



Normanby School

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Thursday 9 April 2020

Kia Ora Whanau

I hope you are doing well and looking after yourself and each other in your bubble. As we head into our Easter holiday break, please continue to stay at home and keep safe within your bubble.

I am sure you are as thrilled as I am, listening to the Prime Minister addressing the country today. The difference that we are all making by staying at home is absolutely outstanding. We are creating history here by doing what we are asked.

A huge well done to all of you, it is so pleasing to see that our hard work is paying off. In fact, well done New Zealand!

The reason for this letter is to update you on some information from the Ministry of Education and how our term will start at Normanby School.

Thank you to our Staff

Firstly, I want to thank the dedicated staff at Normanby School who have worked really hard over the past couple of weeks to ensure they are prepared and up skilled to deliver learning support to your children while they are at home. This is a crazy time for us all, teachers included, who are not only preparing to teach your children but their own children as well. So a big thank you to them all.

Parent Survey

Thank you also to all of our families that completed the survey indicating what support they needed to assist with technology and materials for their children. I analysed and entered all of this data and sent it to the Minister of Education on Tuesday 7 April.

The roll out of technology will begin next week. Not all families will receive this as it is prioritised through the Ministry, beginning with secondary school and then into the primary sector.

I have requested printed learning packs for all families which will also hopefully be distributed over the coming weeks.

Minister of Education Announcement

The Minister of Education, Chris Hipkins, also announced yesterday that there will be a free to view TV channel dedicated to learning, this will include music, movement, literacy etc... They 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 TVNZ2+1 and Sky channel 502. Some lessons will also be available on TVNZ On Demand.

The Minister also made it clear that this does not indicate schools will be closed for longer, it is just ensuring that if it does, we are all prepared.

Reminder about School Learning

There will be activities that will be offered to families next week by your child's classroom teacher. We are not saying you have to do this with your children – if it works for you – then do it, if it doesn't – then we understand totally. All of my staff have been given this message, that what is important is wellbeing – we don't want you or your children stressed about learning and if teaching 'things' causes tension or adds to your stress, please don't do it.

Your SEESAW account

We are going to use the Seesaw platform as one of the ways to connect with families. This morning an email and message was sent to you explaining how to set up your child's Seesaw account for their classroom. Well done to the many families who have already joined today.

Please ensure you have joined your child's Seesaw classroom by next Wednesday as teachers will be touching base daily and rolling out activities through a range of different mediums. Each team at Normanby School may be doing it differently, depending on your child's age and curriculum needs. Your child's teacher will be contacting you next week, through the preferred method you indicated in the survey.

If for some reason you have not been able to connect, then DO NOT PANIC. The tasks and activities are available to your children throughout the day, so there is plenty of flexibility. You don't have to be ready at 9am on Wednesday 15 April!!

If you didn't receive the text today, we will resend the invite as an email on Wednesday.

If you are having any issues, Clarissa Dravitzki will help you from 8.30am on Wednesday 15 April. Please email her directly with your queries regarding Seesaw to clarissad@normanby.school.nz

We thank everyone for their patience while we iron out all the set up problems.

Fill In Activities

Sometimes there are lots of things available that can keep children occupied but are not necessarily how we would teach in the classroom– actually this is OK! If you find something that your child loves, there will be no harm in doing it – it might be playing with cars or building or cooking or watching cat videos on youtube. This is all learning, just a different way. Again, if it doesn't add to your stress and is harmless, then just do it. Remember, kids need downtime too.

Wellbeing

I have left the most important thing until last –**WELLBEING**. At a time where stress levels can be big, we don't want you to feel added pressure. We want you and your whanau to be relaxed and feel OK with learning (whatever that looks like). You need to feel happiness in your bubble. I have included a couple of messages below, to reiterate the importance of looking out for one another.

Please enjoy this unique experience with your children, no one is expecting parents and whanau to replace teachers, and we certainly don't want this to add to an already stressful situation.

Thanks so much for your ongoing understanding as we navigate these uncharted waters. I am humbled by your messages and comments of support. Please know you are all in my thoughts.

I am planning to take a break over the Easter period – I have also encouraged all Normanby School staff to do likewise. This means I will not be sending any further messages out via Facebook, Skool Loop or email until next Wednesday 15 April when Term 2 officially starts.

If you have any questions or queries in regards to anything moving forward, please email me directly at principal@normanby.school.nz.

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

Ngā mihi nui
Janelle Jones
Principal

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*He aha te mea nui o te ao?
What is the most important thing
in the world?*

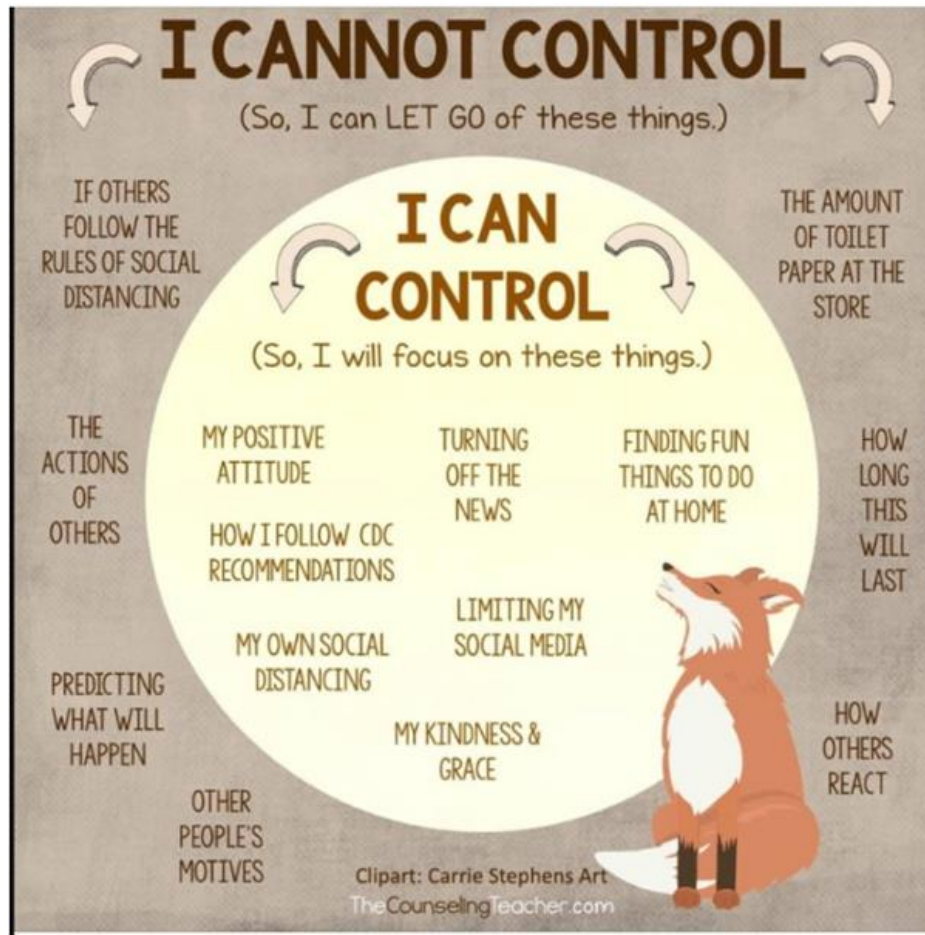
*He tangata, he tangata,
he tangata*

*It is the people, it is the people,
it is the people*

Take care of
our children.
Take care of
what they
hear, take care
of what they
see, take care
of what they
feel. For how
the children
grow, so will be
the shape of
Aotearoa.

*Dame Whina Cooper
Photographer: Michael
Tubberty*





DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REPLICATE THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT, DAILY ROUTINE OR CURRICULUM. DON'T TURN YOUR HOUSE INTO A CLASSROOM. THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO IS DO THINGS WITH YOUR KIDS. PLAY, BAKE COOKIES, DANCE, TIK TOK, COOK AND GO FOR WALKS, DO KIDS YOGA, PAINT AND COLOUR IN. YOU ARE THEIR PARENTS NOT TEACHERS. SHOW THEM EVERYTHING IS OK. BE A FAMILY ❤️