids News Bingo Board of Awesomeness

Work through the tasks on this bingo board.  
Select them in whatever order you would like and record your progress in a book.

<p><b>ART</b> Find a window at your house that has the best view! Sketch what you see in your book.</p>	<p><b>CREATE</b> Design a new board game and play it with your family.</p>	<p><b>IN THE KITCHEN</b> Check with caregivers first! Make/Bake something delicious to share with your whanau.</p>	<p><b>PASSION PROJECT</b> What do you love learning about? What do you want to learn more about? This is your chance to produce a Passion Project.</p>
<p><b>SCRAP BOOK</b> Take a photo each day and put it in your scrapbook.</p>	<p><b>AROUND THE HOME</b> Ask caregivers first! Clean out your wardrobe and see if there is anything you can donate to charity. e.g. old clothes, toys etc</p>	<p><b>DEAR DIARY</b> What have you done this week? What was the best part of the day? What has challenged you? What are you grateful for?</p>	<p><b>MEMORY</b> Memorise a poem of your choice.</p>